

AT A MEETING of the
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
held in the Ashburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester
on 9 March 2015

PRESENT

Chairman

p Councillor Roz Chadd (Hampshire County Council)

Vice-Chairman

p Councillor Charles Choudhary (Hampshire County Council)

p Councillor Mrs Fiona Mather	-	Hampshire County Council
a Councillor David Simpson	-	Hampshire County Council
p Mr Mohammed Ansar	-	Muslim
p Mr Harmeet Singh Brar	-	Sikh
p Mrs Jackie Chong	-	Roman Catholic
p Rev Seishin Darren Clark	-	Buddhist
p Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato	-	Muslim
p Mrs Pat Fry	-	United Reformed Church
a Mrs Lisa Gilmour	-	Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints
a Mr Colin How	-	Methodist
p Mr Chris Hughes	-	Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
p Mrs Elizabeth Jenkerson	-	Baha'i
Mrs Jo May	-	Baptist Union
Mr Richard Moss	-	Buddhist
p Mrs Heather Thorpe-Tracey	-	Society of Friends
Major Suryaparsad Upadhya	-	Hindu
p Mr. Michael Zeffertt	-	Jewish
a Rev Jeff Williams	-	Church of England
a Mrs Joyce Johnson	-	Church of England
a Ms Caroline Welch	-	Church of England
p Rev Howard Wright	-	Church of England
p Mrs Maureen Barnes	-	Teachers' Association
p Mr James Dye	-	Teachers' Association
p Mrs Jane Pridmore	-	Teachers' Association
a Mrs Patrizia Timms Blanch	-	Teachers' association
Mrs Pam Brown	-	Special School – Co-opted
p Mrs Gill Heron	-	Academy – Co-opted
p Miss Chris Robinson	-	Humanist – Co-opted

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|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| p Mrs Rhiannon Love | - | Higher Education Rep – Co-opted |
| p Dr Alasdair Richardson | - | Higher Education Rep – Co-opted |
| p Ms Karen Smart | - | Primary - Co-opted |
| | | |
| p Ms Patricia Hannam | - | Support Officer |

Also present were Mr John and Mrs Jan Marr as substitutes for Mrs Lisa Gilmour and Mr Brian Hay as a substitute for the Church of England.

Prior to the start of the meeting a presentation was given by the Teachers' Representatives of SACRE. Their presentations showed Members how the Agreed Syllabus works in practice across the various education sectors. They highlighted the value of the cycle of learning in encouraging students to think, question and be confident in sharing their views and opinions.

75. BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr Colin How, Rev Jeff Williams, Councillor David Simpson, Joyce Johnson, Caroline Welch, and Lisa Gilmour.

77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

No declarations of interest were made.

78. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

79. MATTERS ARISING

Item 67 – A survey monkey questionnaire was being prepared for Head teachers regarding Collective Worship and the number of pupils exempt from RE.

Item 68 – A successful training session had taken place on 7 January 2015.

Item 69 – Letters had been sent regarding the lack of a subject lead for RE at Ofsted and to secondary head teachers on the new framework for SMSC (Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural Development). The following is a link to Ofsted's response concerning the appointment of an RE lead inspector -

<http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/public-engagement/news/2015-02-20/new-ofsted-lead-subject-inspector-for-religious-education-until-after-an-ofsted-review-of-national-lead-roles>

The Inspector/Adviser for RE would bring a document relating to RE and SMSC to the June meeting.

Item 73 – A response had been made on SACRE's behalf regarding the GCSE consultation, but had not been circulated to SACRE members due to lack of time and personal circumstances. The response is attached to these minutes as appendix 1.

Item 73 – The chairman announced that a replacement for Judith Lowndes, the primary inspector/adviser, had been appointed and would be taking up post in the summer term.

80. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman welcomed Mr and Mrs Marr who were substituting for Mrs Lisa Gilmour and Mr Brian May who was substituting for the Church of England.

The Chairman brought to Members' attention the three conferences coming up. Rhiannon Love and Elizabeth Jenkerson would be attending the South West Conference for SACREs on 16 March 2015, at which Patricia Hannam would be delivering a workshop. The Chairman and Elizabeth Jenkerson would be attending the 'Trojan Horse' conference in St Albans on 20 March 2015 and Heather Thorpe-Tracey and Harmeet Singh Brar would represent Hampshire at the NASACRE AGM and Conference on 21 May 2015. Reports from these conferences would be presented at the meeting in June 2015.

The Chairman informed Members that the membership of the Salvation Army had been terminated following a lack of attendance over the last few years and no response to letters that had been sent.

81. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

82. MONITORING SUB-GROUP

The Council received the report of the Monitoring Sub-group on its activities and discussions from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

Members' attention was drawn to the difficulty in accessing verified data for GCSE results for the summer 2014 exams. Because of changes in accountability measures implemented by the Department for Education, there was now no readily available data on Short Course RE. Concern over this had been raised with the RE Council. With the Full Course GCSE results, only the unverified data is as yet available. This is due to the large number of remarks – one school in the county sent all its papers back which were all upgraded by 5% - and major errors with missing entries in the data.

It was noted, however, that the Full Course GCSE results of six schools in Hampshire were statistically significantly positive and as these were unlikely to change the schools would be written congratulatory letters. It was hoped that further letters would be written once the verified data became available. It was stressed that the lack of verified data was a national concern and not limited to RE. Analysis of the data should be available for the June 2015 meeting.

SACRE discussed Lord Nash's letter to SACREs and Hampshire SACRE's response based on one suggested by NASACRE (attached as appendix 2 to these minutes). Members agreed that a response should be sent, and there was debate about what elements to include and possible wording. Concerns were raised about the implications of the term volunteer, but it was agreed that this was not the big issue and would be omitted from our response. It was agreed that the Chairman and Patricia Hannam, the Inspector/Adviser, would formalise the response.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.
- That the SACRE endorsed the concerns raised with regard to the difficulty of access to accurate GCSE data, both full and short course, this year.
- That SACRE agreed that letters should be written to those schools achieving statistically significantly positive residuals.
- That SACRE approved that a reply should be sent in response to Lord Nash's letter using the suggestions from NASACRE.

83. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND BRITISH VALUES AS PART OF SMSC (SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT) IN SCHOOLS

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser for RE, updating SACRE on the issues in relation to British Values as part of SMSC in schools (item 8 in the Minute Book).

Members were directed to the Department of Education advice on promoting British Values, which was attached as an appendix to the report, highlighting in particular the Introduction. It was noted that academies and independent schools had a very similar version. The Introduction emphasised that if a school is promoting SMSC then it is also promoting British Values.

Members were informed that the final paragraph of the Introduction, relating to law, was outside the general remit of RE. However, a cycle of learning on the concept of law was being written to explore the relationship between state and religious law. This was welcomed as law had been removed from the Philosophy syllabus.

An incident from another county was brought to SACRE's attention; parents had been informed by their child that the RE teacher had given a disapproving personal opinion on a religious practice. The parents had approached the county's SACRE for it to be dealt with, but had not received a satisfactory reply. It was suggested that Hampshire SACRE should consider how they would respond to this kind of problem, and other issues relating to religious intolerance. Members acknowledged that there had been a rise in religious intolerance and extremism and agreed that teachers should be well-grounded in the more complex religious issues and should realise that giving personal opinions on religious matters was inappropriate. There was a consensus that children needed to be religiously well-educated and that there was a need for subject booster sessions for RE teachers. It was suggested that SACRE should support discussions about religious intolerance and extremism between members of different religious traditions and beliefs and senior RE leaders. This issue would be discussed further at a future SACRE meeting.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report
- That the Inspector/Adviser for RE would produce a document for RE teachers on RE and religion, belief and faith in SMSC (as noted in Matters Arising on item 69).

84. SOUTH CENTRAL RE HUB

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser for RE on the meetings of the South Central RE Hub on 7 November 2014 and 9 February 2015 (item 9 in the Minute Book).

Members were pleased to note that the Hub was moving forward. The three interconnecting elements that were the focus of the Hub's work - the formation of a Reading and Research Group, the aim to build networks of teachers across the Hub to share ideas and good practice, and a response to the known need for subject booster opportunities – were explained. Mention was made of contacts with the Dorset hub network and the Guildford Diocese. Members were asked to consider attending one of the informal meetings that were being planned for teachers under the title 'Conversations with Religion' to help improve teachers' understanding of religions.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

85. YOUTH VOICE

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser for RE on the meeting of Youth Voice on 10 February 2015 (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

Members were informed of the Youth Voice conference on 9 July 2015, the theme of which was 'Does religion matter even if you are not religious?' It was indicated that there was an opportunity for SACRE Members to be involved by providing information stand on their faith or contributing to a workshop, and that they should contact Patricia Hannam if they wished to do so.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

86. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Elizabeth Jenkerson gave advance notice of a conference on 3 September 2015 on the role of faith in British schools, which was being organised by the South East Faith Forum, NASACRE and the University of Winchester. It was taking place at the University of Winchester and there would be workshops aimed at SACRE members. More details would be provided at a later date.

Heather Thorpe-Tracey, the representative of the Society of Friends (Quakers) gave Members a copy of a letter which had been sent by the Society to the government regarding their objection to the millions in funding that had been announced to providers of a military ethos in classrooms as part of the 'Character Innovation Fund' for schools.

The Chairman asked for volunteers to provide a presentation prior to the meetings in November 2015 and March 2016.

87. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 1 June 2015 at 13:30 as guests of Rhiannon Love and Alasdair Richardson at the University of Winchester

Hampshire SACRE's response to the government's GCSE and A Level Consultation for Religious Studies

Consultation Response Form

Consultation closing date: 29 December 2014

Your comments must reach us by that date

Reformed GCSE and A level subject content consultation for religious studies GCSE and A level

If you would prefer to respond online to this consultation please use the following link:
<https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations>

In July and September this year, the Department consulted on content for a number of subjects, for first teaching in 2016.

We are now seeking views on Religious Studies GCSE and A level subject content, the last remaining subject for first teaching in 2016.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reason for confidentiality:	
Name: Roz Chadd	
Please tick if you are responding on behalf of your organisation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Name of Organisation (if applicable): Hampshire SACRE
Address: The Castle, Winchester. SO23 9DS

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's ['Contact Us'](#) page.

Please insert an 'x' into one of the following boxes which best describes you as a respondent.

<input type="checkbox"/> Academies	<input type="checkbox"/> Awarding organisations	<input type="checkbox"/> Colleges
<input type="checkbox"/> Employers/business sector	<input type="checkbox"/> Further education	<input type="checkbox"/> Headteachers
<input type="checkbox"/> Higher education	<input type="checkbox"/> Local authorities	<input type="checkbox"/> Organisations representing school teachers and lecturers
<input type="checkbox"/> Parents	<input type="checkbox"/> Schools	<input type="checkbox"/> School governors
<input type="checkbox"/> Subject associations	<input type="checkbox"/> Teachers	<input type="checkbox"/> Young people

Please Specify: Chair of Hampshire SACRE
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1 Is the revised GCSE content in religious studies appropriate? Please consider whether:

- there is a suitable level of challenge
- the content reflects what students need to know in order to progress to further academic and vocational education
- the amount of content in the qualification is appropriate and comparable to other reformed GCSEs and, if not, whether you have any suggestions for removing or adding content
- the number of optional pathways through the qualification is suitable and these present comparable levels of challenge
- there is the right balance between breadth and depth of study.

Please provide evidence to support your response.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments: I consider this content represents a high level of challenge. It will prepare students to progress to further academic studies; we think the content is similar to some other reformed GCSEs. However whether or not this course will be as helpful for preparation for vocational studies as the existing course, will depend great deal on how the awarding bodies decide to present their examination syllabi. The way the courses actually look will make a difference as to how accessible this content will be to all students. I think this matters a great deal. In Hampshire there is a high level of uptake of GCSE with good numbers entering, from a wide group of young people who are achieving well. We are 'narrowing the gap' in Hampshire RE at KS4. We hope nothing will happen as this content is formed into examination courses to change this, and limit accessibility. The optional pathways and balance between breadth and depth seem fine. However, as before, much will depend on what the awarding bodies do with this material.

2 Is the revised A level content in religious studies appropriate? Please consider:

- whether the content reflects what students need to know in order to progress to undergraduate study.

Please provide evidence to support your response.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Comments: I agree the content is suitable for a 2 year course. However there is concern about the need to move to an end of two year course structure for the A level. I think this is likely to deter students who are from less academic families and will therefore exclude some students.		

3 Is the revised AS qualification content in religious studies appropriate?

Please provide evidence to support your response.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Comments: See comments as above		

4 Do you think that any of the proposals have the potential to have a disproportionate impact, positive or negative, on specific students, in particular those with 'relevant protected characteristics'? (The relevant protected characteristics are disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.)

Please provide evidence to support your response.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments: I think the move to an end of two year examination A level will deter students who have the protected characteristic of disability for example, with specific literacy difficulties/disabilities, from taking this subject.

5 How could any adverse impact be reduced and how could the subject content of GCSEs and/or A levels be altered to better advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it?

Please provide evidence to support your response.

Comments: Returning to an AS and then A level exam which builds upon the AS will enable students who are less confident with written work to achieve well in the AS and then decide to proceed to the A level. The new plans will exclude these young people who may be nervous of committing to a 2 year A level with a high requirement for extended writing, not realising that their writing skills will develop over the two years.

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply.	X
E-mail address for acknowledgement: roz.chadd@hants.gov.uk	

NASACRE'S suggested response to Lord Nash's letter to SACREs

NASACRE welcomes Lord Nash's letter and thinks that SACREs should discuss the letter and its implications for their own Local Authorities. SACREs are encouraged to write to the Under Secretary of State for Schools to:

- thank him for the letter;
- support the proposal to commission an analysis of Annual Reports and produce a report about SACREs nationally on that basis;
- point out that SACRE members are not volunteers but appointed members of a statutory body and, that whilst they offer much to their local authorities (LA) in terms of social and cultural capital, their main purpose is to advise the LA on religious education and collective worship;
- ask the Under Secretary of State how the Department for Education is going to hold local authorities to account in relation to their responsibilities to support and resource SACREs;
- ask the Under Secretary of State about the relationship SACRE should have with Academies and Free Schools in light of the Academies Commission Report 2013 where local authorities are seen to be the champion of children and young people and therefore advocates for a broad and balanced curriculum, including RE which is the only curriculum responsibility of LA.

The Director of Children's Services and the appropriate Portfolio holder should be sent a copy of Lord Nash's letter with SACRE's response.

Hampshire SACRE's response to Lord Nash

Dear Lord Nash

RE : Letter to SACREs on 7 January 2015

I am writing following the most recent meeting of the Hampshire SACRE, which took place on 9 March and included a consideration of your letter to SACREs dated 7 January 2015.

Hampshire SACRE, which is a strong and well supported SACRE, would like to thank you for your letter. Hampshire SACRE would also like to lend their support to your proposal to commission an analysis of Annual Reports and produce a report about SACREs nationally on that basis.

In addition to this, SACRE would like to ask how the Department for Education is going to hold local authorities to account in relation to their responsibilities to support and resource SACREs. Following a long discussion about SACRE membership, we wanted to remind you that as appointed members of a statutory body, whilst they offer much to their local authorities (LA) in terms of social and cultural capital, their main purpose is to advise the LA on religious education and collective worship.

Finally SACRE would like to request a little more detail about the relationship it is envisaged SACREs should have with Academies and Free Schools, and the mechanism for that relationship. This is in light of the Academies Commission Report 2013 where local authorities are seen to be the champion of children and young people and therefore advocates for a broad and balanced curriculum, including RE which is the only curriculum responsibility of LA.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Roz Chadd', written in a cursive style with several loops and a horizontal line across the middle.

Roz Chadd
Chairman of Hampshire SACRE

Response to SACRE from Lord Nash's office

Dear Cllr Chadd,

Thank you for your letter of 9 April, addressed to Lord Nash, about the role of SACREs and local authorities in promoting the teaching of religious education (RE). Your letter has been passed to me to respond.

The analysis of the SACRE reports will help the department to identify good practice and to ensure that local authorities are fulfilling their statutory duties, including the provision to provide the appropriate level of support to their SACRE. If the analysis of the annual reports does identify significant problems, the department will consider what further action is necessary.

Academies (including free schools) are required to provide RE and collective worship under the terms of their funding agreements with the Secretary of State. Whilst there is no requirement for an academy to adopt a locally agreed syllabus, they are free to do so. Many individual SACREs, along with NASACRE, are working to make academies aware of the advantages of teaching the agreed syllabus and to encourage them to participate in the family of schools that their local SACRE supports. NASACRE is also identifying and disseminating good practice that can help SACREs develop constructive working relationships with academies in their local areas.

The department will consider what more it can do to encourage academies that wish to work more closely with their SACRE and to ensure that academies are aware of their duties to provide RE for all pupils.

Yours sincerely,
James Brazil
Lead Drafter Ministerial Correspondence Team