

Annual report August 2015-July 2016



1. Chairs introduction and context

The Southampton SACRE continues to strengthen in terms of working proactively and supportively with its schools and community to ensure it is representative of the city of Southampton. The year has been busy in developing initial work against the agreed priorities and enabling the SACRE to work closely with schools and community groups. It has had some new members, as a result of local elections and some new faith representatives for whom training is planned in September.

It has also initiated the Agreed Syllabus Conference which will be drawn back together in September. It remains a member of the South Central hub and is working strongly in partnership with other SACREs and Local Authorities.

2. Advice to Local Authority

The SACRE put forward a budget plan up to April 2017 to enable its statutory work to occur alongside the ASC work, the continuation of the clerking arrangements, plus appropriate LA officer time for professional advice. At present clerking arrangements are unclear, but officer time is in place.

The SACRE developed an Advice document for schools around questions that schools may come across regarding a range of faiths, following a request from the LA. This was published in March 2016. The SACRE set up a working group of schools, LA officers and local community and faith representatives to develop the advice which has since been cascaded to all schools, and has been well received. It has also been shared more widely with other LAs and it is planned that it will be reviewed in Spring term next academic year.

3. Advice to schools

The advice document for schools as outlined above has been well received. A hard copy was made available for all schools and the SACRE have agreed to update annually by means of an e-copy.

The SACRE also advised that a regular termly news and training update for schools could be helpful. This has been developed and is sent by the professional support to SACRE to all schools each term. It signposts training available locally and often includes suggested reading and an update on national issues relating to RE.

A new system of monitoring visits to schools has been introduced this academic year (2015-16). So far 9 schools have received a SACRE monitoring visit. These include

primary, secondary and special schools. The working group for monitoring evaluates that we need to carry out another cycle of monitoring over the coming year, with the same protocol and focus. It has discussed to include recording of requests for withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship as a part of this visit.

The schools audit March 2015 indicated that training and resources were areas for development in RE for schools. The SACRE response has been to develop some short films in collaboration with Solent University and Southampton schools. These have been developed to generate discussion around when children begin to notice difference. This has resulted in four short films that will be available to schools at the launch of the new locally agreed syllabus in the Autumn term 2016. This work will continue over the next year.

Training has been planned to follow with the launch of the new Locally Agreed Syllabus in Autumn term 2016. There will be a series of support meetings over the coming year to support the development of RE leaders in Primary in the planning, delivery and assessment of the new Locally Agreed Syllabus.

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. This increase was broadly maintained in 2015 (39.6%).

Outcomes were above national for GCSE passes, and for Grade A and A*, with below national at Grade C+. Returning more comparatively to performance in line with years prior to 2014 indicating that developments across the city have enabled strengthened performance for those pupils taking GCSE RE.

RE data overview 2011-2015

	GCSE full course (%)						GCSE short course (%)						AS
	National			Southampton			National			Southampton			Nat
	A+	C+	G+	A+	C+	G+	A+	C+	G+	A+	C+	G+	A-B
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	41.
2014	27.9	70.0	97.9	23.7	62.8	96.5				10.8	46.4	89.6	
2015	29.7	71.9	97.9	30.4	67.2	98.1							

	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%)
2015	269284 (44.0%)	756 (39.6%)		

Entries comparison

Previous style measure A*-C and A*-G

	GCSE full course (%)			
	National		Southampton	
	A*-C	A*-G	A*-C	A*-G
2013	72.1	98.4	71.8	98.5
2014	70.1	97.9	62.5	96.5
2015 (All schools)	71.9	97.9	67.1	98.1

The SACRE has not had any withdrawal or complaints referred to them during this year. Though it has been able to draw schools attention to queries schools have received through the Advice Document published in March 2016.

5. Locally Agreed Syllabus

An ASC was convened at the April 2015 SACRE meeting to review the Locally Agreed Syllabus during the period July 2015-September 2016. Three teachers representing Primary, Secondary and Special schools together with the professional advisor to SACRE have worked in collaboration with Hampshire, Portsmouth and IOW SACREs throughout this process to review the Locally Agreed Syllabus “Living Difference 2011” resulting in a presentation to SACRE members on July 12 2016 of “Living Difference III”. This will be considered for approval by the SACRE in September 2016.

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 is included within the monitoring visits to schools. The cycle for monitoring will re-commence in September 2016 with the second cycle of monitoring taking in up to 8 schools for monitoring in 2016-17.

In general schools monitored have broadly met the daily act of collective worship criteria and teach RE using the Locally Agreed Syllabus well. An area to develop has emerged in that schools would like more support in identifying and contacting people from across a range of faiths and non-faith who could visit schools to support/lead RE lessons and /or Collective Worship.

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), will be sent to all schools in September. Additional criteria are also applied by the working group when selecting schools; for example, Ofsted actions, a drop in GCSE/A' level results, or appointment of a new head teacher/ RE leader. Monitoring includes the observation of RE teaching and observing a Collective Worship. Opportunities for pupil and staff voice are built into the monitoring. This has allowed the SACRE to refer any concerns they have to the LA for action and the LA is able to include this information in its wider “knowing its schools”.

One school has received support from the LA officer who provides professional advice to the SACRE specifically for developing RE.

7. Summary

The SACRE has re-established and raised the profile of RE and Collective Worship across Southampton schools. It has a clear way forward for monitoring. It has identified continued work to further strengthen RE locally in conjunction with the launch of a new Locally Agreed Syllabus (if approved at the ASC in September, and adopted by the City Council in November). It has also developed stronger links

across the local community and with other SACRE's and is able to respond to queries with good knowledge and experience base as a result of this.

8. Membership of the SACRE

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MEMBERSHIP

GROUP A

Christian Denominations*

(Religions and other bodies listed in the SACRE Constitution)*

The Roman Catholic Church	Ruth Cunio
The Baptists	Chris Davies
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	VACANCY
The Greek Orthodox Church	VACANCY
The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches	Margaret Blake
The Methodist Church	VACANCY
The United Reformed Church	Susanne Dawson
The Assemblies of God	Neil Maddock
The Salvation Army	VACANCY

Other Religions

Religions other than Christianity (as listed in the SACRE Constitution) – Baha'i, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism = 6

Baha'i	Elizabeth Jenkerson
Buddhist	David Vane
Hindu	Priti Dave
Jewish	Dr Gil Jenkel
Muslim	Anas Al-Korj
Sikh	Harmeet Singh Brar

GROUP B

(Four representatives of the Church of England)

Rev Duncan Jennings

Allan King

Sam Jordan

From diocesan education team:

Richard Wharton

GROUP C

(Six teachers representing associations recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and negotiation)

National Union of Teachers (NUT)

Jackie Meering

The National Association of

David Parrot

Schoolmasters/ Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)

Voice

Dr R Palmer (not attended in 2014-16)

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers

Julian Waterfield

Association of School and College Leaders
(ASCL)

VACANCY

National Association of Headteachers
(NAHT)

VACANCY

GROUP D

(4+substitute) - Four representatives of Southampton City Council, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the City Council)

Cllrs – Cllr Jordan

Cllr Baillie

Cllr Laurent

Cllr Parnell

GROUP D SUBSTITUTE

Mrs. K. Martin

OTHERS (Non-voting)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

South Hampshire Humanists	Mary Wallbank
Primary School RE Teacher rep	Sussanah Woodman
Representative of Teachers' Subject Network, Secondary (RE)	Suzanne Underwood

ASC Group (in addition to SACRE members)

Suzanne Underwood (Bitterne Park Secondary School)
Claire Belli (Springwell Special School)
Susannah Woodman (Sholing Infant School)

OBSERVER - no observers in the period of this report