

Annual report August 2014-July 2015



1. Chairs introduction and context

The Southampton SACRE is proud to have re-established itself to become a proactive body for the promotion and monitoring of high quality RE and Collective Worship in Schools across Southampton. It is a supportive body for whom the year has been busy in determining a way forward to be fully engaged with schools and actively promoting advice to schools across Southampton. It has become a member of the South Central hub and is working in partnership with other SACREs and Local Authorities to strengthen its work.

2. Advice to Local Authority

The SACRE required a budget to be able to re-establish the engagement which it needed to be able to carry out its statutory work. A 2 year budget is now secured including the continuation of the clerking arrangements, plus appropriate LA officer time for professional advice.

The need to be able to gain information regarding standards is now much easier with a named LA officer with responsibility as professional support to SACRE.

3. Advice to schools

All schools have been in receipt of an audit compiled by SACRE members and the LA officer as it was identified that advice to schools needed to be based upon current knowledge as well as self-evaluation from the schools themselves. This included information about what the SACRE is and its statutory duties as well as reinforcing statutory requirements for schools.

The Audit occurred between January and April, 30% of schools including primary, infant, junior, special and secondary schools responded sending completion of the full audit. The returns enabled the SACRE to begin to prioritise areas for advice and support for the coming year. The two main areas schools identify as a priority for improvement are staff development in RE (in particular with regard to locally agreed syllabus), and resources for RE and their management.

Since the audit some Academies have been advised to look into their funding agreements to determine the duty to deliver the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Links to the Locally Agreed Syllabus have been provided and some local opportunities for visits and visitors to schools have been discussed or distributed to schools.

Some information has already been circulated to schools this term regarding local opportunities for training for those teaching RE both at Primary and Secondary. The Secondary Network meeting has been visited for RE and issues regarding some non-specialists teaching RE in all sectors have been taken on board. The SACRE is discussing this common issue with other SACREs and the South Central Hub is considering some joint planned work to address this.

4. GCSE RE standards as set out in the table below:

The dip seen in %C+ in 2014 is linked to the significant increase in numbers taking the subject in 2014, from 26% of students in 2013, to 40.1% in 2014.

	GCSE full course (%)						GCSE short course (%)					
	National			Southampton			National			Southampton		
	A+	C+	G+	A+	C+	G+	A+	C+	G+	A+	C+	G+
2011	28.9	71.6	98.3	20.4	63.1	98.9						
2012	29.1	72.1	98.4	36.2	72.1	99.3						
2013	28.8	72.1	98.4	30.7	71.7	98.5				43.0	86.9	
2014	27.9	70.0	97.9	23.7	62.8	96.5				10.8	46.4	89.6

	GCSE Full course		GCSE short course	
	National	Southampton	National	Southampton
2011	181,094 (31.6%)	534 (26.1%)		
2012	195,722 (34.5%)	420 (21.7%)		
2013	211,870 (36.7%)	539 (26%)		428 (20%)
2014	241442 (42.7%)	789 (40.1%)		386 (20%)

The table above shows the increase in entries for GCSE RE in Southampton Schools for 2014.

The SACRE has not had any withdrawal or complaints referred to them during this year.

5. Locally Agreed Syllabus

An ASC was convened at the April SACRE meeting to review the Locally Agreed Syllabus during the period July 2015-September 2016. It was agreed that we will work again in partnership with Hampshire SACRE and other SACRES using the current syllabus to undertake this responsibility. LA officer time plus a teacher representative from Primary, Secondary and Special sectors in Southampton has been agreed to be a part of the writing group for the new syllabus. This group began its work on 9th July with an open meeting for all schools in Southampton to visit and contribute its thoughts and ideas about the locally agreed syllabus. The collective group first review meeting took place on 17th July and will now continue into the writing phase over the next year.

6. Collective Worship including determinations or complaints

There have been no complaints or applications for determination made to the SACRE in Southampton over the period of this report.

Collective worship was an area covered in the audit to enable to SACRE to feel more informed and begin a pilot of the developing protocol for Collective Monitoring in Schools. Head teacher conferences have had the opportunity to be a part of the development of the protocol and one secondary school and one primary school have been involved in piloting the visits for Collective Worship monitoring.

(If agreed and with revisions if required from feedback to be received at 9 July meeting the cycle for monitoring will commence in September with a letter to Head teachers reminding them of the criteria set out in the protocol and inviting any head teachers to request a monitoring visit (one of the criteria), further criteria include *(Add in what is agreed at July SACRE meeting from feedback)*

Advice given will need to be added as the second visit will only occur the day before the SACRE meeting

7. Contribution of SACRE to wider LA and community agendas

Please can all consider the information to be included in this section and bring to the SACRE meeting – in writing for susan and myself to take and action

8. Summary

The SACRE has begun to work to raise the profile of RE and Collective Worship in Southampton schools and now has a clearer picture of needs to work on during the coming twelve months together with the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

The profile of RE and Collective Worship has been raised this year and sets the SACRE in a positive place to continue this renewed ability to encourage all schools to place importance upon RE and Collective Worship.

9.

Membership of the SACRE

To be added by Clerk.