

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date:	1 November 2022
Title:	Key National and Local RE Matters
Report From:	Director of Children' Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to enable SACRE to consider key RE developments, nationally and locally not mentioned elsewhere in this agenda

Recommendation(s)

2. That SACRE notes the report

Executive Summary

3. This report seeks to update and inform SACRE of key national development, for example the work of the Religious Education Council (REC) and NASACRE as well as the Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education (AULRE) and initiatives being led by the Culham St Gabriel's Trust

Contextual information

4. This is a time of much activity in the national RE world in part a response to the current situation in education in England as well as in particular actions that have taken place as a consequence of the Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) final report that was published in 2018.

All national matters mentioned below have an important impact locally.

5. **Culham St Gabriel's Trust initiatives:** Hampshire colleagues have been and continue to be involved in several initiatives that are being funded by the

Culham St Gabriel's trust; the largest grant giving body supporting religious education [Homepage - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](http://cstg.org.uk) .

These include:

- (i) ReXchange2 Conference on 7/8 October: SACREs primary and secondary advisers are both involved with giving presentations at this large virtual conference, as are several Hampshire RE teachers.
- (ii) The National RE Leadership programme: Two Hampshire Secondary teachers were involved in the programme in 2021/22 and two further Hampshire teachers one secondary and one from special education context are involved in 2022/23. SACRE's primary adviser is involved on the national team leading this program.
- (iii) The National RE Ambassador project: SACREs secondary adviser is on the national management team for this initiative and SACRE's primary adviser is a south-central region ambassador.
- (iv) The National Mentoring scheme: SACREs primary adviser is involved in the management of this project.
- (v) REONLINE: a significant website for teachers offering among other things support for subject knowledge enhancement: [Home - RE:ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](http://reonline.org.uk)

6. **Religious Education Council (REC)** is an umbrella body made up of members from many organisations in England and Wales with an interested position in relation to RE. The REC managed the research and is taking a lead on implementing the various recommendations following the Commission on RE (CoRE) final report.

A particular recommendation in the CoRE report was to change the name of RE to Religion and Worldviews Education. The REC has sourced funding which has led to the publication of [REC Draft Handbook Religion and Worldviews in the Classroom: developing a worldviews approach \(religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk\)](http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk)

7. **Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education (AULRE)** has been taking a lead on the matter of issues in relation to Secondary Initial Teacher Education (ITE). Funding has been given by Culham St Gabriel's Trust for a series of 3 meetings with leaders of Re Initial Teacher Education programmes. Recruitment for 2022/23 was considerably reduced and efforts are being made to ensure increased recruitment for 2023/24 intake. There is recognition that there are national issues that are leading to this situation and these also need addressing, for example into the reaccreditation of ITE provision in Universities.

8. **National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).** NASACRE is the national body representing and leading on SACREs interests. A regular newsletter is circulated to SACRE members through their SACRE. In addition, a series of training sessions are offered for SACRE members to attend. SACRE members have been circulated this information. All SACRE members are invited to consider attending.

The NASACRE Annual Conference and AGM will be held on 22 May 2023. SACRE members are invited to consider whether they would like to attend. Hampshire SACRE can send 2 delegates to this conference which will be held in London in 2023.

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
Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

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:

Living Difference IV, the locally agreed syllabus for religious education has an interest in equalities at its heart. A high-quality religious education taught according to Living Difference IV seeks to contribute to the elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation especially and directly with regard to the protected characteristics of race and religion. Further, through experiencing a high-quality religious education taught according to Living Difference IV there is the intention to mitigate xenophobia of all kinds thus fostering good relations.