

Agenda

Name of meeting	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Date	MONDAY 25 MARCH 2024
Time	4.00 PM
Venue	BRIGHSTONE CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEW ROAD, BRIGHSTONE, IW, PO30 4BB
Members of the committee	Committee A Sister Kelly, Alison Burt, Lionel Alexander, Anne Sechari, Simon Bligh, Norma Corney, Ebrahim Jeewa, Muhammed Bahar, Sylvia Clare Committee B Harry Kirby, Beryl Miller, Janice Willmott Committee C Beth Feltham, Rebecca Lennon Committee D Cllr D Andre (Chairman), Cllr C Critchison, Stuart Brenchley Democratic Services Officer: Marie Bartlett democratic.services@iow.gov.uk

1. **Introductions**

To receive introductions from attendees.

2. **Reflection**

To be provided by Mrs R Lennon, headteacher at Brighstone CE Primary School



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3. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

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

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

1. To confirm as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2023.
2. To discuss any actions from the minutes

6. **Membership Update**

To receive a verbal update on membership.

7. **Monitoring Report** (Pages 9 - 10)

To receive a report from the Monitoring Group.

8. **National and Local Matters** (Pages 11 - 14)

To include an update on Island School Governor training on RE that took place in March and an update on the Secondary Youth Voice event that took place in March 2024.

9. **Draft Workplan for the SACRE** (Pages 15 - 16)

To consider the items on the draft workplan.

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

To receive updates and notification of future agenda items.

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

The next meeting to be held on Monday, 24 June 2024 at 4.00 pm. The venue to be confirmed.

CHRISTOPHER POTTER
Monitoring Officer
Friday, 15 March 2024

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.

Members are reminded that it is a requirement of the Code of Conduct that they should also keep their written Register of Interests up to date. Any changes to the interests recorded on that form should be made as soon as reasonably practicable, and within 28 days of the change. A change would be necessary if, for example, your employment changes, you move house or acquire any new property or land.

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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If you wish to record, film or photograph the council meeting or if you believe that being filmed or recorded would pose a risk to the safety of you or others then please speak with the democratic services officer prior to that start of the meeting. Their contact details are on the agenda papers.

If the press and public are excluded for part of a meeting because confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, there is no right to record that part of the meeting. All recording and filming equipment must be removed from the meeting room when the public and press are excluded.

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Minutes

Name of meeting	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Date and Time	MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 4.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Committee A L Alexander Sister Kelly Committee B H Kirby Committee C B Feltham Committee D Cllr D Andre (Chairman) Cllr C Critchison
Also Present	M Bartlett and J Ball

11. **Reflection**

A reflection was read from Norma Corney

12. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were given by Norma Corney, Anne Sechiari, Sue Rogers, Nick Wilde and Janice Willmott.

13. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations at this stage.

14. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2023 be approved.

ACTIONS arising from the minutes:

Following resignation from Claire Slade-Carter the SACRE asked to thank Claire for all her work. Discussion had taken place with Claire for her to continue with SACRE. Unfortunately, Chris May could not attend this SACRE meeting, however he had been in contact with some SACRE members and will attend a future meeting.

15. **Membership Update**

Made appointments to Committee B over the last year. Membership will need to be looked at further, as the Quaker representative has resigned and has suggested that one of our current members be a joint representative as both Buddhist and Quaker, which seemed to be a reasonable solution. This representative will now be consulted. It was understood that the Diocese would be advertising.

RESOLVED:

THAT The update be noted

16. **Monitoring Report**

The Adviser to the SACRE welcomed RE Leaders to the meeting.

A brief explanation of the purpose of the Monitoring Group was provided, looking at RE and collective worship across all schools looking at:

- Resources
- Visits
- Ofsted reports

The Monitoring group had met twice since the last SACRE meeting in June 2023. Primary schools had worked well on the golden threads and resources were available on the Moodle. Discussions around overview studies and how to apply light touch teaching in schools took place. Optional pondering time was included in the syllabus for one unit a year. However, it was noted that take up in primary was light and there will be a focus on this to get further advice out to primary school teachers.

Training session for Governors and SACRE had taken place in July 2023 on RE and Collective Worship, another session was in the diary for March 2024.

The RE lead at the Bay secondary school provided a summary of her approach to GCSE at the school. She explained that all lesson information was made available online for students to access online both at home and during school and there was an expectation that if a student missed a class then they would catch up before the

next lesson. Revision guides are provided for each student. Students joining the school late in the year are provided with packs of work that had already been covered by the class to help them catch up with the work and one to ones are set up to ensure the student is caught up in time for their exams.

It was noted that students moving from primary to secondary school had good knowledge of RE and presenting orally, however the skill of evaluating and written skills were a focus when starting in secondary school.

RESOLVED:

THAT the monitoring report be noted.

17. **National and Local Matters**

There are a number of bodies that are good for CPD. Culham St Gabriel's Trust run training courses for RE leaders and have funding currently to help RE teachers study a module from the Chartered Teaching College applying educational research. The deadline to sign up is the end of November 2023.

RE resources - the British Library has a lot of resources on different religions available to teachers, especially KS2 teachers. The London Museum has an extensive range of clips and resources to help teach Judaism.

NASACRE provides training and a wide range of courses are on offer in 2023-2024.

18. **Draft Annual Report**

The advisor to the SACRE provided a short briefing on the annual report which provides a summary on RE and collective worship. An action plan is also provided for the following three years.

A survey on withdrawals was completed from RE and worship and it was noted in the annual report that the numbers were really low. This survey is completed every year.

Once agreed, the annual report is sent to the national body and the Department for Education.

It was noted that all training was up to date for SACRE members, due to the availability of training provided and the way it was provided.

The SACRE advisor informed that the SACRE looked at both RE and collective worship in schools. Collective worship can be provided by schools in many different ways to enable reflection. Collective worship was monitored in a variety of ways and it was noted that a survey was provided to schools. The RE Leaders were asked if they had seen the survey circulated, however a number had not seen it. It was suggested that the email for the next survey would be sent for the attention of the RE leader as well as the admin office.

The training on collective worship was really successful and it was expressed that the training needed to be offered again to offer the support to schools. A date for further training would be set and circulated round to schools and SACRE. Governor training has been set for March 2024.

One member of SACRE was mentioned nationally for his service to SACRE which would be included in the Chairmans introduction of the report.

A future item for the monitoring group was to discuss training and to report back to the SACRE on this.

It was noted that to enable a better transition for students between primary and secondary schools, a meeting with all RE Leaders from both settings would be beneficial, possibly in February 2024he SACRE advisor would arrange this.

RESOLVED:

THAT the annual report was received.

19. Review of the Constitution

Thanks, were give to Sarah Philipsborn and Justin Thorne for the work that had been undertaken to produce an updated version of the constitution.

There was some discussion regarding paragraph 6.4 which needed to be reworded.

RESOLVED:

THAT the new version of the SACRE constitution, subject to the amendment to paragraph 6.4 and final approval by Legal Services be agreed.

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

A visit to a place of worship needed to be arranged for the SACRE to show the message of the importance of all faiths and beliefs on the Isle of Wight.

More information around the youth voice was provided to look at a small conference. A date was being sought and would be circulated to SACRE members. Discussion took place regarding a survey for the update of RE in secondary schools and the uptake for GCSE levels.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, 25 March 2024.

CHAIRMAN

Committee Report

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

Meeting	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Date	25 MARCH 2024
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 4 March 2024. 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.
2. Those present at the meeting were: Justine Ball (Sacre Professional Adviser), Harry Kirby, Beth Feltham and Cllr Debbie Andre. The new Service Director for Education, Inclusion and Access, Naomi Carter, also attended the meeting and was introduced to everyone.
3. The group received updates on professional RE education, monitoring the effectiveness of RE and visits to schools. It also discussed the recent Youth Voice to SACRE event and governor training during the meeting.

Recommendation

- | |
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| 4. That SACRE notes the findings of the monitoring group meeting. |
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Inspector/Adviser Updates

5. HIAS RE Network meetings have taken place on the Island for primary and secondary teachers in the Spring terms. The secondary network that took place in the Autumn term focused on CPD on Pagan traditions, Living Difference IV and the work of Peacejam, who would be presenting a workshop at the Youth Voice Event. The primary meeting was face to face and focused on assessment and progression in RE and developing an action plan for RE in the summer term.

6. A repeat of the online training session for Island governors on RE and Collective Worship took place on 12 March 2024 and was organised by the monitoring group to raise the profile of RE in schools and to provide expertise to help with this.
7. It was noted that the Jerusalem Trust may provide up to £600 per school in a grant for resources to support the teaching of Christianity and the application form for this can be found here: [The Jerusalem Trust \(regrants.org.uk\)](https://regrants.org.uk)

Other sources of evidence and effectiveness of RE

8. The Inspector/adviser reported that there had been no Ofsted reports for the Island specifically mentioned RE in both primary and secondary schools leading up to the date of this meeting

SACRE school visits

9. There had been no further primary or secondary visits undertaken for RE in this period, but a primary and a secondary visit to schools were agreed for the summer term. The report from these would be discussed at the next monitoring group meeting.

Information from other HIAS discussions including inspection/advisory visits

10. The monitoring group discussed a visit to a school with a focus on a general review of provision. A variety of lessons were observed, and meetings involved a discussion of the curriculum, data, and areas of focus for a follow up visit. Particular areas of focus included progression and outcomes, especially for higher prior attaining students and learning strategies for RE lessons.

GCSE Preliminary Results

11. The monitoring group talked through the GCSE results data for the Island. In summary, analysis of the data shows:
 - The Island continues to see a gap from the national average with results at 4+ being 15% below national. This is a slight widening of the gap from 2019 when it was 12%. It was noted that only a small number of pupils sat GCSE RS this year and this number had decreased over the last few years.
 - The Island saw a 6% drop in 7+ grades and 17% at 5+. This was reflected nationally too, but the Island has seen a sharper decrease than the national picture.
 - The Island has seen a closing of the gap with SEND students, which is a positive to note. At 4+ the gap with national is 15%, compared with 33% last year. The pattern is similar at 5+, but at 7+ the gap with national is only 2% compared with 7% in 2019, showing some progress with the top grades.
 - The Island has seen a widening of the Pupil Premium gap with national results from both last year and 2019 with 33% achieving 4+ compared to 57% nationally.
12. Case studies of excellent practice and learning journeys to raise standards will be discussed further at the full SACRE meeting, including work undertaken to raise standards by Beth Feltham, member of the SACRE and other schools. These will be shared with other teachers to promote best practice.



Purpose: For Decision

Committee Report

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

Meeting	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Date	25 MARCH 2024
Title	NATIONAL AND LOCAL RE MATTERS
Report of	PROFESSIONAL ADVISER TO THE SACRE

Executive Summary

1. This report seeks to update and inform SACRE of key national developments, for example the work of the Religious Education Council (REC), the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), the Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education (AULRE) and initiatives being led by the Culham St Gabriel's Trust.
2. NASACRE is running its annual Westhill/NASACRE award and has invited SACREs to submit their applications for an Award. The £4000 (max) award is intended to fund a SACRE-led project that will enhance the quality of RE and or collective worship in local schools, with the potential to have wider, lasting impact. The theme for this year is *Education into Diversity*. The [Westhill website](#) and the NASACRE website has further information. **The closing date for applications is 31 March.**
3. The NASACRE annual conference is **Monday 20 May 20 24. It is in York, but also available online for SACRE members. The theme is: *How can SACREs support high quality RE & Collective Worship?*** SACRE members are invited to contact the SACRE clerk if they wish to attend and there is a maximum of 2 delegates per SACRE.
4. There is one further NASACRE webinar coming up this year:
Wednesday 26th June 2024, 6:30-8pm:
So, you've joined your local SACRE...

Please contact the SACRE clerk if you wish to attend this event.

5. Nationally, the Ofsted Annual Report from the Chief Inspector for the year 2022/23 refers to RE being of poor quality across England. The report can be referenced here: [The Annual Report of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2022/23 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114114/Annual-Report-2022-23-Childrens-Services-and-Skills.pdf) . SACRE members are encouraged to read the report and be aware of the national picture, although it is not reflected locally. The Ofsted subject report on RE is due out this year and will be circulated as soon as it is available.

6. RE Hubs continue to run FREE Places of Interest and School Speaker training (POI &SS). The next dates for training are, 26 March, 18 April 2024 and all are online. SACRE members are encouraged to register for training if they have not already and to pass the details onto other school speakers they might know. Further details are available here: [Register as a school speaker \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://re-hubs.uk/register)

7. NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) has produced a toolkit for schools on bullying and belief:

'This Bullying and Belief toolkit is a resource to support schools to deal with the topic of religious bullying. It contains five 60-minute lessons for Primary and Secondary schools, with resources and films on which to base your teaching within RE lessons. Alternatively, the five lessons have been planned so that they can run as a drop-down day or be used in tutor time or in PSHE sessions. The toolkit also contains resources for organising assemblies around this theme.'

It is available for free on the NATRE website: [Bullying and belief Toolkit Booklet Aug 2020.pdf \(natre.org.uk\)](https://www.natre.org.uk/resources/bullying-and-belief-toolkit-booklet-aug-2020.pdf)

8. The University of Nottingham is running a film making competition for GCSE and A-Level RE students. The theme this year is "Our Changing World: Census 2021 and Religion". There is a prize of £100 for the winning GCSE and A-Level entrant. More information can be found here: [David-Garlick-Prize-Competition-2024 \(nottingham.ac.uk\)](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/centres/religious-education/david-garlick-prize-competition-2024)

9. AREIAC (Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) and AULRE (Association for University Lecturers in Religion and Education) will be holding a joint conference on June 20th-21st at Newman University, Birmingham.

10. AREIAC will be running a webinar 'Handling Sensitive Issues around Religion in Schools' on Monday 29th April 2024 1600-1730.

11. A repeat of the Governor training session that was held in July 2023 took place on 12 March 2024 with governors representing 11 different schools on the Island. The theme of the training was understanding RE and Collective Worship in school and the role of SACRE and governors in supporting high quality RE and Collective Worship.

12. A secondary Youth Voice event for RE took place on Friday 1 March at The Bay Church of England Secondary school, with young people from The Bay, Carisbrooke, Medina and Christ the King schools. Members from our SACRE were able to visit the event and to support it and will report back to SACRE during the meeting. The focus for the day was the question

Recommendation

That SACRE notes the report.

Do you need to be religious to be a good steward?’

13. The purpose of SACRE Youth Voice event was to allow students the opportunity to express what matters to them, which will help inform SACRE in identifying priorities for RE provision on the Island and exploring what resources and opportunities SACRE can provide and support with. Feedback from schools has been that a current concern for young people on the Island is the challenge of human caused climate change. This event aimed to allow year 9 students to explore in more detail issues surrounding this cause. Students took part in a series of workshops, had the opportunity to work together in discussing the issues raised and shared their perspectives and vision for the future.

The event was very successful with positive comments received from the young people who attended. Ideas for further Youth Voice events are welcomed.

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SACRE COMMITTEE WORKPLAN 2024-2027

DEFAULT AGENDA ITEMS	March 2024	June 2024	Oct 2024	March 2025	June 2025	Oct 2025	March 2026	June 2026	Oct 2026	March 2027	June 2027	Oct 2027
Membership Update	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitoring Report	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National and Local Matters	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Updates or notifications of items to future meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Date of next meeting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
AGENDA ITEMS	March 2024	June 2024	Oct 2024	March 2025	June 2025	Oct 2025	March 2026	June 2026	Oct 2026	March 2027	June 2027	Oct 2027
Agreed Syllabus												✓
Programme of meetings for ensuing year		✓			✓			✓			✓	
SACRE Three year action plan			✓									✓
Election of Chairman					✓						✓	
Election of Vice Chairman					✓						✓	
Draft Annual Report			✓			✓			✓			✓
NASACRE Self-Assessment Tool												
Update from NASACRE Conference		✓										
TRAINING	May 2024											
NASACRE CONFERENCE	✓											
MONITORING VISITS	Mar 2024	June 2024	Oct 2024	March 2025	June 2025	Oct 2025	March 2026	June 2026	Oct 2026	March 2027	June 2027	Oct 2027

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