

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Committee:</b>	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
<b>Date:</b>	27 February 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Key National and Local Matters
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Childrens' Services

**Contact name:** Justine Ball, County Subject Inspector

**Email** [Justine.ball@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Justine.ball@hants.gov.uk)

### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to enable SACRE to consider key RE developments, nationally and locally not mentioned elsewhere in this agenda.

### Recommendation(s)

2. That the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education notes the report.

### Executive Summary

3. This report seeks to update and inform SACRE of key national development, for example the work of the Religious Education Council (REC), NASACRE, RE Hubs, as well as the Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education (AULRE) and initiatives being led by the Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

### Contextual information

4. NASACRE is running its annual Westhill/NASACRE award and has invited SACREs to submit their applications for an Award. The £4000 (max) award is intended to fund a SACRE-led project that will enhance the quality of RE and or collective worship in local schools, with the potential to have wider, lasting impact. The theme for this year is *Education into Diversity*. The [Westhill website](#) and the NASACRE website has further information. The closing date for applications is 31 March.
5. The NASACRE annual conference is Monday 20 May 20 24. It is in York, but also available online for SACRE members. The theme is: *How can SACREs support high quality RE & Collective Worship?* SACRE members are invited to contact the SACRE clerk if they wish to attend and there is a maximum of 2 delegates per SACRE.
6. There are two NASACRE webinars coming up this term:

- Monday 26th February 2024, 7-8pm: Dealing with beliefs and practices about loss & death in your Agreed Syllabus
  - Tuesday 12th March 2024, 7-8pm: Convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference – legalities and processes.
7. Please contact the SACRE clerk if you wish to attend either of these.
  8. The Hampshire SACRE monitoring report reveals positive comments from Ofsted reports about RE in Hampshire schools. In contrast nationally, the Ofsted Annual Report from the Chief Inspector for the year 2022/23 refers to RE being of poor quality across England. The report can be referenced here: **The Annual Report of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2022/23 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)** . SACRE members are encouraged to read the report and be aware of the national picture, although it is not reflected locally. The Ofsted subject report on RE is due out shortly and this will be circulated as soon as it is available.
  9. RE Hubs continue to run FREE Places of Interest and School Speaker training (POI & SS). The next dates for training are 20 February, 26 March, 18 April 2024 and all are online. SACRE members are encouraged to register for training if they have not already and to pass the details onto other school speakers they might know. Further details are available here: **Register as a school speaker (re-hubs.uk)**
  10. On Monday 26 February in the morning, there will be free training on the Hampshire Living Difference IV syllabus for School Speakers and SACRE members on Teams at 10 am. If any SACRE member would like an update on the syllabus, please email The SACRE adviser [Justine.ball@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Justine.ball@hants.gov.uk).
  11. The South West AREIAC branch are holding their annual conference on Monday 4 March in the afternoon on Zoom. If SACRE members are interested, then please contact the SACRE clerk to book your place.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes				
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	Yes				
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	Yes				
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes				
<p><b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b></p> <p>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.)</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Document</u></th> <th><u>Location</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>None</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>	None	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>				
None					

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

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 by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

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

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

### **Equalities Impact Assessment:**

Living Difference IV, the locally agreed syllabus for religious education has an interest in equalities at its heart. A high-quality religious education taught according to Living Difference IV seeks to contribute to the elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation especially and directly with regard to the protected characteristics of race and religion. Further, through experiencing a high-quality religious education taught according to Living Difference IV there is the intention to mitigate xenophobia of all kinds thus fostering good relations.