

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	SACRE
Date:	28 April 2014
Title:	SACRE Monitoring Sub-Group
Reference:	5854
Report From:	<i>Director of Children's Services</i>

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1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to inform SACRE of the findings and discussions that took place during the meeting of the SACRE monitoring sub-group on 28 April 2014.
- 1.2. The meeting focused on discussion of Hampshire SACRE monitoring visits made during academic year 2013-14 to primary and secondary schools and to reports of Ofsted visits made during January 2014 to Hampshire secondary schools.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. This paper supports the Corporate Strategy (maximising well-being) by ensuring children's provision in Religious Education is secure.
- 2.2. The monitoring sub-group met on 28 April 2014 at The County RE Centre.

Those attending were:

Chris Hughes (Chair)

Joyce Johnson

Cllr Roz Chadd

Elizabeth Jenkerson

Patricia Hannam

Judith Lowndes

3. SACRE Monitoring visits

- 3.1. Reports of visits to four primary schools were discussed. Good practice was identified and would be disseminated when schools submit material. The visits revealed the range of learning experiences children are offered is growing in strength. There remains the need to develop primary teachers'

subject knowledge including in Christianity and opportunities for this exist through the Diocesan schools' groups and regular development groups.

- 3.2. Reports of visits to four secondary school RE departments were considered. Two identified improving RE in schools where there had previously been limited provision. The dedication of these specialist teachers was commended. Two further visits were made to schools where, although the GCSE results are high and have been commended, the Agreed Syllabus has yet to be fully embedded into the KS3 work. This highlighted the need to continue engagement with all heads of department and encourage them to join County Network groups. The Adviser was encouraged to establish a network group in the north of the county.

4. Ofsted reports and HIAS Inspector/Adviser inspection and advice activity in schools

- 4.1. Reports of five Ofsted Section 5 visits to Hampshire Secondary Schools since January 2014 were discussed; unusually three of these mention RE, one extensively. It was noted that this may be the first sign for sometime of RE considered more seriously by Ofsted inspections. The County Inspector/Adviser will keep this under review.

5. On-going teacher CPD priorities

- 5.1. For Primary schools this continues to be subject knowledge and for Secondary teachers, who are subject specialists, there is a continuing need to engage in discussion about *Living Difference Revised 2011* methodology and its religious educational merits and monitoring high quality RE leadership.
- 5.2 The Dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth are continuing to recommend *Living Difference Revised* to Church schools and the commitment to regular meetings of Diocesan RE development groups for Primary teachers is continuing for another academic year 2014/15. There is also commitment to offer training to Clergy and Governors of Primary Church schools.

6. **Article on Religious Education Teaching**
 - 6.1 The Monitoring Group wanted to make SACRE aware of Tom Bennett's 21.03.14 article in the Times Educational Supplement: "[I don't believe in God. But teaching children about religion is one of the most important things I will ever do.](#)"

7. Recommendation:

That SACRE note the report

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. As a consequence of the effectiveness of the County Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, *Living Difference Revised 2011* inter-religious understanding is advanced across the county.
- 1.2. Improved outcomes are evidenced at GCSE for all children thus contributing to advancing equality.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. No impact on crime and disorder has been identified in this report.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How what does is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No impact on climate change has been identified in this report.