

ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Standing Advisory Council
for Religious Education
Annual Report

SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023

SACRE ANNUAL REPORT
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Annual Report 2022/2023

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CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

It has been my great privilege to represent the IOW Council on the Isle of Wight SACRE for a number of years now and, having been the Vice-Chair of the Isle of Wight SACRE for two years, I was delighted to step up and take on the Chair's role. The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) supports the effective provision of religious and collective worship in schools. SACRE also advises the Local Authority on its provision of religious education.

The Isle of Wight SACRE membership draws from different faith and belief systems and I am proud of the diversity and inclusion that makes up our dynamic group who all 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 spirituality and develop their own thinking in a contextualised way that is relevant to them. We fully support the adoption of the "Living Difference IV" syllabus to provide an excellent framework for schools to use and adapt.

This year we have continued the important work of representing the Island both on a local level, being members of the South Central Hub of SACREs, and also nationally, with attendance at the National Association of SACREs conference in London, where it was a great opportunity to network with other SACRE members from across the country. At this year's National conference, our very own Harry Kirby was both nominated and recognised, in the special awards section, as being a SACRE member who has made a significant impact in our area. Harry, we thank you for all your decades of service.

We have met regularly in 2022-2023, and I am grateful for the support that we have received from the IOW Council Democratic Services Team who make all of the necessary arrangements when we go "on the road" for our SACRE meetings in various locations around the island. Our termly monitoring group, of which I am a member, meets to evaluate the provision for Religious Education in our schools in more detail and helps to shape the agenda and action plan for the SACRE meetings.

We promote the sharing of good practice through our teacher networks and also support professional development for island teachers in both Primary and Secondary settings and keep 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 enthusiasm and commitment to our children and young people. It really is a genuine privilege to 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 and that they can carry forward into their adult lives.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the support of Justine Ball, our County Inspector for RE from the Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service, whose dedication to us as a SACRE, our schools and our island children and young people goes above and beyond.

I am pleased to commend this report to you.

Debbie Andre
Chair of SACRE

1. Information about SACRE

1.1 Duty to establish a SACRE

Since the Education Reform Act of 1988, all Local Education Authorities (LAs) have been required by law to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) within their local area.¹

1.2 What does a SACRE do?

SACRE is a unique body; it is set up by the LA but is independent of it, with the role to give advice to that LA. The law states that Religious Education must be taught in all maintained schools² and a SACRE's role is to advise what needs to be done to improve religious education (RE) and collective worship for schools in its area.

The main purpose of the annual report is to hold the LA to account, by informing the Secretary of State and key partners what advice SACRE gave the LA during the year and how the LA responded to that advice. This includes advice on Religious Education and Collective Worship in those schools for which the LA has responsibility.

1.3 Composition of SACRE

There are four groups or committees, as below:

- A: The Christian denominations and other religious denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area.
- B: The Church of England
- C: Teacher and head teacher associations
- D: The Local Authority

1.4 Membership of SACRE

The names of the SACRE members and the religious denominations for each group can be found at Appendix A.

1.5 SACRE Functions

- To advise the LA on collective worship and the Religious Education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus including methods of teaching, advice on materials and the provision of training for teachers
- To consider whether to recommend to the LA that its current agreed syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- To consider whether the requirement that religious worship in a county school should be 'broadly Christian in nature' should be varied (determinations).
- To report to the LA and the Department for Education (DfE) on its activities on an annual basis.

¹ Education Act 1996 Section 390:1

² School and Standards Framework Act 1998 Section 69

Census data on the Isle of Wight 2021 shows that:

43.9% had no religion
47.7% are Christian
0.4% are Buddhist
0.2% are Hindu
0.1% are Jewish
0.4% are Muslim
0.0% are Sikh
0.8% are any other religion

2. Standards and Quality of Provision for Religious Education

Within the Isle of Wight, advice is available to schools about RE in many different ways:

- The Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV
- The Hampshire RE Moodle, which contains the syllabus, advice and both long term and medium term planning for all teachers who use the syllabus
- The SACRE RE Advisor and the Hampshire Secondary RE Teaching and Learning Adviser, who run training with teachers and are available for advice
- Regular CPD opportunities for RE, including Isle of Wight networks for both primary and secondary teachers
- The RE Curriculum site in addition to the RE Moodle, which Isle of Wight teachers are also able to use. The Curriculum site has further planning and resources which are all helpful to teachers in planning their curriculum.
- Primary RE News on-line publication, produced by Hampshire Inspectors is also available for Isle of Wight schools to subscribe to.
- Other published resources available to support the teaching of Living Difference IV through the Hampshire RE Centre in Winchester, such as primary teaching packs on a large range of different units. Isle of Wight teachers can purchase these packs at a reduced price throughout the year.

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.

A survey on withdrawals from RE and Collective Worship was sent to Isle of Wight Headteachers in this reporting period. Of these schools, the SACRE noted that very low numbers of children were partially withdrawn from RE and Collective Worship. The schools all knew the reasons for withdrawal and the reasons were varied but often due to the religious belief of the family. Schools were very positive about the support they received for RE and Collective Worship.

GCSE Religious Studies examination results 2022 and 2023: overall findings

The SACRE noted that only a small number of secondary schools had entries for GCSE Religious Studies in this reporting period, which was a drop in numbers compared to previous years. The results were below national and significantly below national at 1, 5 and 7+ indicators. The SACRE highlighted that teacher recruitment in general was problematic both nationally and on the Island, and that Religious Studies teacher recruitment was even more of a difficulty. The national campaigns for recruiting more

Religious Education teachers have been discussed at SACRE meetings and members informed about any initiatives that highlight the value of the subject in schools. During the year, the SACRE has discussed ways to increase awareness of the value of the subject for schools through briefings for senior leaders and governors. It was agreed that the SACRE would run training for governors on Religious Education during this year and this was done in July 2023 with governors attending from a wide range of schools..

The SACRE also discussed the possibility of bringing a youth voice to SACRE and how this was important in helping to 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.

SACRE remains concerned about the low numbers of young people on the Isle of Wight who are entered for the full course RS GCSE and therefore are concerned to ensure through all means possible that young people are able to access their entitlement for religious education at Key Stage 4.

Training for SACRE members:

Training is offered regularly to SACRE members by SACRE officers when there are enough new members to require this. SACRE members are regularly updated through NASACRE information, advice and training and the training programme for SACRE members is shared with members each term.

a) 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.

3. Complaints about Religious Education

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

4. Standards and Quality of Provision for Collective Worship

Within the Isle of Wight advice is available to schools around Collective Worship in three ways:

- Hampshire's published advice on Collective Worship in schools (available from the Hampshire RE centre)
- The SACRE RE consultant and
- An annual collective worship course run by Hampshire CC

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 in person on the Island and this ran in the Spring term for all schools with a good attendance.

An action point to support and monitor Collective Worship across schools has been included in the SACRE's 3-year Action plan.

5. Complaints regarding Collective Worship

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

6. Determinations

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

7. SACRE 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.

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, as well as the post of South East for the RE Hubs project. This ensures that SACRE matters and Religious Education locally are part of national discussions about the subject.

8. SACRE contribution to supporting schools through events and training

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 termly secondary and primary networks 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. Secondary networks have been held virtually and the primary have been a mix of virtual and face to face meetings.
- SACRE members have conducted some face-to-face visits to primary and special 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 email contact or virtual one to one short meetings.
- All Island schools have been able to access the Hampshire RE and Collective Worship courses that are available to support all RE subject leaders. Many of these are online and after school which has helped attendance at these.
- A face-to-face Collective Worship course was held on the Island for all schools and there was good attendance at this.
- During the summer term, an Island Governor briefing was held on RE and Collective Worship to raise the profile of the subject and to inform them about the work of the SACRE. This was well attended and it is intended to hold this again in the Spring term 2023.

9. SACRE's Own arrangements

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 2022/2023, findings have been regularly submitted to the full SACRE at the termly meetings.

Attendance at SACRE by Committee 2022-2023

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

Autumn - October 2022

Group A = 80%	8/10
Group B = 50%	2/4
Group C = 75%	3/4
Group D = 67%	2/3

Spring - March 2023

Group A = 40%	4/10
Group B = 50%	2/4
Group C = 25%	1/4
Group D = 33%	1/3

Summer - June 2023

Group A = 60%	6/10
Group B = 25%	1/4
Group C = 50%	2/4
Group D = 67%	2/4

During this year the SACRE has worked hard to find representatives for some of its vacancies. In particular, all four of the Church of England representatives have now been filled. The primary school Headteacher representative post has also now been filled. There have been resignations from some group A representatives during the period of this report, which will need to be filled in the next academic year. SACRE is still seeking a Hindu representative and is seeking a Sikh representative. During this year the SACRE has been without a deputy Chair and the SACRE are looking at this in the review of the SACRE constitution going forward.

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 IV.

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 2022-2023

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)

Committee B (4 members in total)

Representing the Church of England

Mr Harry Kirby
Mrs Beryl Miller
Mrs Janice Wilmott
Mrs Sue Rogers

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 Rebecca Lennon	Brightstone CE Primary School
	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

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 loW 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
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No.	Actions	Who	Target completion date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
2.	Implementation and monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus : Living Difference IV				
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 loW 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
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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.	Amber
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: (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 IV 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 IV				
4.1	Ensure teachers in primary, secondary and special schools have access to resources to support the teaching of Living Difference IV	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

No.	Actions	Who	Target date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
5.	SACRE Youth Voice				
5.1	Development of SACRE Youth Voice	Inspector/Advisers, SACRE Chair and members	Ongoing through the period of this development plan		Amber
5.2	Summer SACRE Youth Voice conference to take place	Inspector/Advisers, SACRE Chair and members			