

ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Standing Advisory Council
for Religious Education
Annual Report

SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022

What is a SACRE?

A SACRE must:

- Advise the local authority (LA) on matters related to agreed syllabus religion education (RE) and Collective worship (CW)
- Publish an Annual Report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups
- Email a copy of the Annual report to the Secretary of State – these reports will be analysed by the DfE and NASACRE
- Meet in public, unless confidential information is to be disclosed
- Consider appeal from schools wishing to modify the legal requirement for the majority of acts of collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character;
- Monitor the provision and quality of agreed syllabus RE and of CW in order to provide targeted advice and support on teaching agreed syllabus RE
- Advise the LA on the provision of training of teachers
- Consider complaints about RE and CW referred to them by their LA
- Consider whether changes need to be made to the agreed syllabus, in partnership with the LA
- Offer advice to the LA in respect of the agreed syllabus and its implementation
- Require the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus
- Co-opt individuals who are not members of any of the groups, for example to provide educational expertise, the views of young people and children, or religious and non-religious views that reflect a diverse multi-cultural society

(Taken from [PowerPoint Presentation \(nasacre.org.uk\)](https://www.nasacre.org.uk)).

Words from the Chair of SACRE

It has been my great privilege to represent secondary schools on the Isle of Wight SACRE for a number of years now and, having been the Chair of the Isle of Wight SACRE for four years, I am proud to present our Annual Report. The Isle of Wight SACRE is a dynamic group who have a passion for and dedication to Religious Education. SACRE seeks to ensure all our schools offer the highest provision to enable our children and young people to explore their own lives and develop their own thinking based on engaging intellectually with a range of perspectives.

This year we have continued the important work of representing the Island, whether this be in person or in virtual meetings, ensuring that the pandemic doesn't stop us from developing and supporting schools.

We have met regularly in 2021-2022, including attending the South Central Hub of SACREs and our termly monitoring group, which has been meeting regularly to evaluate the provision for Religious Education in our schools. We have also been working alongside our Religious Education inspectors in Hampshire to ensure our young people have access to a challenging curriculum that suits their needs and helps them develop their own understanding of what it means to be religious.

We are pleased to report that in the last year we were able to provide networks for secondary school Religious Education teachers and primary school teachers remotely, which allowed the sharing of good practice and professional development for island teachers and kept them up to date with Religious Education matters.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Isle of Wight SACRE for their continued commitment to our children and young people. It really is a pleasure to get to meet and work alongside so many passionate people who give up their valuable time to support the continued development of the subject in order to enable our children and young people to experience religious education in a way which has meaning for them.

I want to extend particular thanks to Sue Cox who has represented Free Churches on the Isle of Wight on the SACRE for many years and has now retired and to Nicky Mobley for her time and commitment to the SACRE too. The SACRE was lucky to have such committed and dedicated members.

I have great pleasure in commending this report to you.

Beth Feltham Chair of SACRE

Overview

Management of SACRE

SACRE has been supported by a LA clerk since the summer of 2021. In addition, SACRE is supported by a Professional Adviser for its activities and monitoring of the syllabus. Standards and quality of provision for Religious Education in Isle of Wight Schools are regularly reviewed by the SACRE monitoring subgroup which meets each term with the Professional Adviser. During 2021/2022, findings have been regularly submitted to the full SACRE at the termly meetings.

Attendance at SACRE by Committee 2021-2022

Group A:

Faiths represented:

Church of England, Methodist, Free Church, Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Humanist, Bahai, Quaker, Muslim.

Group B: Church of England

Group C: Teachers Liaison Panel

Group D: County Councillors

Attendance

5 October 2021

A: 3
B: 1
C: 1
D: 3

23 March 2022

A: 5
B: 1
C: 2
D: 2

27 June 2022

A: 2
B: 1
C: 1
D: 2

During this year the Sacre has been struggling to find representatives for some vacancies. In particular, two of the four Church of England representatives have moved onto other areas of work and this has left two vacancies which have been filled at the end of the summer of 2022. There have also been resignations from some group A representatives during the period of this report and the primary school Headteacher representative post has also become vacant. This has been filled at the end of the summer of 2022. A number of representatives have been unable to attend the face to face SACRE meetings, which has again affected attendance. In addition, SACRE is still seeking a Hindu representative due to the resignation of the existing Hindu representative and is seeking a Sikh representative. Increasing the membership of the SACRE will be a priority for 2022-23.

Training for SACRE members:

Training is offered regularly to SACRE members by SACRE officers when there are enough new members to require this. The launch of Living Difference IV took place during the period covered by this report. SACRE members were encouraged to attend the various launch events in order to gain a thorough appreciation of the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Training is also offered to all members to refresh their knowledge of SACRE's role and responsibilities. SACRE members are regularly updated through NASACRE information, advice and training and the training programme for SACRE members is shared with members each term. Members are also encouraged to attend the NASACRE annual conference and this year a member of the SACRE attended and reported back to the full SACRE.

SACRE Advice to Statutory Bodies

1. Adoption and Implementation of the Locally Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV

Living Difference IV was adopted as the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education on the Isle of Wight in October 2021.

Much work has continued through the period of this Annual Report to ensure there continues to be provision for training head teachers, senior leaders and Religious Education leaders as well as ongoing provision for development for teachers in Religious Education in all phases of education. *Living Difference IV* has been adopted in this academic year and virtual conferences for its launch have been offered on three occasions so that as many Head teachers, leaders, teachers and members of the SACRE could attend this as possible. The conference launches were designed to ensure teachers were introduced to the essential elements of the syllabus and could make the changes to their curriculum by September 2022.

2. Advice to the Local Authority

SACRE offers advice to the Local Authority regarding Religious Education. During this period, the Agreed Syllabus Conference adopted the revised Locally Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV. SACRE advised the Local Authority that this syllabus would now be the one used in all Isle of Wight Local Authority schools.

3. Advice Given to Schools

During this period there have been many professional development opportunities available to provide high quality advice to support schools in their consistent implementation of the syllabus.

- The professional adviser and the HIAS County Inspector/Adviser for Secondary Religious Education have continued to run secondary and primary networks virtually through this period. The network meetings have provided advice and support for the implementation of Living Difference IV and on managing and leading RE, assessment in RE and subject specific CPD.
- Joint primary, secondary and special school conferences took place during this period in the form of three large launch conferences for the new Locally Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV. Many Isle of Wight schools attended these.
- SACRE members have been able to resume face to face visits to primary schools during this period. This has been done with the professional adviser and reports are made to the monitoring group.
- The professional adviser has written a Religious Education newsletter to primary schools to help support them with implementing the new Locally Agreed Syllabus and has offered time to schools who need further help with the syllabus through virtual one to one short meetings.

4. Advice given to government and other statutory bodies

The professional adviser has held the position of co-chair of the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC) during the period of this report. This ensures that SACRE matters and Religious Education locally are part of national discussions about the subject.

SACRE monitoring of standards and Quality of Provision of Religious Education

SACRE professional adviser and HIAS inspector/advisers enable SACRE to monitor the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus in various ways. For example, through study of GCSE results, consideration of teacher comments at the SACRE meeting, school monitoring visits and training network comments.

a) Public Examinations in 2021

GCSE Full Course Religious Studies examinations did not take place in the summer of 2021. Grades were awarded on the basis of teacher assessments and no subject level data was released to Local Authorities from individual schools during the period covered by this report.

b) Progress and attainment in Religious Education not covered by public examinations

The Locally Agreed Syllabus emphasises the importance of high-quality Religious Education provision for all young people throughout their school life, including non examination, core Religious Education for KS4. The end of year expectations for year 10

and 11 in Living Difference IV should be used to inform the expectations for the core Religious Education courses at KS4.

SACRE is aware that there remain schools where young people are not able to access their entitlement for Religious Education either in part or at all at KS4. This will remain a focus in the next academic year.

During this period, the launch of Living Difference IV has ensured that many headteachers are aware of their responsibilities and can seek advice about improving provision.

A regular network for secondary Religious Education heads of department has run during this period. These networks bring together secondary teachers across the Island to plan together and share good practice. This network meeting, run by the Hampshire County Inspector/Adviser for Religious Education, has been an opportunity also to discover where there are areas for focus in the subject in Isle of Wight secondary schools. These all help the SACRE to monitor the implementation and impact of the Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV.

As has been the case for several years, the regular Primary Religious Education network meetings have continued to run and have increased from twice a year to three times a year and have also been well attended. The training networks and the regular email contact with schools have helped SACRE and the local authority working together to know that schools have access to training and advice and are able to use Living Difference IV well. Through the provision of training and advice, there is progression through KS1, KS2 and onto KS3. Teachers in both primary and secondary schools are becoming more confident with planning using Living Difference IV. More examples of good practice are emerging, especially in primary schools. These have been placed on the RE Moodle for other teachers to access freely, for example the exemplar Long Term Plan from Brighstone Primary School on the Island.

The regular Primary Schools' network meetings support the formal training offer and have been well attended. Teachers report that they find the inputs, and the opportunity to share good practice, invaluable.

c) The Quality of Religious Education provision in Isle of Wight Schools

Religious Education network meetings and attendance at Inspector/Adviser courses indicates that most schools are developing their curriculum to ensure compliance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV. Time allocation for Religious Education in the primary phase is usually good. The syllabus recommends that teachers teach the subject and that it is blocked for effective teaching. This is checked on visits and on training or subject meetings with schools. In the secondary phase time allocation for all pupils in KS3 is generally good and is discussed at network meetings with advice provided. SACRE has continued to monitor the teaching of core Religious Education and public examination Religious Education at KS4 through network meetings and has offered advice and support on this to schools. It will continue to be a focus going forward. More monitoring visits and subject meetings to monitor this are planned this next academic year.

d) Withdrawal from Religious Education

24 Isle of Wight schools completed a survey from a range of primary, secondary and special schools. The number of children withdrawn from all or parts of Religious Education and

Collective Worship were very, very low with nearly all children in attendance. The reasons were mainly due to parental personal belief.

e) Complaints about Religious Education

No complaints have been received about Religious Education during the period of this report.

f) SACRE support to schools

The Hampshire RE Moodle is offered to schools through Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service and is an online platform where materials written by SACRE advisers and the Hampshire steering groups can be made available to teachers. This is in addition to the materials available to teachers on the RE Curriculum website.

The Hampshire County RE Curriculum centre continues to support the work of teachers across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The RE Curriculum centre has written and sold packs to help teachers deliver high quality Religious Education on a wide variety of concepts. Considerable time has had to be given to making adjustments to all packs following the adoption of Living Difference IV as the Locally Agreed Syllabus by the RE centre manager, Lydia Revett. She continues to be available to offer guidance and to direct teachers to the latest materials to ensure the thorough implementation of Living Difference IV.

In the period of this report, SACRE advisers have spent a great deal of time, together with the RE centre manager, updating materials on the Hampshire RE Moodle and the HIAS RE website.

Collective Worship

Monitoring Collective Worship is a focus area for the SACRE and during the period of this report it was decided to look at Collective Worship as well as RE on school visits. During this period, the SACRE also asked for training on Collective Worship to be available to schools in 2022-23 and this has been organised now for all schools.

There has been advice and support from the Professional Adviser for schools on Collective Worship and there are advice materials available from the Hampshire RE centre which schools can purchase for further advice. An action point to support and monitor Collective Worship across schools has been included in the SACRE's 3 year Action plan.

There have been no complaints received regarding Collective Worship this academic year.

Determinations

There have been no applications for Determinations in Collective Worship during this past year.

Links with other bodies

The Island SACRE is a member of NASACRE and has access to the support offered by NASACRE in its annual programme of training.

The SACRE has close links with Portsmouth and Winchester Church of England Diocese and the local faith groups on the Island. For example, several members attended the Visit my Mosque initiative on the Island held in 2022.

The Island SACRE always attends the termly meeting of the South Central SACRE hub which has members from many of the South Coast's SACREs who meet together and share best practice.

Support for the SACRE

SACRE continues to be well supported by the RE inspectors from Hampshire. Their wide-ranging experience, combined with their involvement in national initiatives, ensures that the Isle of Wight SACRE, and the Local Authority, are well briefed and kept up-to-speed with initiatives.

SACRE's Development Plan is reviewed at each meeting and the latest version is attached here (Annexe 2). This enables SACRE to monitor if, and how, it's achieving its stated aims at supporting schools in RE. SACRE continues to be well supported by the LA through an allocated budget.

Summary

As last year, through continued links with Hampshire, SACRE has benefited from the support of the two Hampshire RE inspector/Advisers; one of whom is designated as the Professional Adviser to SACRE. Their expertise and advice continue to be invaluable in supporting SACRE fulfil its statutory duties.

The Clerk continues to act as a link between SACRE and schools and representatives of different faiths. SACRE members are engaged with visiting schools as well as supporting training for teachers. Church of England Diocesan networks also run on the Isle of Wight for subject leaders in Church Schools. Some of these teachers also attend the LA network meetings. All schools are teaching the Locally Agreed Syllabus Living Difference III.

The Isle of Wight SACRE continues to have a strong sense of team spirit, commitment and cooperation. Meetings are held in an open, frank, manner. The four groups of SACRE ensure SACRE is able to meet its statutory responsibilities

Annexe 1
SACRE Membership
SACRE Membership 2021-2022

Committee A

Members representing the “Free Churches”

Rev. Mike Hackleton (Methodist)

Two members representing the Roman Catholic Church

Sister Stella Kelly
Mrs Alison Burt

Members representing non-Christian faiths

Dr. Lionel Alexander (Jewish faith)
Mrs Anne Sechiari (Buddhist)
Sylvia Clare (Buddhist)
Mr Simon Bligh (Humanist)
Mrs Norma Corney (Baha'i)
Mr Ebrahim Jeewa/ Mr. Abdul Basith (Muslim)
Mr Noel Wilde (Quaker)
(Methodist)

Committee B (4 members in total)

Representing the Church of England

Mr Harry Kirby
Mrs Beryl Miller

Committee C (4 members in total)

Representing the teachers of the Isle of Wight. Nominated by appropriate groups.

Secondary	Miss Beth Feltham	The Bay CE School
Primary	Mrs Kirstie Thomas	Cowes Primary School
	Mrs Nicky Mobley	St Blasius Shanklin CE Primary Academy
	Mrs Claire Carter	St George's school

Committee D (4 members in total)

Representing the Local Authority. Two elected Members. Two nominated by the Director of Education

Cllr Debbie Andre
Cllr Claire Critchison
Mr. Stuart Brenchley Christ the King College
Mr Alex Augustus Principal St Francis Academy

In attendance

Sarah Philipsborn Clerk
Justine Ball RE Inspector (Primary) Adviser

Isle of Wight SACRE 3 year Action Plan for SACRE 2021,2022,2023: to be reviewed at each monitoring group meeting and progress reported to each SACRE meeting through Monitoring Group Report. SACRE review Action Plan annually as part of annual report

No.	Actions	Who	Target completion date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
1.	Maintaining SACRE Effectiveness and Leadership				
1.1	SACRE to meet once each term and be quorate	SACRE Professional Adviser and SACRE Clerk	Once each term	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Green
1.2	Representative appointments to all four groups of SACRE to be in place	SACRE Professional Adviser and SACRE Clerk	When necessary	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Amber
1.3	Introductory training offered to new SACRE members	SACRE Professional Adviser	When necessary	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Amber
1.4	Regular training offered to all SACRE members regarding new national initiatives relevant to RE	SACRE Professional Adviser	When necessary	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Green
1.5	SACRE Members appointed to attend South Central SACRE RE Hub once each term and NASACRE AGM and other events as deemed fitting by SACRE	SACRE Professional Adviser SACRE Chair and Vice Chair and SACRE Clerk	Various	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective and take active part in NASACRE and SACRE events in the region	Green
1.6	SACRE engage in monitoring Collective Worship across the county and identify examples of best practice in secondary, primary and special schools	Monitoring Group with SACRE Professional Adviser & SACRE Chair and Vice Chair	Monitoring Group report to SACRE meetings	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Amber
1.7	SACRE monitor withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship and develop guidance for IoW schools	Monitoring Group with SACRE Professional Adviser & SACRE Chair and Vice Chair	Monitoring Group report to SACRE meetings	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Green
1.8	Introducing new SACRE clerk to the SACRE and induction training developed for the role.	Professional Adviser and Chair and Vice Chair.	Reviewed once each term	For Clerk to feel supported by SACRE and to identify and meet any gaps in provision.	Amber
1.9	SACRE Self Evaluation	SACRE	Reviewed once each year	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Amber

	Actions	Who	Target completion date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
2.	Implementation and monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus : Living Difference III				
2.1	Monitoring Group to meet once each term and report to each following SACRE meeting	SACRE Clerk and SACRE Professional Adviser with SACRE Monitoring Group	Once each term	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Green
2.2	Monitoring visits to take place in schools	SACRE Clerk and SACRE Professional Adviser with SACRE Monitoring Group	Once each term	This and other data (e.g. annual ascertain provision of RE in Isle of Wight Schools & overall findings presented to SACRE	Green
2.3	Monitoring and reporting of GCSE results	SACRE Monitoring Group and SACRE Professional Adviser	Once each year	Verified results to have been considered by Monitoring group once each year and findings presented to SACRE	Green
2.4	Monitoring in-service Professional Educational opportunities attended by teachers: (i) Feedback from teachers on need (ii) Uptake of IoW RE Networks and other Hampshire courses (primary and secondary and special)	SACRE Monitoring Group and SACRE Professional Adviser	Once each term	Analysis of data including feedback from teachers on courses undertaken by inspector/Advisers	Green
2.5	Monitoring group reporting on Ofsted Visits to Isle of Wight Schools mentioning or inferring messages about religious education	SACRE Monitoring Group and SACRE Professional Adviser	Once each term	Analysis of information from Ofsted inspections of Isle of Wight Schools	Green
2.6	Monitoring group reporting on other HIAS visits made to schools revealing information about RE	SACRE Monitoring Group and SACRE Professional Adviser	Once each term	Analysis of information from HIAS school visits to Isle of Wight Schools	Green
2.7	Monitoring withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship through annual questionnaire – ensuring that this is received in schools by the right person to complete	SACRE Clerk and SACRE Professional Adviser with SACRE Monitoring Group	Once each year	Analysis of questionnaire reported to SACRE	Green

No.	Actions	Who	Target completion date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
3.	Meeting training needs of Isle of Wight teachers and school leaders				
3.1	Review professional education offer through a questionnaire to teachers	Isle of Wight Inspector/Advisers	Spring term 2022	Identify and meet any gaps in current professional education provision	Red
3.2	Be aware of professional education offer across partner and neighbouring SACREs	Isle of Wight Inspector/Advisers	ongoing	Identify and meet any gaps in current professional education provision	Green
3.3	Support on-going development of an annual pattern of professional education for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) New RE leaders in primary schools (ii) Experienced RE leaders in primary schools (iii) NQT, HoD and other specialist courses (iv) Courses for non-specialist secondary teachers of RE (v) special education teachers (vi) Subject booster opportunities available (vii) Governor training 	Isle of Wight Inspector/Advisers	ongoing	ensure pattern of professional education is relevant and well timed	Green
3.4	Ensure a rolling programme of briefing for head teachers and separately for governors regarding Living Difference III across the Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight Inspector/Advisers	ongoing	For Isle of Wight teachers at all stages of their careers to have access to high quality appropriate professional education opportunities	Working through HIAS School Improvement Partner for the IoW

No.	Actions	Who	Target date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
4.	Resourcing Living Difference III				
4.1	Ensure teachers in primary, secondary and special schools have access to resources to support the teaching of Living Difference III	Isle of Wight RE Inspectors/Advisers, Isle of Wight Curriculum RE Centre manager and SACRE members and teachers	Progress on these elements reviewed annually by Monitoring group	Relevant publications available for teachers at all key stages to enhance the teaching of RE with Living Difference III	Green
4.4	Review KS4 provision in secondary schools especially non examination courses in light of developments with GCSE	Isle of Wight County RE Inspector/Adviser		Ensure all young people have access to Good Quality RE at KS 4 and able to receive their entitlement for RE.	Amber
5.	SACRE Youth Voice				
	Development of SACRE Youth Voice	Inspector/Advisers, SACRE Chair and members	Ongoing through the period of this development plan		Red – in progress
5.1	Summer SACRE Youth Voice conference to take place	Inspector/Advisers, SACRE Chair and members			