

Annual report August 2016-September 2017



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. We launched our revised Locally Agreed Syllabus in November 2016 – Living Difference III. The launch held at The Greggs School was attended by over 100 people across all phases of education. It has also continued to be busy in terms of the SACRE monitoring visits to schools, 18 schools have now been visited in the current cycle of monitoring. The SACRE has commissioned training for Primary RE leaders and has continued to develop its resource development with students at Solent University. A new web space has been developed for the SACRE to host information on for schools including the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Training for new SACRE members was held and new elections brought new elected representatives.

Southampton SACRE remains a member of the South Central hub and is working strongly in partnership with other SACREs and Local Authorities. With some building practice on good practice shared by Southampton SACRE in terms of advice to schools.

2. Advice to Local Authority

The SACRE put forward a budget plan up to April 2019 to enable its statutory work to occur. The SACRE requested that clerking arrangements are maintained which had been a concern during the year, plus appropriate LA officer time for professional advice and monitoring visits. This has been successful.

The SACRE revised its Advice document for schools around questions that schools may come across regarding a range of faiths in February 2017. This was undertaken with a range of people from the original working group, it was published in March 2017 and is available on the website. It has also been shared more widely with other LAs and it is planned that it will be reviewed in spring term each 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 system of monitoring visits to schools has been continued this academic year (2016-17). So far 18 schools have received a SACRE monitoring visit. These include maintained primary, secondary and special schools as well as academies. The

working group for monitoring evaluates that we need to carry out another cycle of monitoring over the coming year, with the same protocol, but with increased focus upon the impact of training and RE in secondary sector focus. It has agreed 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 and wider faith based issues. This has resulted in seven short films that will be available to schools via the SACRE website. This work will continue over the next year.

Training for secondary teachers continues to be signposted with more take up that SACRE is aware of in the past year than in 2015-16. Training for Primary staff was well attended by 19 schools – it is planned to consider the impact of this training and to further commission support meetings in the spring/summer of next year.

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

	GCSE full course (%)						GCSE short course (%)						AS Level (%)			
	National			Southampton			National			Southampton			Nat		Soton	
	A+	C+	G+	A+	C+	G+	A+	C+	G+	A+	C+	G+	A-B	A-E	A-B	A-E
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	41.3	98.5		
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										
2016	29.8	71.7	97.8	38.8	71.6	97.5										

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%) and improved closer to national in 2016 (National increased by 1.9%, Southampton increased by 4.4%). Outcomes remain above national for GCSE passes, and for Grade A and A*, in line with national at Grade C+. This continues to strengthen Southamptons performance when compared to National indicating that developments across the city have enabled strengthened performance for those pupils taking GCSE RE.

Entries comparison

	GCSE Full course (entries)		GCSE short course / ELQ Band C	
	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%)		
2016	268435 (44.8%)	852 (43.6%)	16322 (2.7%)	12 (6%)

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
2016(All schools)	71.7	97.8	71.6	97.5

5. Locally Agreed Syllabus

An Agreed Syllabus Conference (the required statutory group- to be called 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”. The revised agreed syllabus was approved by the SACRE in September 2016 and was launched to schools in November 2016.

6. Collective Worship including determinations or complaints

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.

Collective worship is included within the monitoring visits to schools. The cycle for monitoring will re-commence in September 2017 with the third cycle of monitoring taking in up to 9 further schools for monitoring in 2017-18.

In general schools monitored have broadly met the daily act of collective worship criteria and teach RE using the Locally Agreed Syllabus well, although there is some inconsistency. 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. SACRE have agreed to discuss this issue to determine how they can support this over the next year (2017-18).

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 Local Authority for action and the Local Authority is able to include this information in its wider requirement of “knowing its schools”.

One school has received support from the Local Authority officer who provides professional advice to the SACRE, This was for specifically developing RE. Two schools have had school to school support commissioned to support their further development. Through its monitoring visits the SACRE has a good understanding of where local good practice is and is able to recommend these to the Local Authority for school to school support to be brokered, and for suggestions when schools are developing links or have new staff in place for RE.

The SACRE has recommended that guidance for Collective Worship is required to develop their advice about expectations. It will ask the Local Authority to support the development of this advice over the coming academic year.

7. Summary

The SACRE has successfully raised the profile of RE and Collective Worship across Southampton schools. It has a well-established system for monitoring across schools in partnership with the professional adviser to the SACRE. It has identified continued work to further strengthen RE locally in conjunction with the launch of a new Locally Agreed Syllabus. 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 September 2016- July 2017

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 (stepped down in year)
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

Muslim

Sikh

Dr Gil Jenkel

Anas Al-Korj

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 2014-17)

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers

VACANCY

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 Payne

Cllr Baille

Cllr Jordan

Cllr Laurent

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 - RE leader St Johns Primary School