

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)
Date:	29 June 2021
Title:	National Updates
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update SACRE on developments nationally regarding religious education.

Recommendation(s)

2. That SACRE notes the report and will circulate the NASACRE Report on SACRE Funding to the Local Authority.

Executive Summary

3. This report gives feedback to SACRE from the Religious Education Council (REC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) attended by SACRE's professional advisers and the National Association of SACRE (NASACRE) AGM that was held virtually on 24 May 2021. In addition, this report brings to SACRE the key points raised in the report on RE published by Ofsted on 12 May 2021.

Contextual information

4. National Updates

- 4.1. **The Religious Education Council (REC)** Annual General Meeting was held on 11 May 2021. The REC is a membership organisation comprised of well over 60 organisations each of whom have an interested position in relation to religious education. In addition to the regular business of the organisation discussions were held in the afternoon regarding the Vision and Mission statements as well as the values of an organisation that brings together such

a wide range of members together seeking to campaign for high quality religious education for all children in our schools. The REC Commissioned the Commission on RE (CoRE) report published in 2018.

4.2. National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

4.2.1 On the 17 May 2021 NASACRE published a research report into SACRE Funding. This report can be accessed here: [1-376-nasacre-report-on-sacre-funding-in-england-2021.pdf](#) [Appendix 1] and has 5 key recommendations. The first two in relation to SACREs and their LAs and the second two in relation to the DfE and Ministers. Hampshire SACRE is well supported currently with a Clerk, Chairman and professional advisers available to support development of RE.

4.2.2 NASACRE, the national body for SACRE's held its AGM on 24th May. Two Hampshire SACRE members were able to attend.

4.3. **Ofsted and Religious Education** Ofsted published a Review of religious education on 12 May 2021 and available here: [Research review series: religious education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). [Conclusion is Appendix 2] A key aspect of the report is to emphasise that RE in LA maintained schools must follow the agreed syllabus and that Academies (without a religious designation) must also arrange for RE to be taught to all pupils. This can either be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus or in some other way ensure equally high-quality curricular provision. The report acknowledges the usefulness of the Agreed Syllabus in ensuring high-level outcomes, recognising that subject leaders find them helpful as they design their school RE curriculum. The report emphasises that RE teachers and leaders must be clear about the requirements of the locally agreed syllabus, where it applies. Ofsted notes that most locally agreed syllabuses are constructed on the assumption that the amount of curriculum time given to RE is at or above 5%. The review of Living Difference III will be taking into account this report. NASACRE has noted that some of the issues raised in the Ofsted Report have implications for the resourcing of RE.

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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:

See guidance at <http://intranet.hants.gov.uk/equality/equality-assessments.htm>

*Insert in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state:*

- (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).