

ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Standing Advisory Council
for Religious Education
Annual Report

SCHOOL YEAR 2013-14

Foreward by the Chairman

I am pleased to recommend the annual report of the Isle of Wight SACRE for 2013/14. Once again it is a reflection of the changing, and often challenging, circumstances of the provision of education in Isle of Wight schools. But there are considerable grounds for optimism with respect to the provision of Religious Education. Two major factors have contributed towards this improved outlook.

The working relationship of the Isle of Wight Council with Hampshire County Council has given schools and their staff access to the support and advice of Hampshire's advisors and inspectors, with meetings and courses available to the teaching staff of both primary and secondary schools. This same support has also placed the Isle of Wight SACRE in a much better position to carry out its statutory role of monitoring and advising on the provision of Religious Education: we are grateful for this development and to those Hampshire colleagues that have enabled this to happen.

The second positive development in the last year has been the establishment of a regional network of SACREs from local authorities across Southern England. This has become a focus for sharing common concerns, developments and issues. This forum has recently directed its attention towards supporting the greater provision of well qualified teachers of Religious Education.

In addition to our gratitude to the Hampshire team, I would like to extend a special thank you to my predecessor as chairman, who exhibited a steadfast dedication to Religious Education during her time as a member of SACRE. Thanks should also be given to all our team of SACRE members who during the year have, in addition to attending meetings, also visited schools and attended courses and conferences. In particular I should like to express appreciation to our clerk and consultant, who has consistently provided reliable co-ordination and communication.

Ralph Hodd
Deputy Chairman 2013-14
Chairman 2014-15

SACRE's Role

Local Authorities have been required since 1988 to establish SACREs.

SACRE:

- Is responsible for advising the Local Authority in matters concerning the teaching of Religious Education and Collective Acts of Worship. It also has a monitoring role in this subject.
- Decides on applications for determinations of cases in which requirements for Christian collective worship is not to apply. (Never been called upon to do so on the Island.)
- Can require the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus.
- Is required to publish an Annual Report of its work

SACRE should reflect broadly the proportionate strength of religions or denominations in the area. *

* **See Annexe 1 for Membership**

Overall Strengths and Weaknesses of RE

GCSE (2012) Report prepared for Isle of Wight SACRE Patricia Hannam Hampshire County Inspector Adviser Re/history

- This report offers an analysis of GCSE Full and Short course results in the Isle of Wight. When comparing GCSE results year against year, it is very important to note that it is not the same group of students we are comparing; in other words, we are not comparing like with like. Therefore it is first important to consider the results year at a time, to look carefully what this reveals for any one particular year before making comparisons.

General comments regarding the IoW GCSE performance

- The GCSE Full Course is in general a 2-year course sat at the end of year 11, however some schools teach the GCSE over three years and a very small number of schools enable students to sit the examination at the end of year 10 rather than year 11. 2013 results have shown a decline compared to the previous year's results in respect of both full and short course.
- The report gives analysis of three years data, 2011, 2012 and 2013. At GCSE the subject is called Religious Studies (RS); a new RS GCSE with new assessment objectives was introduced in 2011.
- Assessment Objectives for all GCSE Religious Studies courses are:
 - AO1 Describe, explain and analyse, using knowledge and understanding 50%
 - AO2 Use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights, and differing viewpoints 50%
- RS GCSE tests not only knowledge but the capacity to *analyse* and *to use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate*. Teaching must enable students to do this. RS GCSE success is about higher order thinking, not just facts. Challenging children to analyse evaluate and in other ways reason well at KS3 and KS4 is known to raise standards at GCSE.
- Short course is equivalent to half a Full Course GCSE. The material is examined at the same level in both cases, expectation is that half the amount of material is studied for Short Course compared to material studied for Full Course examination.
- IoW Full course entries show an increase in 2013 to 662 entries an increase of 200. This can more or less be accounted for my one school moving from Short to Full course entry. Full course entries now exceed short course entries.

Full Course GCSE Analysis and Commentary:

- **Full Course GCSE entries overall:** show a sharp decline in 2013 from 2012 where 69.3% achieved A*-C grade. In 2013 38.9% achieved A*-C in 2013. In addition to this in 2013 there has been a decline in the A*-G, which although smaller between 2011 and 2012 was already present. The A*-G rate is also important to consider as this shows how *all children* achieved not just those who accessing the A*-C grades. It would seem as though a key issue in 2013 may be that one school entered 246 students at full course for the first time and only 22.4% of their students achieved a

A*-C grade. In addition to this however, two other schools saw a drop in their A*-C grades between 2012 and 2013. The results of these three schools taken together have resulted in the considerable reduction in achievement at Full Course in 2013.

- **Performance A*-A:** 12.2% in 2013. This is similar to the 2011 A*-A (12.2%) result and marks a sharp fall from the high 2012 A*/A result (29.9%).
- **Gender:** The gap between boys and girls seems a persistent issue on the Isle of Wight as it does in many places. The large gap to be noted in 2012 has narrowed slightly in 2013, in the main because of a fall in the results of girls.

Short Course GCSE Analysis and Commentary:

- **GCSE short course GCSE** entries declined to the lowest number of entries for 5 years to 513.
- **The future for Short Course continues to be uncertain**, since it is not eligible for inclusion in data, which counts towards league tables. The most likely expectation must be that with patterns of GCSE RS entry still changing it is likely we will see a continuing decline of the short course in the next two years. However equally it must be remembered that it is still a good qualification, it is at GCSE standard and a positive option for schools who want to externally examine students RS undertaken at KS4 and enable students to access a certificated qualification.
- **Performance A*-C:** A*-C achievement for short course in 2013 was 42.9%; this is 7 percentage points below the national. However the residual analysis which compares RS against achievement in other subjects shows that against the national RS on the IoW is achieving a positive residual. This is probably because compared to their other subjects, students on the IoW are achieving less poorly against their other subjects than they do nationally. In this respect, girls on the IoW were doing relatively better in RS GCSE that they were against their other subjects than they were nationally.
- **Gender:** the persistent gap of around 23.2% gap between boys and girls is wider than the national. Considering how to address the gender gap, and offering advice to schools would be helpful. Against the national data boys in the Isle of Wight have a slightly positive residual, further revealing that nationally boys do worse.

Management of SACRE and Partnership with the LA and other Key Stake Holders.

All meetings were quorate.

Attendance

<u>October 2013</u>	
Committee A (Representatives of Religious Bodies)	60%
Committee B (Representatives of the Church of England)	50%
Committee C (Representatives of Teacher Associations)	50%
Committee D (Representatives of the Authority)	50%
<u>March 2014</u>	
Committee A	50%
Committee B	50%
Committee C	50%
Committee D	50%
<u>June 2014</u>	
Committee A	50%
Committee B	25%
Committee C	100%
Committee D	75%

SACRE has continued to meet in a variety of locations; Sandown Bay Academy, County Hall, and Holy Cross R.C Primary School. SACRE appreciated the hospitality given by these establishments. Both Sandown and Holy Cross gave presentations on RE in their establishments. Members were given insights of the challenges and successes associated with the subject. In the Primary school, the meeting was observed by some members of staff and governors.

Membership includes members of a wide range of faiths represented in the local community.

At the end of the Summer Term, Joy Buckley left the Isle of Wight. She had served on SACRE for 10 years; many of those years as Chairman. Members expressed their appreciation of her work on behalf of RE on the IW. SACRE also has lost the services of 2 "Free Church" representatives, Malcolm and Judith Stinton, who have also moved from the Island.

The Chairman attended the NASACRE (National Association of SACREs) conference. This was a valuable experience as it enabled the IW SACRE to share experiences and examples of good practice with other SACREs. SACRE finds it useful to relate to activities of SACREs nationally. It is also reassuring, and affirming, to see that the IW SACRE is proactive in trying to support its schools and colleges in RE.

Members continue to attend meetings with other local SACREs. These meetings, held three times per annum at Winchester, are now known as "The South-Central Hub". SACREs from Bournemouth, Hampshire, I.W, Poole/Dorset, Portsmouth, Southampton, Surrey, West Berks., West Sussex, and Wiltshire are all represented. The University of Winchester also

sends a representative. This group developed from small beginnings started by the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth, when those SACREs sent representatives to each other's meetings!

Since the involvement of Hampshire in managing the IW Education Service, SACRE has benefited from the support, experience and advice of Pat Hannam, the Secondary Sector RE Inspector in Hampshire. SACRE is grateful for the detail and insights that she brings to its deliberations. Evidence of this support can be seen in the detailed analysis of the Island's RE GCSE Results.

There was one meeting of primary RE teachers as a start to LA networking, and two Secondary sector network meetings. The Anglican Diocese held three meetings for its schools. In addition to these, visits were made to specific schools by the Hampshire RE inspector(s).

Members visit schools to make themselves aware of current practice in RE in a range of settings. They report their observations (non-inspectorial) back to SACRE.

One colleague attended the Hampshire Secondary sector RE Conference.

A "Development Plan Sub-Committee" was convened to review SACRE's areas of focus. The detail can be seen in the attached **Annexe 2**. Priorities were identified as a result of the Training/Development Day attended by members.

SACRE decided to use the above group as a "Standards Review" committee. It is intended that this team will meet with the RE Inspector to prepare reports for full SACRE meetings.

Members are aware that pressures on other areas of the curriculum impact on the teaching of Religious Education. Reports were received that, in some establishments, RE is not allocated the time it should have. It is recognised that, where some schools were under pressure to improve their performance, time for RE was reallocated to other areas of the curriculum. SACRE has sent briefings to schools reminding them of the new Ofsted framework and how it relates to RE.

The Clerk forwards to schools suggestions of good practice and useful links to support the teaching of RE. The SACRE Development Plan is reviewed regularly and is attached at Annexe 2.

Funding

SACRE continues to be well supported by the LA through an allocated budget.

The basic budget is £4000 per annum. The amount covers administration by an appointed Clerk and members' expenses as necessary.

The LA agreed to allow SACRE to carry-over, once again, its unspent amount from the £5000 as mentioned in last year's report. This means that £4,400 is also available to action areas identified in SACRE's Action Plan 2014-2017.

The Agreed Syllabus

SACRE decided to consult Local Authority establishments to inform their decision making concerning a possible review of The IW Agreed Syllabus. It was decided to ask Hampshire if the IW could be involved in the review of that LA's Agreed Syllabus. This has been agreed by that LA. It could transpire that the IW might adopt that of Hampshire.

Determinations

There have been no applications for Determinations in Collective Worship during this past year. Nor have there been any complaints about Collective Worship.

Summary

This summary remains similar to that of 2012-13. SACRE has extended its links with a range of Faith Communities on and off the Island. SACRE is now even better placed to advise the LA and schools in ways of contacting faith representatives. SACRE's work is still an excellent example, perhaps the only one on the Island, of faith communities working harmoniously and cooperatively together. The common aim is to achieve the best RE and worship experiences for our young people, which, in turn, hopefully will promote improved community cohesion within the Island Community and in the wider community of the UK.

SACRE has been made aware of the pressures on the school curriculum and the impact on Religious Education. It has attempted to remind schools and academies of their legal obligation in delivering the subject.

The benefits of having the support of the Hampshire support networks have been reflected in this report. SACRE is grateful for the level of advice and expertise now available to it.

There continues to be a strong sense of team spirit, a sense of unity and cooperation among all members of SACRE. All members contribute as equals. Colleagues value the expertise and experiences that each brings.

Annexe 1

SACRE MEMBERSHIP

Committee A

Three members representing the “Free Churches”

Reverend Malcolm Stinton
Mrs Judith Stinton
One vacancy

Two members representing the Roman Catholic Church

Sister Stella Kelly
Mr. Ralph Hodd

Members representing non-Christian faiths

Dr. Lionel Alexander (Jewish faith)
Mr. David Downer (Buddhist)
Mr Anas Al-Korj (or representative) (Moslem)
Mr Praful Thaker (Hindu)
Mr Simon Bligh (Humanist)
Mrs Norma Corney (Baha'i)

Committee B (4 members in total) Representing The Church of England

Mr David cave
Mrs Angela Hewkin
Mrs Sue Cox
Mr Rodney Fox

Committee C (5 members in total)

Representing the teachers of the Isle of Wight.

Secondary	Mrs. Joy Buckley	Medina College
	Mrs Beth Feltham	Sandown Bay Academy
Primary	Ann Moran	Wootton Primary
Special	Jo Richardson	St George's
Headteacher	Mrs Beryl Miller	Yarmouth C.E. Primary

Committee D (4 members in total)

Representing the Local Authority, two nominated by the Director of Education.

Cllr Julia Baker-Smith
Cllr John Hobart
Mrs Pat Hannam (RE Inspector Hampshire)
Mrs. Patricia Goodhead (Christ the King College)

Annexe 2

SACRE Development Plan 2014-2017

1. <u>Standards and Quality of Provision in RE</u>						
Key Activity: To Monitor the impact of the Agreed Syllabus for RE and Collective Worship						
Action Points	Method	Lead/ By whom	Cost	Timescale	Success Criteria	Impact on Pupils
1a. To ensure that members of SACRE are informed about standards and provision for RE in all schools to enable SACRE to make recommendations to LA with a view to raising standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAISE on line • Review Ofsted reports re teaching and learning • SIMs data • Examination results • School monitoring visits and observations • LA Officer feedback • Additional data from Section 48 inspections, when available. • ALPS Data • Establish monitoring group 	<p>SACRE/LA Commissioned advisor</p> <p>Pat Hannam in data processing and school monitoring in conjunction with SACRE members</p>	<p>4 day's monitoring @£600 per day. Also Hants Partnership</p>	<p>April 2014-2017</p>	<p>SACRE able to advise authority on action to raise standards in RE</p>	<p>Improved quality in provision of teaching and learning resulting in raised standards in RE, including percentage of A-C grades</p>
1b. To ensure that members of SACRE are informed about standards and provision for collective worship in all schools to enable SACRE to make recommendations to LA with a view to raising the quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofsted reports • School visits and observations • Questionnaire to schools • Data from Section 48 inspections, when available. 	<p>SACRE</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>Oct 2014-Oct 2017</p>	<p>Increased confidence of staff resulting in improved quality of collective worship</p>	<p>Variety of quality opportunities for engagement of school community in collective worship Enhance the Spiritual Development of Pupils</p>
1c. Establish local group(s) to consult, advise and lead opportunities for supporting staff in delivery of quality RE and to keep informed of national developments.	<p>Identify coordinators for NATRE, RE Network groups etc to establish and facilitate groups. Provide CPD as needs are identified/requested</p>	<p>SACRE/RE Inspectors</p>		<p>April 2014-December 2014</p>	<p>Teachers supported in Teaching and Learning and raising of standards</p>	<p>Confident, well supported teachers resulting in raised standards for pupils.</p>

2. Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LEA and other key stakeholders

Key Activity: To develop and strengthen links with the LA and other key stakeholders, including students

Action Points	Method	Lead / By Whom	Cost	Timescale	Success Criteria	Impact on Pupils
Encourage regular attendance at SACRE meetings of all members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write to each group to define membership and to ensure regular attendance Encourage nomination of substitute as required Encourage feedback to stakeholders, especially to LA Receive communication from stakeholders Send SACRE minutes to schools/post on LA website 	Chair /Clerk	Nil	April 2014- July 2017	All members regularly attending	More efficient SACRE where all members involved and contributing to matters relating to RE and Worship, and raising standards in Island schools
Raise the profile of SACRE in teaching and learning role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACRE members to visit schools to establish productive links Resources delivered to SACRE to be distributed to schools Continue to meet in different educational establishments and places of worship 	Clerk	Nil	Sept. 2011- Sept. 2012	Stakeholders aware of role, function and impact of SACRE	
Establish method of hearing voice of students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish "Youth Voice" Committee 	Chair/Clerk				
Ensure SACRE has access to funds to enable it to make decisions about its priorities	Clerk/Chairman to consult with LA from January each year	Clerk				
		Through IW NATRE	Nil	September 2014-July 2015	Regular "Youth Voice" meetings and feedback to SACRE and schools	Students have a greater sense of involvement in the development of RE and collective worship on the Island
		Clerk/Chairman		April 2014-then annually	Funding transparent and defined. Members clear	

						about arrangements for commissioning and SACRE/LA roles.	
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3. Develop understanding and tolerance in the community

Key Activity: To contribute to the local social and racial harmony agenda

Action Points	Method	Lead / By Whom	Cost	Timescale	Success Criteria	Impact on Pupils
To ensure representation of local faith/non-faith organisations on SACRE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify local faith groups Consult with local leadership on identifying representation Engage with local faith initiatives/multifaith forum Work with REsilience project Establish protocol for consideration of applications for representation on SACRE 	Members of SACRE. Clerk	Nil	September 2014 and on-going	All faiths of IW have representation on SACRE.	Pupils have Improved access to, and are better informed, about a wide range of faiths. Wider range of views into SACRE deliberations

4. Agreed Syllabus

Key Activity Review Agreed Syllabus

Action Points	Method	Lead / By Whom	Cost	Timescale	Success Criteria	Impact on Pupils
Review effectiveness of present Agreed Syllabus	Survey of schools to inform SACRE of Teachers' view in Autumn term 2014.	Pat Hannam SACRE		September 2014-July 2015	SACRE informed of schools' views	None
Establish Agreed Syllabus Conference to decide if new Agreed Syllabus should be recommended to LA	Use Survey Monkey SACRE forms ASC	Clerk			Decision made and Action Plan in place	None in the short term