

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	SACRE
Date:	1 June 2015
Title:	SACRE Monitoring Sub-Group
Reference:	6682
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 27th April 2015.
- 1.2. The meeting focused on discussion of 2014 GCSE data. A separate report is attached as an appendix.

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 27th April 2015 at The County RE Centre.

Those attending were Chris Hughes (Chair)

Joyce Johnson

Cllr Roz Chadd

Elizabeth Jenkerson

Patricia Hannam

Alasdair Richardson

3. Matters considered at this meeting included:

- 3.1. Reports of one Section 5 Ofsted visit to a Hampshire Secondary School and six Section 5 Ofsted visits to Hampshire Primary Schools since January 2015 which mentioned RE were discussed. Examination of these reports reveals that RE, although not being commented upon extensively in its own right, is frequently being used to evidence other things such as the promotion of British values and children and young people's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

- 3.2. A concern regarding the mention of 'Christian values' in reports from non-Church schools was discussed. This was regarded as not appropriate. The monitoring group has taken further advice on this and it is considered that SACRE should write to Ofsted to "inform" them of the mis-interpretation of the framework on the part of this particular Lead Inspector. Further, SACRE should request assurance that this lead inspector will receive the necessary training to ensure they are able to implement the current guidance correctly and finally to explain that, through the work of the SACRE monitoring sub-group, SACRE will be monitoring this in future reports.
- 3.3. Evidence of the continuing positive impact SACRE monitoring visits was considered. The group was delighted that the SACRE monitoring visits have been secured for the current financial year. In addition to this, further discussion took place regarding the right time to intervene with support for RE in the overall school improvement process where there has not previously been RE support, or a SACRE monitoring visit. More systematic links with the HIAS School Improvement Managers are being made in this regard.
- 3.4. The group was briefed on developments in other secondary schools where management partnership work was being undertaken on improving RE in line with work for improvement of other subject areas. This reveals that RE is being taken seriously, and usually considered equally with other foundation subjects such as history and geography, as part of the whole school improvement plan for a secondary school.
- 3.5. It was agreed that discussions should be undertaken with the appropriate bodies to ensure that when new head teachers are appointed, especially when they have come from out of county, some induction into the County Agreed Syllabus Living Difference 2011 course be given as part of the general induction process.
- 3.6. Contact has been made with the HIAS Anti-Bullying strategy group to ensure that 'religion' is now a category children can report on in the pupil questionnaire that goes to all schools each spring. When the analysis of this questionnaire has been undertaken by the strategy group, it is likely that training will be offered for teachers on the particular issues around ensuring that bullying that has been identified as having a religious dimension is dealt with effectively. High quality religious education taught with the County Agreed Syllabus is considered likely to have an impact.
- 3.7. The availability of teacher continuing professional development opportunities (CPD) was discussed. With the new General Inspector for Primary RE coming into post a number of courses are running in the summer term, including one on Collective Worship as well as a course for new primary subject leaders. The Primary RE conference is oversubscribed with more than 60 delegates; a

record attendance. It was recognised that subject knowledge booster courses were needed at all stages. Several were being planned.

4. GCSE Monitoring

- 4.1. Short Course. Short course data was not available for consideration at the meeting due to the data not being made available in the usual format by EPAS. However since the meeting a limited analysis of Short Course data has become available and included in the report in Appendix 1.
- 4.2. Full Course. Some verified data was available and discussion about this took place. The report is included in Appendix 2.
- 4.3. It was noted that 2015 was the last year that A* - C would be used as an accountability measure for schools. The data we consider in 2016 will be on the basis of data in relation to individual children's progress.
- 4.4. It was noted that the new Religious Studies GCSE will be taught for the first time in 2016. Schools are awaiting with interest the publication of the examination specifications by the exam boards.

5. AOB

- 5.1. Concerns raised at the February meeting of SACRE were considered. It was felt that these matters in relation to ensuring religious education was all taught well and its importance in the public sphere of education, should be brought back to the full SACRE.

Recommendation:

- 1. That SACRE notes the report**
- 2. That SACRE writes to Ofsted to "inform" them of the mis-interpretation of the framework on the part of this particular Lead Inspector, and request assurance that they will receive the necessary training to ensure they are able to implement the current guidance correctly and explain that SACRE will be monitoring this in future reports.**

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.)

Document

Location

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.