



Purpose: For Decision

Committee report

Committee	Isle of Wight SACRE
Date	23 March 2022
Title	Monitoring group report
Report of	Professional Adviser to the SACRE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update SACRE regarding the activities of the SACRE Monitoring Group.

RECOMMENDATION

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| 1. That SACRE notes this monitoring group report. |
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BACKGROUND

- 2 This report informs SACRE of the matters discussed at the SACRE Monitoring Group meeting that took place virtually on 31 January 2022.

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

3. SACRE has a statutory responsibility to monitor the effectiveness of the agreed syllabus. This group meets before each full SACRE meeting in order to support SACRE in fulfilling this responsibility.
4. Those present at the meeting were: Justine Ball (Supporting Officer), Harry Kirby and Beth Feltham. Apologies were given by Alison Burt.
5. GCSE
The Monitoring Group discussed the examinations in the summer of 2022. Following the meeting, an update was sent to schools on 7 February regarding adjustments to be made to the material to be examined. Monitoring Group discussed the difficulties faced by schools in light of Covid-19 during the last 2 years, and how this will have impacted students as they prepare for examinations in the summer of 2022.

6. Locally Agreed Syllabus: monitoring adoption and implementation
Two large full-day launch conferences have taken place in November and January, with a further half day event planned for June. Secondary and primary school uptake on these events was exceptionally strong with almost 400 schools attending or in other ways following up the events. Updating the online support materials available for schools is now underway. A meeting was held in December to update the guidance for schools in using the resource 'Understanding Christianity' with Living Difference IV in Church of England Schools. This guidance includes an exemplar long-term map.
7. Collective worship
SACRE Monitoring Group is following up SACRE's desire to monitor and exemplify best practice in Collective Worship, in both primary and secondary schools, across the authority. Training and support, especially for primary schools, in developing their Collective Worship has been offered through a Collective Worship training course that is offered online twice a year and through discussions in network groups. From September 2022 monitoring visits for both primary and secondary schools will include asking about schools' Collective Worship policy. Examples of good practice will be brought to SACRE in due course.
8. Withdrawal Survey for 2021
26 Island schools completed the survey from a range of primary, secondary and special schools. The number of children withdrawn from all or parts of RE and Collective Worship were very low indeed.
9. SACRE Monitoring Visits
Dates are now being set for face-to-face visits to resume following some flexibility around virtual visits in recent months in light of Covid-19.
10. Professional education opportunities for teachers
Many head teachers were present at the virtual Living Difference IV Launch Conferences. HIAS RE Network meetings have taken place and the CofE Diocese has also been running network meetings linking to Living Difference IV. In light of the positive reception to the cross-phase launch conferences, a further cross-phase conference bringing together primary and secondary teachers is being planned for 12 October 2022. It is hoped that this conference will be face-to-face. Primary island teachers asked for further help and support with embedding Living Difference IV in their schools during recent Island networks and in particular, advice on golden threads and on progression in religions. This is being written by the professional adviser and will be available to schools for Easter. Time is also being offered to Primary RE leaders in meetings before the end of March to discuss embedding golden threads throughout RE planning across the school. Further opportunities will be offered to secondary and special schools after March so that support has been offered to all schools to plan for implementing Living Difference IV from September 2022.
11. Evidence gathered from Ofsted Inspections and other inspection/advisory visits.
In the period between the autumn Monitoring Group meeting and this Monitoring Group meeting, there had been no mention of religious education in any published Ofsted reports of inspections taking place on the island.
A SACRE support and advisory visit has been undertaken to one primary school and this will be extended to other schools after March 2022.

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