

ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Standing Advisory Council
For Religious Education
Annual Report

SCHOOL YEAR 2012-13

Foreward by the Chairman

I have great pleasure in commending this Annual Report to you.

I am grateful to members of SACRE for their commitment as they sought ways of supporting schools in their delivery of Religious Education. Many changes were taking place in Isle of Wight education during this period, but SACRE responded positively to the changing circumstances, and adopted new ways of working to enable it to fulfil its role. These are reflected in this report.

I thank colleagues for their informative and helpful reports on visits to schools and on courses and meetings attended.

I also express my appreciation to those establishments which hosted SACRE meetings.

On behalf of SACRE I wish to thank Harry Kirby for the efficient way in which he co-ordinated the work of the committee.

David Cave
Chairman of SACRE

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 L.A. 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

As in previous years SACRE finds it difficult to obtain data to make an informed view on the strengths and weaknesses of RE in Isle of Wight schools and colleges. At meetings in a variety of school settings, SACRE is given an encouraging picture about the commitment of schools to the subject. In visits to schools, especially the Primary Sector, students' work on display reflects imaginative and creative approach to the subject. Members now also receive feedback from individual visits to schools..

It continues to be the case that with the changing and diminishing role of the LA, with the reduction in support staff, associated with the greater independence of schools, centralised data and monitoring is proving difficult.

GCSE Results, from colleges and academies which responded to a request, are:-

Christ the King College	190 entries Full Course	A*-C passes 64%
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Medina College	257 entries Full Course	A*-C passes 41%
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	9 entries A Level	A*-C passes 37%
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Sandown Bay Academy 0 entries. A new Head of Department has been appointed for 2013. She is supported by a new team of teachers. Schemes of work are being established.

During this, and previous academic years, there has been no RE Adviser in post. In the past the LA purchased a given number of days per year from the Portsmouth Diocese. This support is no longer available. The Church schools are supported by inputs from the C.E RE Adviser and, separately, the Roman Catholic schools are supported by their Diocese. In the past all schools were able to share this support service, but that no longer happens.

The LA "Workforce Development Officer" has been very supportive in setting up courses commissioned or subsidised by SACRE

Section 48 Inspection reports (those conducted on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church and Church of England within their own schools) were analysed to give members an overview of standards in matters concerning RE and Worship in those schools.

There were 19 inspections over a 5 year period.

Religious Education; 3 "Satisfactory", 9 "Good", 7 "Outstanding".

Worship; 1 "Satisfactory", 10 "Good", 8 "Outstanding"

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

Two out of three meetings were not quorate, due to a lack of representatives of the Local authority. The third meeting was only quorate as the “Director’s Representative” asked a replacement to attend. There was no Officer in attendance at any meeting.

There was one retirement from the Church of England and a replacement is awaited. There is a long-standing vacancy for a member of the “Free churches”

Attendance

October 2011	
Committee A (Representatives of Religious Bodies)	60%
Committee B (Representatives of the Church of England)	100%
Committee C (Representatives of Teacher Associations)	60%
Committee D (Representatives of the Authority)	33%
March 2012	
Committee A	80%
Committee B	66%
Committee C	20%
Committee D	0%
June 2012	
Committee A	60%
Committee B	66%
Committee C	100%
Committee D	0%

SACRE has continued to meet in a variety of locations; Christ the King College, Ventnor Baptist Church and St Francis RC and CE Primary School

Membership includes members of the CE , RC., and Methodist churches. The Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish and Moslem communities are also represented. The National Humanist Society now has a member on SACRE. At its June meeting SACRE agreed unanimously that all members designated “in attendance” should now be considered as coopted members and be full members of their appropriate committee.

Three members attended 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. Members were reassured that the Isle of Wight was being proactive and creative in supporting its schools. Members continue to attend meetings with other local SACREs. What began as a small group, firstly IW and Portsmouth, then IW , Portsmouth and Southampton, has now developed into meetings with representatives of six or seven SACREs along the South Coast. Members find these stimulating, reassuring and supportive. Three members attended SACRE training at Winchester, organised by Hampshire LA.

As Hampshire LA was identified as the “manager” of Education on the IW, SACRE invited the RE Inspector from there to attend its June meeting. Previously, national up-dates and

advice had been commissioned from Lilian Weatherly. SACRE considered that being proactive in this way would help establish working relationships with our Hampshire colleagues. (In October 2013 Pat. Hannam, RE Inspector for Hants was made a full member of SACRE, being nominated as “Director’s Representative”.)

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. A protocol was adopted to advise members of their role and how to respond to school visits.

See Annexe 4

The Clerk forwards to schools suggestions of good practice and useful links to support the teaching of RE. SACRE Development Plan is reviewed regularly and is attached at **Annexe 3**.

Funding

SACRE continues to be well supported by the LA through an allocated budget. Elected members on SACRE liaise closely with officers. Their active support ensures close links with the LA in the absence of officers.

The basic budget is £4000 per annum. The amount covers administration by an appointed Clerk and members’ expenses as necessary. SACRE also pays the expenses of an RE consultant from the Mainland to up-date it in national matters relating to RE. It also enables SACRE to undertake minor projects

In last year’s report SACRE detailed the carry-over of the £5000 resulting from the sale of the intellectual rights to the IW Agreed Syllabus. SACRE consulted schools concerning their perceived strengths and areas to develop in RE. Following this, SACRE used an element of this budget to commission or subsidise a series of courses to take place in the Autumn term 2013. For information the results of the survey are attached again in this report.

See Annexe 2

The Agreed Syllabus

As far as SACRE is aware the Agreed Syllabus is now embedded and schools find it far more user-friendly than the last one. In the absence of “local” support, schools usually channel queries through the Clerk to SACRE. Details of resources and materials, to support the Agreed Syllabus, are available on-line and also through CDs.

SACRE will decide next year if it needs to advise the LA to review the Agreed Syllabus.

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 2011-2012. SACRE has developed links with a range of Faith Communities on and off the Island. SACRE is well placed to advise the LA and schools in ways of contacting faith representatives. SACRE's work is 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.

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 (6 members in total)

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

One member representing non-Christian faiths

Dr. Lionel Alexander (Jewish faith)

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

Mr David cave
Mrs Angela Hewkin
Mrs Sue Cox
Mrs Amanda Johnson (left the IW part way through the year)

Committee C (5 members in total)

Representing the teachers of the Isle of Wight, nominated by the Isle of Wight Teachers Council.

Secondary	Mrs. Joy Buckley	Medina College
	Mrs Beth Feltham	IW. College
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 Julie Jones-Evans	Patricia Goodhead (Christ the King College)
Cllr Dawn Cousins	One vacancy
Mrs Janet Newton (Officer) in attendance	

In attendance

Mr. David Downer	(Buddhist)
Mr Anas Al-Korj (or representative)	(Moslem)
Mr Praful Thaker	(Hindu)
Mr Simon Bligh	(Humanist)

Annexe 2

Identified Strengths **(3 per school)**

▪ Specialised teacher teaches RE in KS2 and supports in KS1 where needed
▪ Follows scheme of work to ensure progression throughout year groups
▪ SMSC
▪ Subject knowledge of staff
▪ Links to other curriculum areas
▪ High priority – links to SIAS, Collective worship, parish, RE days
▪ RE topic days are enjoyed throughout the school.
▪ Full curriculum covered in half termly RE topic days – so full coverage ensured.
▪ Prayers observed twice daily and collective worship theme weeks are embraced throughout the school.
▪ Staff with a wide range of previous experiences bringing new ideas to the school. (Year 5 and 6 teachers bringing ideas from previous Middle Schools)
▪ All staff are involved leading assemblies.
▪ Our Foundation Stage have adapted existing R.E. planning to include the religious celebrations of new pupils and their families.
▪ We have an annual RE week which the children love
▪ We have an assembly everyday – whole school and Key Stages
▪ Children really enjoy RE lessons and link their learning with other curriculum areas
▪ Children are very open towards each other and accepting of differing personal views
▪ Links with our parish church and support from our clergy is positive and effective
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▪ Resources
▪ Collective worship
▪ Differentiation
▪ 3 trained, subject specialist professional staff (College)
▪ Every child studies and GCSE
▪ Lesson planning

One school none identified

Identified Areas to Develop
(2 per school)

Please state 2 areas for the development of RE in your school:
▪ Children take lead role in planning CW
▪ Marking to RE objective rather than literacy objective
▪ All staff moderating into sub-levels
▪ Multiculturalism
▪ RE assessment
▪ Adapting to being larger school with Years 5 and 6
▪ Ensuring all staff feel confident with syllabus and know where to find resources
▪ RE to be timetabled into the school weekly timetable
▪ Evidence gathering
▪ Assessment
▪ Helping staff to feel more confident with issues raised by providing them with a broader subject knowledge
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▪ Suitable accreditation
▪ Curriculum trips
▪ Need more specialist staff
▪ Governor/staff training awareness of requirements/SMSC

One school, none identified