



Purpose: For Decision

# Committee Report

Committee	<b>ISLE OF WIGHT MONITORING GROUP FOR THE SACRE</b>
Date	<b>16 OCTOBER 2023</b>
Title	<b>MONITORING GROUP REPORT</b>
Report of	<b>PROFESSIONAL ADVISER TO THE SACRE</b>

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## 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 25 September 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.

2. 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.

### **Recommendation:**

That SACRE notes the findings of the monitoring group meeting.

### 3. **Inspector/Adviser Updates:**

HIAS RE Network meetings have taken place on the Island for primary and secondary teachers in the Summer and Autumn terms. The primary meetings were a mixture of face to face and virtual and the secondary meetings were held virtually. The primary emphasis was on CPD on Dharmic religions and transition to secondary school, following requests from RE leaders for a focus on these areas. The secondary network group looked at planning their event on Youth Voice for later in the year and monitoring KS4 RE provision across all schools, which is mixed across schools in terms of hours and delivery. It was agreed that the group would look at ways to monitor this in the year ahead, including visits to secondary schools.

Network meetings show that the Living Difference IV golden threads are now embedded

in schools and the overview studies are going well. The focus with schools is now on teaching the vocabulary of golden threads and showing progression in different types of knowledge. Very few schools are doing the optional pondering time, so the group discussed producing some resources to help with this during this academic year.

An online training session for Island governors on RE and Collective Worship was held on 11 July 2023, with input from one of the SACRE representatives on SEND. This was a result of the SACRE looking at different ways to raise the profile of RE in schools and to provide expertise to schools on this. Several of the SACRE attended this with a wide range of governors and the session will be repeated in March 2024.

**4. Other sources of evidence of effectiveness of RE:**

The Inspector/adviser reported that 5 Ofsted reports for the Island specifically mentioned RE in both primary and secondary schools and all were positive. Reports commented upon teaching well about a wide range of religious festivals and helping children develop a genuine interest in different faiths.

**5. School visits:**

There had been no further primary visits undertaken for RE in this period, but a secondary visit is planned in this term.

**6. GCSE Preliminary Results:**

More detail will be provided to the SACRE on GCSE results in the next meeting. Early analysis shows that the percentage uptake for GCSE RS on the island was very low at 10.7% compared to 25.7% nationally. The monitoring group were concerned about this and discussed possible reasons for this, including the shortage of specialist RS teachers in England. At the previous meeting, the monitoring group looked at ways to raise the profile of the subject with young people and with a wider audience, including governors and senior leaders and plans for this have already been put in place. 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.