

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Children and Young People's Select Committee
Date:	16 September 2015
Title:	Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Schools Syllabus
Reference:	6918
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. To give an update on the work of Hampshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and plans for review of the County Agreed Syllabus '*Living Difference revised 2011*'

2. Contextual Information

- 2.1. Religious education (RE) is not part of the national curriculum, but is part of the required curriculum in all schools and is locally determined. LAs must ensure that the agreed syllabus for religious education for their area is consistent with Section 375(3) of the Education Act of 1996, which required the syllabus to reflect that the religious traditions of Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious represented in Great Britain. The Hampshire Agreed Syllabus is called '*Living Difference revised 2011*' and is highly regarded nationally.
- 2.2. Academies are not required to use the locally agreed syllabus, but do have to teach RE, ensuring it is compliant with the law. Hampshire converter academies and schools in academy groups continue to engage with Hampshire RE.
- 2.3. Every Local Authority must establish a permanent body called a standing advisory council on religious education (SACRE). The role and remit of a SACRE is described in Appendix 1. LAs must appoint representatives to each of four committees representing respectively:

- Group A: Christian denominations and other such religion and religious denominations as, in the authority's opinion, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area,
 - Group B: the Church of England,
 - Group C: teacher associations,
 - Group D: the LA.
- 2.4. Each LA must also establish an occasional body called an agreed syllabus conference (ASC) to review the agreed syllabus for RE adopted by the LA. This may have common membership with the SACRE but is separate entity and must therefore be separately convened.

3. Hampshire SACRE and ASC

- 3.1. The Hampshire SACRE meets publically once each term, operates according to a clear constitution and is well supported by the LA. SACRE is well attended with agendas and minutes published online. There exists a clear policy for appointment of new members where all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the person appointed is representative of the religious denomination or association in question.
- 3.2. SACRE publishes an annual report on its work, including the monitoring of the effectiveness of the agreed syllabus, on-going teacher training and analysis of GCSE results, each November and a copy is sent to the National Society of SACREs (NASACRE).
- 3.3. Hampshire SACRE gives a model of good practice to other SACREs in the region. A regional joint SACRE meeting has been held occasionally to share good practice amongst SACREs. Most recently a small grant from the Culham st. Gabriel's trust enabled a 'SACRE Hub' to be established in this area. One outcome of this has been the establishment of a collaboration between HIAS and Winchester University for an open access reading and research group to enable more teachers to engage with and undertake further high quality research in religious education. This work ensures that Hampshire RE remains at the attention of those working nationally in RE ensuring respect and recognition for the LAs work in this area.
- 3.4. Youth Voice to SACRE meets once each term and most recently held a well attended conference for KS3 students in the Ashburton Hall investigating the question 'Does religion matter even if you are not religious?'
- 3.5. The ASC met most recently in February 2015 and agreed to begin the review process of the agreed syllabus which held its first meeting in July 2015. The reviewed syllabus will be presented to the November 2016 SACRE meeting for adoption. This review is being undertaken with Portsmouth and Southampton LAs as the agreed syllabus is shared by all three authorities in light of our historic connections. In addition, representatives of the Isle of Wight SACRE are joining the review, anticipating that the new syllabus will become the agreed syllabus for the IoW at the end of the review process.

3.6. It is anticipated that this will be a revision of the existing syllabus to bring up to date with recent educational changes for example with regard to assessment and progression and renewed emphasis on promoting children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development as well as teaching British values and enabling children to live well in modern British society.

4. Living Difference revised 2011: the agreed syllabus for Hampshire Portsmouth and Southampton.

4.1. The effectiveness of the Hampshire agreed syllabus is regularly monitored locally by SACRE and recognised nationally as cutting edge and informed by academic research.

4.2. The Hampshire agreed syllabus is distinctive in a number of respects.

- It has a clear purpose statement
- It includes a process for teaching students how to enquire into key concepts and ideas from religious traditions.
- It lists recommended concepts to form high quality curriculum for different key stages supported by on-line and paper based advice for teachers.
- Students progress against a single attainment target – we want children and young people to get better at being able to '*interpret religion in relation to human experience*'.
- It is focussed on a process of enquiry or investigation into key concepts or big ideas that have engaged religious and non religious people through all time and at the present time.
- It is designed to help children and young people to get better at thinking for themselves about these matters and to know and understand well
- The syllabus includes a clear idea for progression based on a 8 point scale linking from KS1 to GCSE grades.

5. Recommendations

5.1. The Committee notes this report and supports the approach taken by the Hampshire SACRE

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
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):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
N/A		
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	
N.A		

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.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

This report is an information paper, and not for decision. Therefore there is no impact on equalities and an assessment does not need to be undertaken.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

This report has no impact on crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

This report's information will have no impact on 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?

This report's information does not have a climate change impact.