

NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date and Time	Tuesday, 2nd March, 2021 at 2.00 pm
Place	Virtual Meeting via TEAMS
Enquiries to	members.services@hants.gov.uk

John Coughlan CBE
Chief Executive
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This meeting is being held remotely and will be recorded and broadcast live via the County Council's website.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore all Members with a Personal Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

3. MINUTES (Pages 3 - 8)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting on 3 November 2020.

4. DEPUTATIONS

To receive any deputations.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any Chairman's announcements.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE

To receive a verbal report on behalf of the Director of Children's Services regarding membership of SACRE.

7. MONITORING GROUP (Pages 9 - 14)

To receive a report on behalf of the Director of Children's Services updating SACRE on the activities of the monitoring group.

8. KEY NATIONAL RE MATTERS (Pages 15 - 20)

To receive a report on behalf of the Director of Children's Services enabling SACRE to consider key national RE matters, especially regarding national discussions taking place regarding 'Worldviews' and RE.

9. SOUTH CENTRAL SACRE HUB

To receive a verbal report on behalf of the Director of Children's Services on the discussions of the South Central SACRE RE Hub at its meeting on 16 November 2020 and plans for future meetings.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 29 June 2021 at 2.00pm. The form of this meeting is yet to be decided.

ABOUT THIS AGENDA:

On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.

ABOUT THIS MEETING:

The press and public are welcome to observe the public sessions of the meeting via the webcast.

Agenda Item 3

AT A MEETING of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education of
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at Virtual Teams Meeting on Tuesday,
3rd November, 2020

PRESENT

Chairman:

* Councillor Roy Perry

Vice-Chairman:

* Councillor Anna McNair Scott

* Councillor Zilliah Brooks

* Councillor Wayne Irish

*Present

Co-opted members

- * Margaret Boyne, United Reformed Church
- Amanda Cawood, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- * Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato, Muslim
- * Danny Habel, Jewish Community
- * Chris Hughes, Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
- * Elizabeth Jenkerson, Baha'i
- Rhian Jones, Salvation Army
- Charmian Harrison, Methodists
- * Yasmeen Hussain, Muslim
- * Sushma Sahajpal, Hindu
- * Eli Stewart, Baptist Union
- * Lisa-Marie Taylor, Buddhist
- * Sue Bowen, Church of England
- * Caroline Welch, Church of England
- Reverend Jeff Williams, Church of England
- * Rev Howard Wright, Church of England
- * Maureen Barnes, Teachers' Liaison Panel
- * Graeme Rowe, Teachers' Liaison Panel
- Julie Kelly, Teachers' Liaison Panel
- * Carson Elday, Teachers' Liaison Panel - Special Schools
- * Jon Hamer, Teachers' Liaison Panel - Secondary Schools
- * Gill Heron, Academy Schools
- * Rhiannon Love, Higher Education
- * Alasdair Richardson, Higher Education
- * Chris Robinson, Humanists

125. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Rev Jeff Williams, Amanda Cawood, Rhian Jones, Julie Kelly and Charmian Harrison.

126. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

Justine Ball declared that she works one day a month for NATRE as an RE ambassador for the South East.

Elizabeth Jenkerson noted that she was a judge for the Westhill Awards which gives grants to SACREs.

127. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting on 3 March 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.

It was noted on Item 115 that Professor Trevor Cooling had not been part of the RE Commission as stated.

Justine Ball updated Members on the publication of the updated Hampshire SACRE Advice Document for Schools saying that this had been delayed due to Covid-19 but would be going out this term.

128. **DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations.

129. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the first virtual meeting of SACRE.

He gave thanks to all the staff and teachers for their dedication throughout a difficult year which did not seem to be getting any easier. He felt that young people must be stressed and have worries and that RE teachers in particular had a concern and special responsibility to help children in these troubled times.

He informed members that there would be a pause in the broadcast at item 10 to allow for group discussions.

In the latest lockdown rules the Chairman mentioned that he had noted that places of worship would still be open for private prayer.

130. MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE

SACRE received a verbal report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Advisor informing members of changes to membership (item 6 in the Minute Book).

It was noted that Dr Julie Maxwell, the co-opted governor representative had resigned. A new appointment would be sought from governor services.

There were also still vacancies for Roman Catholic and Sikh representatives.

131. MONITORING GROUP

SACRE received a report from Patricia Hannam, County Inspector/Advisor, on the discussions of the Monitoring Group (item 7 in the Minute Book).

The County Inspector/Advisor spoke briefly about the report stressing that the group played an important part in SACRE's business monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus and the general well-being of RE around the county. The group had met virtually during lockdown, in May and September 2020 to keep up the work.

RESOLVED:

That SACRE thanked the Monitoring Group for its report.

132. KEY NATIONAL AND LOCAL RE MATTERS

SACRE considered a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Advisor, on key national and local RE matters (item 8 in the Minute Book).

The County Inspector/Advisor drew Members' attention to the work of the RE Council in following up the recommendations of the Commission on RE. Both herself and Justine Ball were involved with projects on the proposed change of subject name to 'Religion and worldviews' and Local Advisory Networks. There had been much debate and discussion nationally about the meaning of 'worldviews' and it was noted that this would need to be considered during the current review of the Agreed Syllabus. Both advisers were taking part in research for a case study of what an effective SACRE looks like for the work on Local Advisory Networks.

It was noted that Justine Ball, the general primary adviser, was now the Co-Chairman of AREIAC (Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants). Patricia Hannam had stepped down from the AREIAC Executive, but has been retained as their research representative. It was also noted that Patricia Hannam had been elected to the REC (Religious Education Council) Board in May 2020.

Members were asked to inform the clerk if they wished to attend the virtual meeting of the NASACRE EGM that was scheduled to be held on 17 November 2020; this would replace the NASACRE AGM which had been postponed from May 2020.

Members were also encouraged to read NASACRE's termly newsletter which is sent out to all Members as it has some interesting and informative articles and background information.

RESOLVED:

That SACRE noted the report

133. SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

SACRE considered a report on behalf of the Director of Children's Services presenting the SACRE Annual report 2019/20 and an update to the 3 Year Action Plan. (Item 9 in the Minute Book)

Patricia Hannam explained the need for the Annual Report then went through each section before asking for questions and comments. Members mentioned some errors in numbering, general typographical mistakes and made a request for clarity in one section which would be amended before publication. Responding to questions concerning Collective Worship and academy schools, Patricia Hannam confirmed that Ofsted reports on all Hampshire schools were looked at by the Monitoring Group, although Collective Worship was rarely mentioned; and SACRES's annual survey on withdrawal also went to all schools.

It was noted that SACRE's 3 Year Action Plan was coming to an end and it was suggested and agreed that the Monitoring Group would develop a new Action Plan for 2021 -2023. The draft would be brought for consideration to the next SACRE meeting in March 2021.

SACRE members thanked Patricia Hannam for producing the report which they thought was good, interesting and encouraging for RE.

RESOLVED:

That SACRE approved the report, subject to the agreed changes, and that it should be made available to the relevant parties and on the appropriate websites.

That SACRE requested that the Monitoring Group develops the next 3 Year Action Plan for 2021-2023 and brings a draft for SACRE's consideration to the next SACRE meeting in March 2021.

134. **HAMPSHIRE SACRE DETERMINATION PROCEDURE**

SACRE considered a report on behalf of the Director of Children's Services which sought SACRE's approval of the proposed Determination procedure. (Item 10 in the Minute Book)

Members were reminded that the SACRE meetings in November 2019 and March 2020 had discussed the question of a Determination procedure and had approved in principle the proposed procedure, subject to following up on SACRE's request for the formulation of 'indicative criteria'.

Justine Ball, the General Adviser, had undertaken research on Determination procedures and indicative criteria from 18 SACRE's nationwide, ranging from Yorkshire to London. She had discovered that all but one had a procedure in place, some very short and others more detailed, but that none of them had separate indicative criteria. Also, most had received no or very few requests for a Determination. An article requesting further information from other SACREs had been put in the NASACRE bulletin and advice from an experienced adviser on Collective Worship had been sought.

Legal advice had been sought again and they had advised that 'indicative criteria' do not exist in the law and that the legal wording is deliberately vague to cover the many situations that exist in England and Wales.

The small group which had initially met to discuss this had been reconvened to look at the research. They had felt that each Determination would need to be looked at on a case by case basis as 'indicative criteria' would not be applicable.

Members were given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions before dividing into their respective groups for further discussion and to vote.

A suggestion was made and agreed that the four pieces of evidence requested from a school on page 2 of the Determination document should be the same as the four pieces of evidence requested on the application form.

Following the group discussions all four groups voted to accept the proposed procedure unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That SACRE agreed to adopt the procedure for Determinations and publish it on the Hampshire County Council website.

135. **SACRE YOUTH VOICE**

The Council received a verbal report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser on the activities of the Youth Voice since the last SACRE meeting on 3 March 2020 (item 11 in the Minute Book).

Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 lockdown there had been no Youth Voice conference in July. However, there are plans to try and hold a virtual meeting, which would require all the children in one room with a teacher present. The County Inspector stressed that it was important for us to hear the young people's opinions on the Agreed Syllabus as it is reviewed and for them to be able to discuss whether they are finding RE supporting them in these difficult times. One teacher member involved with Youth Voice told the Council that the availability of large enough room and social distancing was a problem. It was intended to keep trying to arrange a meeting.

Neither of the primary conferences took place in the summer, but it is hoped to go ahead with next summer's planned ones.

136. SOUTH CENTRAL SACRE HUB

The Council received a verbal report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser on the activities of the South Central SACRE Hub (Item 12 in the Minute Book).

Having given a brief history of the Hub for the benefit of newer Members of SACRE it was noted that the next meeting of the Hub was scheduled for 16 November at 10.00am. A meeting had been held during lockdown with good attendance. The meeting discussed Collective Worship, SACRE monitoring and projects that members were working on. Members were encouraged to join the meeting if they wished.

137. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

138. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 2 March 2021 at 2.00pm. The venue would be decided at a later date and may be a virtual one.

Chairman,

7. SACRE 3-Year Action Plan 2021-2024.

At its last meeting in November, SACRE asked its Monitoring Group to consider the next 3-year development plan and bring a draft to SACRE in March 2021 for consideration. In the light of the uncertainties in relation to Covid-19 and schools it has been proposed that the new Action Plan is brought instead to the June SACRE meeting. At this point it is hoped the school situation will be more stable. The new agreed syllabus, Living Difference IV, and the necessary training to support its implementation will also be included.

- 8. Annual survey on withdrawal in Hampshire Schools.** Considering that the majority of children have not been in school during the spring term, it is proposed the annual survey should take place in the summer term 2020, assuming children are in school by then.

9. Courses and networks run since the last SACRE meeting

Primary:

Courses are running virtually during this period. This has been a busy period. These have included a 'How to Manage RE in Key Stage 1 and 2 in October 2020 for new subject leaders. Three Primary RE networks are running once each term and now taking place after school to help teacher attendance. A Collective Worship course ran in December 2020, as well as training in 'Promoting Spiritual, Moral and Social Development (SMSC)' for school leaders in December 2020. A primary RE for SENCO course was run this term for all school SENCO co-ordinators

The courses on RE and the Ofsted requirements for school leaders ran successfully in November 2020. A course on Assessment in RE ran successfully in January 2021. In addition, subject knowledge webinars are scheduled to run in March 2021 on Christianity, Islam and Hinduism.

In addition, and linked with our primary adviser's RE ambassador role, a free CPD event for teachers to meet with Trevor Cooling, Chair of the REC, to hear about Worldviews in RE and to share their views as teachers took place in December 2020. Hampshire teachers were able to, and did, attend this.

Secondary:

A further SACRE funded, virtual, *hard to reach* secondary RE course is due to take place before Easter. Secondary network meetings, which schools must pay for, take place in March. The autumn meeting brought together around 12 schools. A free 30 minute 'Staff Meeting' update event is planned to take place after school in the second half of the spring term. This will bring subject leaders and heads of department together to hear about national news from Ofsted and other issues in relation to the GCSE examination, as well as headlines of national RE news. This event is aimed at increasing engagement with secondary schools. The spring edition of the Secondary RE Curriculum

update has gone out to schools. A termly (free) e-news letter is also circulated to schools from the Hampshire RE Curriculum Centre. The Secondary RE Conference had to be cancelled in October and the key speakers are running a webinar each after school in relation to the links between the teaching of Holocaust and religiously motivated genocide.

Training for School Governors.

Both our advisers run training for school governors, including on SMSC, which gives an opportunity to explore issues in relation to RE. There have been 2 such SMSC Governor courses in this period; one large training for governors from many schools with over 50 governors present virtually, as well as one secondary school Governor course in relation to SMSC.

10. Virtual visits/lessons

Five Primary RE SACRE virtual visits have been undertaken in this period. The focus for these has been on providing advice and support with all aspects of RE rather than a monitoring visit, because of the current situation in schools. The Primary RE Adviser has worked with RE leaders on their planning, the teaching of RE using the cycle of enquiry and improving the quality of RE work with the RE leader and Head teacher or other senior leader. A further three virtual visits are planned before the end of March 2020.

11. GCSE data

Further data has been accessed through national channels regarding Hampshire GCSE data for the 2020 examination series. The number of entries in 2020 fell slightly from 2019, down to 26.7% of the cohort. The 4-9 grade result in Hampshire was 77.0% of the cohort. This compares to the national 4-9 grade result of just over 80%.

12. Review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus & developing Living Difference IV

Since the last SACRE meeting considerable activity has been taking place.

SACRE advisers continue to engage in discussions with experts in the field of religious faith. An important matter to decide is how the new syllabus will include or otherwise the key proposal from the Commission on RE Report (CoRE) proposing the inclusion of teaching of Worldviews.

Since the last SACRE meeting a further after-school focus group meeting has taken place with teachers. This was a virtual meeting, with colleagues from all four authorities reviewing on January 5th.

Drafting of elements of the syllabus are taking place now, to be brought to a further teacher focus group and SACRE Youth Voice groups in March. In particular, decisions are being made in relation to progression and assessment. These decisions are being made in partnership with developments in other subjects as supported by Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS) and in light of forthcoming national changes to standard tests for 7 year-olds in English and Maths. ***Living Difference IV*** will, therefore, enable teachers to consider progress alongside their considerations for other subjects.

Early Years and Foundation Stage (EYFS) elements are being redeveloped in light of legal changes made since the last review.

Specialist teachers of RE in the education of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are working with us in reconsideration of those elements in the syllabus.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- (a) SACRE's core business is to ensure high quality religious education in Hampshire which, it is intended, will make a positive difference to the way young people 'think speak and act in the world' (See purpose statement of Living Difference III 2016, the agreed syllabus for religious education in Hampshire).

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)
Date:	3 March 2021
Title:	Key National RE Matters
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Patricia Hannam

Tel: 02392 441442

Email: patricia.hannam@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to enable SACRE to consider key national RE matters especially regarding national discussions taking place regarding 'Worldviews' and RE.

Recommendation(s)

2. That SACRE notes the report and agrees to continue the discussion regarding the relationship of Worldviews to Religious Education.

Executive Summary

3. This report updates and informs SACRE of key national developments, especially the work of the Religious Education Council (REC)'s support of the move away from a 'world religions' paradigm for religious education to one that takes in a consideration of not only religion but also 'worldviews', as well as the REC's consideration of the future of local management of RE. This report will enable feedback from the South West SACRE conference organised by the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC) held on 1 March 2021, as well as seeking nominations to the NASACRE conference scheduled for May 2021. In addition, this report enables SACRE to consider broader national concerns about the well-being of children and young people in this time of a pandemic.

Contextual information

4. **The Religious Education Council (REC)**, following the 'Commission on RE' (CoRE) report published in September 2018, is taking a lead on initiatives in relation to the subject matter of RE. Patricia Hannam is a member of the REC Board since September 2020. The REC is made up of members from many organisations, including religious bodies in England and Wales, with an interest in RE.

National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). NASACRE is the national body representing and leading on SACRE's interests. NASACRE holds an annual conference as well as circulating a regular newsletter to SACRE members through their SACRE. SACRE members are encouraged to read this when received.

Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers, Inspectors and Consultants (AREIAC). Justine Ball is currently co-chair of AREIAC and is running a workshop at the South West AREIAC SACRE Conference on 1 March.

5. Religion and Worldviews

A critical aspect of the REC's current work is regarding the 'CoRE' recommendation to change the name of Religions Education to 'Religion and Worldviews'. The REC has embarked on a major project funded by the Templeton Foundation to develop understanding about what is intended by the concept of worldviews. This included a literature review which can be accessed here <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/news/literaturereview/>

as well as a discussion document that emerged from a meeting of 13 academics to discuss the literature review. A further report has been published by THEOS, launched in a well-attended evening virtual meeting and available here: <https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/research/2020/10/21/worldviews-in-religious-education>

In January three virtual evening sessions took place for REC membership organisations to enable discussions by REC members, took place.

It is vital that Hampshire SACRE engages with the discussions in order to ensure that the forthcoming agreed syllabus has a considered position in relation to the proposals.

It is not likely that there will be any legislative adjustments to the legal requirements for RE. However, the CoRE report proposals as well as leading to considerable discussions has also raised concerns. The concerns vary according to how the concept of 'Worldviews' and its relationship to religion in RE is interpreted.

6. **REC's reconsideration of the local management of RE: Hampshire SACRE** is being written up as a case study of an example of a successful SACRE for another REC project in relation to securing the future of SACREs.

7. **Children's Society 2020 Good Childhood Report: Recommendations**

- 7.1. The report, published in August 2020, suggests that for much of the past decade, children aged 10 to 15 have become steadily less happy with their lives. In 2020, as in previous years, children are most happy on average with their relationships with their family.

However, in contrast with previous years where the largest proportion were unhappy with the school that they go to, in 2020 it was found that a higher proportion of children were unhappy with the choice they have in life. At age 15 children in the UK are less happy with their lives across a range of well-being measures when compared to other European countries. The 2020 Good Childhood Report also highlights the relatively high levels of 'fear of failure' among 15-year-olds in the UK compared to other countries.

There are tentative conclusions that the coronavirus pandemic has, at least temporarily, increased the number of young people with low life satisfaction in this country.

The report recommends the collection of detailed data as a key priority so that every local authority can access data for the children who live within their boundary. This data should be collected regularly – ideally four times a year, but at least annually – so that changes can be identified relatively quickly.

- 7.2 What is significant for RE, and the review of the locally agreed syllabus at this time, is that the Children's Society Good Childhood Report recommends a curriculum that places well-being at the heart of all schools. The report emphasises the importance of promoting both good attainment as well as well-being in education.

Finally, it is recommended that young people's voices need to be heard better in order to discover what can make school more enjoyable for young people and how their well-being can be supported.

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