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Monitoring Officer
Christopher Potter

County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1UD
Telephone (01983) 821000

Agenda

Name of meeting **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Date **MONDAY 26 JUNE 2023**

Time **4.00 PM**

Venue **MEDINA HOUSE SCHOOL, SCHOOL LANE,
NEWPORT PO30 2HS**

Members of the committee **Committee A**

Sister Kelly, Alison Burt, Lionel Alexander, Anne Sechari,
Simon Bligh, Norma Corney, Ebrahim Jeewa
Nick Wilde, Muhammed Bahar, Sylvia Clare

Committee B

Harry Kirby, Beryl Miller, Janice Willmott, Sue Rogers

Committee C

Beth Feltham, Kirstie Thomas, Clare Slade-Carter
Rebecca Lennon

Committee D

Cllr Andre, Cllr Critchison and Stuart Brenchley

Democratic Services Officer: Sarah Philipsborn
democratic.services@iow.gov.uk



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1. **Reflection**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest**

To invite Members to declare any interest they might have in the matters on the agenda.

4. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 8)

1. To confirm as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2023
2. To discuss any actions from the minutes

5. **Membership Update**

6. **Local and National Updates**

- (a) A written report to be presented by the Special Advisor to the SACRE (Pages 9 - 10)
- (b) A verbal update to be given on the NASACRE AGM and Conference

7. **Monitoring Report** (Pages 11 - 14)

8. **Review of the SACRE Constitution**

9. **Brief updates or notifications of items to be brought to future meetings**

To receive updates and notification of future agenda items.

10. **Date and Venue of next meeting**

CHRISTOPHER POTTER
Monitoring Officer
Friday, 16 June 2023

Interests

If there is a matter on this agenda which may relate to an interest you or your partner or spouse has or one you have disclosed in your register of interests, you must declare your interest before the matter is discussed or when your interest becomes apparent. If the matter relates to an interest in your register of pecuniary interests then you must take no part in its consideration and you must leave the room for that item. Should you wish to participate as a member of the public to express your views where public speaking is allowed under the Council's normal procedures, then you will need to seek a dispensation to do so. Dispensations are considered by the Monitoring Officer following the submission of a written request. Dispensations may take up to 2 weeks to be granted.

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If you require more guidance on the Code of Conduct or are unsure whether you need to record an interest on the written register you should take advice from the Monitoring Officer – Christopher Potter on (01983) 821000, email christopher.potter@iow.gov.uk, or Deputy Monitoring Officer - Justin Thorne on (01983) 821000, email justin.thorne@iow.gov.uk.

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A question may be asked at the meeting without prior notice but in these circumstances, there is no guarantee that a full reply will be given.



Minutes

Name of meeting	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Date and Time	MONDAY 20 MARCH 2023 COMMENCING AT 4.00 PM
Venue	THE BAY CE PRIMARY, WINCHESTER PARK ROAD, SANDOWN PO36 9BA
Present	Cllr D Andre (Chairman), S Clare, N Corney, B Feltham, H Kirby, A Sechiari, Sr Stella and J Willmott
Apologies	Cllr C Critchison, L Alexander, B Miller, S Rogers, C Slade-Carter and N Wilde

1. **Reflection**

A reflection was given by Sylvia Clare

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Lionel Alexander, Cllr Critchison, Rebecca Lennon, Beryl Miller, Sue Rogers, Claire Slade-Carter and Nick Wilde

3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2023 be approved with the following amendments.

Sylvia Clare's attendance be noted, and checks made that she is listed on modgov committee member list.

Spelling mistakes correction -Item 5, page 6, Alex Augustus, Lianne Chalmers, Janice Willmott.

Page 7 to replace RE instruction with RE education.

THAT it be noted that the work on the review of the SACRE constitution had been delayed and that the actions set for the March 2023 meeting had been put back to the June 2023 meeting.

5. **Membership Update**

The Professional Advisor to the SACRE gave a verbal update on the recent membership of the SACRE and any new developments.

It was stated that although 3 vacancies had recently been filled, there was still a vacancy to replace Alex Augustus, who had been one of the local authority appointees. There was also the hope that a Hindu representative would be joining the SACRE soon.

Norma Corney mentioned that she knew of somebody in her faith group who would be interested in coming along to future SACRE meetings.

Discussion took place about possible actions regarding members who had not fielded their apologies and had missed three consecutive meetings.

It was also suggested that Chris May who was now the Secondary RE Teaching and Learning Advisor for Hampshire be invited to the next meeting and a proposal to extend the invitation to Island School's RE Leaders was put forward.

RESOLVED:

THAT Chris May be invited to the next SACRE meeting.

THAT the Island School's RE Leaders be invited to the next SACRE meeting.

6. **Monitoring Report**

The Professional Advisor to the SACRE presented the Monitoring Group Report for discussion and noting.

The Monitoring Group consisted of the Professional Advisor to the SACRE, Cllr Debbie Andre, Harry Kirby and Beth Feltham. Their task was to evaluate the effectiveness of RE teaching and to give an update of the 2022 GSCE RE results. An update on the 2021 census results regarding religion was also shared.

It was noted that only a small number of secondary schools had entries for GCSE Religious Studies, which was a drop in numbers compared to previous years.

It was highlighted that teacher recruitment in general was problematic both nationally as well as on the Island, and that RS teacher recruitment was even more of a difficulty. The group had discussed ways to increase the awareness of the value of the subject for schools through training senior leaders and governors. It was agreed that the group would run training for governors on Religious Education during the next academic year.

The group also looked the possibility of bringing a youth voice to SACRE and how that could help raise the profile of Religious Studies as a GCSE option, as well as widening the discussion about the importance of the teaching of Religious Studies to a younger audience.

The Professional Advisor to the SACRE stated that two school visits had taken place since the last meeting of the SACRE, which focused on the RE curriculum, exploring how the subject was engaging, meaningful and interesting for all pupils.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Monitoring Group make arrangements for the training for school governors in matters concerning the SACRE.

THAT having a youth voice on the SACRE be further explored.

7. Review of the Constitution

The work on the review of the SACRE constitution was awaiting input from the Monitoring Officer and Isle of Wight Council Legal Department. It was hoped that this work would be completed before the next SACRE meeting in June, where SACRE members would be required to vote to ratify any proposed changes and adopt the constitution.

RESOLVED:

THAT the SACRE bring the findings of the Monitoring Officer and the Legal Department back to the SACRE for comment and approval.

8. Local and National Updates

The Professional Advisor to the SACRE presented a report considering key national and local updates, highlighting the work of the Religious Education Council REC, NASACRE as well as the Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education (AULRE) and initiatives being led by the Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

It was explained that the National RE Hubs project, which aimed at creating a national web forum linking regional SACRES, schools, local authorities and universities to share RE news was being created.

RE blogs, job vacancies, resource centres, places of interest and school speaker training were to be features of this project to be shared by hyperlinks.

9. South Central Hub

It was explained that the South-Central Hub met online and that SACRE members were most welcome to join the meetings. The recent themes discussed by the South-Central Hub included diversity and how—the RE syllabi included diversity

within its teaching. Suggestions about what can be done regarding this and its monitoring, including a possible intent statement and an RE policy, were discussed.

10. **Brief updates or notifications of items to be brought to future meetings.**

The future meeting and AGM of the NASCRE in London on 22 May 2023 was discussed and it was agreed to nominate Harry Kirby for an award.

11. **Date and Venue of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting to be held 27 June 2023 at 4pm with the venue of Medina House as venue to be confirmed.

CHAIRMAN



Purpose: For Decision

Committee Report

Committee	Isle of Wight SACRE
Date	14 June 2023
Title	National and Local RE Matters report
Report of	Professional Adviser to the SACRE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. **Purpose of report:** The purpose of this report is to enable SACRE to consider key national and local RE developments.

Recommendations:

That SACRE notes the report.

2. Executive Summary:
This report seeks to update and inform SACRE of key national developments, 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.

- 3 Culham St Gabriel's Trust initiatives:
SACRE members will be interested 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:

Regular promotion of a national teacher recruitment campaign for RE. Further information on the campaign can be found below:

[New RE teacher recruitment campaign kicks off as popular GCSE subject faces staff shortage - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](#)

The Trust also offers virtual RE courses that are free to all on different aspects of RE. These are especially useful to new teachers, those teaching with no background in RE and those simply wishing to know more about the current world of RE. These can be found here:

[E Learning - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](#)

4 RE Hubs – a national update:

[Explore RE in your Region \(re-hubs.uk\)](http://re-hubs.uk)

This project was introduced to the SACRE last term and the website for this has just been launched. On the page for the South East, the link is given for the Portsmouth Directory of Places of Worship, together with details of all of our primary and secondary CPD for teachers and speakers in our local area. There is the potential for a wide range of resources to be uploaded onto the website, which will be of real interest and use to the SACRE and to teachers, including information on further places of worship across the region.

5 Sacred Texts British Library

The British Library have produced a series of resources for teachers at Key Stage 2 on a range of different religions with advice included. The resources can be accessed here:

6 The Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education (AULRE) is still leading on issues in relation to the shortages in Secondary Initial Teacher Education (ITE) and the Secondary Teaching and Learning Adviser attended their national conference recently and has since spoken on this topic nationally.

AULRE, in association with Culham St Gabriel's, ran a second teacher recruitment webinar on 5/6/23. This included speakers from across the RE community from university providers to current teachers, advisors and RE ECT's. Although less well attended than the first it is an example of continuing ways the RE community is working together to promote recruitment.

7 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 are invited to note the last in series of training events this year and to contact the SACRE clerk if they wish to attend:

26 June 7-8.30 pm So you've joined your local SACRE.



Purpose: For Decision

Committee Report

Committee	Isle of Wight Monitoring group for the SACRE
Date	14 June 2023
Title	Monitoring group report
Report of	Professional Adviser to the SACRE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1. Purpose of report:** The purpose of this report is to inform SACRE of the findings and discussions that took place during the meeting of the SACRE monitoring sub-group on 15 May 2023. SACRE has a statutory responsibility to monitor the effectiveness of the agreed syllabus and this group meets before each full SACRE meeting in order to support SACRE in fulfilling this responsibility.
- 3.** Those present at the meeting were: Justine Ball (Sacre Professional Adviser), Harry Kirby, Beth Feltham and Cllr Debbie Andre.

The group received updates on professional RE education, monitoring the effectiveness of RE and visits to schools. It also discussed youth voice to SACRE and governor training during the meeting.

Recommendations:

That SACRE notes the findings of the monitoring group meeting.

2. Inspector/Adviser Updates:

HIAS primary and secondary RE Network meetings are taking place on the Island for teachers in the Summer term. The primary meetings were held face to face and the secondary meetings are being held virtually. SACRE members are asked to offer any input on their religion or belief as part of these network meetings if possible and to contact the Professional Adviser regarding this.

A common theme in the secondary meetings was raising the profile of RE and the use of texts. Common themes in the primary meetings were requests for CPD on religions and beliefs. There will be a cross phase RE conference on the mainland on 19 October and teachers will be informed about this and encouraged to attend where possible. Workshops on different traditions, SEND, preparing an RE curriculum and exam boards will be offered.

The monitoring group were informed that training for governors had been arranged on the role of SACRE for RE and Collective Worship and this will take place at Westridge on 11 July from 5 until 7 pm. Members of the SACRE are welcome to attend and are asked to contact the Professional Adviser if they would like to do so. Part of the training will include SEND approaches to RE and Collective Worship from a member of our SACRE.

The secondary network group met to discuss and move forward suggestions for youth voice to SACRE in the year ahead and raised the following thoughts for the SACRE to consider:

- Year 9 is suggested as the target group with representation from each school
- Christ the King would be willing to host, and the event would happen either in the Autumn or Spring term
- Overall theme provided in advance is linked to the relevance of RE in the modern world and contemporary issues, potentially, 'the importance of RE in today's world'.
- Help is requested during the event from faith representatives on these issues from those perspectives
- Students will have time in the conference to feedback to their group from the session/input they attended, and then collectively formulate a response to the theme/question
- This feedback is (if possible with data protection) recorded and used as a resource to feed back to individual schools and at the following SACRE meeting after the event. This can then also be used to raise the profile of RE and encourage GCSE uptake as well.
- An additional meeting will be held to continue planning following any comments after SACRE meeting on 26th June.
- Additional schools who were not able to attend today will be contacted for input
- Questions for clarification- is the above format of a student conference something SACRE would support? Who on SACRE would be available to give input?

Other sources of evidence of effectiveness of RE:

The Inspector/adviser reported that there were no mentions of RE in the Ofsted reports for Isle of Wight schools in the period up to the monitoring group meeting.

3. School visits:

A special school visit had been undertaken with the RE leader and a member of the SACRE in attendance. The visit had a focus on how the RE curriculum and Collective Worship was designed and adapted to explore how the subject is made engaging, meaningful and interesting for all children. The RE leader was asked to present at the

forthcoming training for governors in July and to showcase some of the teaching approaches used in the school that will be of wider interest to other schools and to SACRE members.

RECOMMENDATION

1. These set out in full the specific recommendation(s) the Committee are being asked to consider. Ensure the recommendation(s) are reflective of those in the options section, and the recommendations are worded in such a way they can be directly used in the Minutes.

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