



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.