

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Report

<b>Committee/Panel:</b>	SACRE
<b>Date:</b>	19 June 2017
<b>Title:</b>	Religious Education: National RE matters, the wider curriculum and engagement with parents in Hampshire schools
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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### 1. Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to inform SACRE members about national RE matters including SACRE advisers' engagement, research developments and other matters in relation to religious education and the wider curriculum and engagement with parents in Hampshire schools including withdrawal from RE

### 2. Contextual information

2.1. This report relates to work undertaken since our last meeting and follows up on earlier discussions regarding parental engagement between schools and their parents/carers regarding religious education matters, including withdrawal from RE.

### 3. NASACRE

3.1. Patricia Hannam, one of SACRE's adviser, attended the NASACRE AGM in York in May. This was well attended by SACRE representatives from all over England. The theme was: *Preparing for life in Britain today: the contribution of RE*. There were two key speakers: Dr Joyce Miller, Associate Fellow in the Religions and Education Research Unit at the University of Warwick and RE Commission Commissioner, and Professor Aaquil Ahmed former BBC, as well as, Channel 4 Head of Religion and Ethics. Both gave enlightening talks which were informative for all NASACRE members with regard to the theme. Joyce was able to set the context of the RE Commission pointing out that this was the most significant review of religious education since the Schools Council's Working Paper 36 in 1971<sup>1</sup> and Ground Plan for the Study of

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<sup>1</sup> Council, S., 1971. Working paper 36. Religious education in secondary schools. London: Evans/Methuen Educational.

Religion in 1977<sup>2</sup>. Professor Ahmed discussed the power of the media in terms of the key ways in which the general public access information about religion and therefore given the influences at work enabled NASACRE members to be alert to the great significance of high quality religious education in the public sphere at this time.

#### **4. Religious Education Council AGM**

4.1. SACRE's advisers keep SACRE up to date about activities of the Religious Education Council (REC) through their involvement with the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC). In this capacity Patricia Hannam attended the REC AGM in early May at the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden. The Manager of the Hampshire RE Curriculum Centre also attended as the Chair of the Association of RE Centres. Five RE commissioners were present at this meeting and after formal business and observing the Arti ceremony REC representative members were able share their views in small groups with the commissioners.

#### **5. The Commission on RE**

5.1. We welcome Dr Farid Panjwani, one of The Commissioners, to make a short presentation about The Commission on RE at our meeting. The terms of reference of The Commission are attached to these minutes as an Appendix.

#### **6. Hampshire Interfaith Calendar**

6.1. After many years of being co-ordinated centrally in HCC this year the Interfaith Calendar is being managed by the SACRE Inspector Advisers. The calendar is, as far as we know, a unique venture and seeks to promote a better understanding of faith groups in Hampshire, by capturing the imagination and creativity of Hampshire school children's work in RE. The annual calendar includes the winning entries sent in by schools, which enhance the calendar, making it both colourful as well as informative. The judging of entries for the 2018 calendar has taken place.

#### **7. Religious education and the wider curriculum and engagement with parents**

7.1. Following distribution of the Hampshire Advice Document to SACRE members, this is now in the process of being distributed to schools.

7.2. Following discussion in previous SACRE meetings, examples of good practice from schools regarding briefing parents on RE are being shared in various ways, including at Senior Leader Briefings about Living Difference III, as well as at Primary and Secondary network meetings.

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<sup>2</sup> Council, S., Britain, G. and Religious Committee, 1977. A Ground Plan for the Study of Religion: A Report. Schools Council.

**8. Withdrawal from RE:** The annual survey to schools has been distributed and interim findings will be tabled at this meeting, with a more extended discussion planned for the November 2017 meeting.

**9. Recommendation**

- That SACRE thanks Dr Farid Panjwani for his presentation to SACRE about The Commission on RE
- That SACRE notes this report

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

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	no
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.)**

DocumentLocation

None

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 1.1. The work of SACRE has the intention to positively impact equality in terms of achievement in Religious Education.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

- 2.1. No impact on crime and disorder as a result of this report has been identified.

### **3. Climate Change:**

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

No impact on climate change as a result of this report has been identified

- 3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No necessity for consideration of the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts as a result of this report has been identified.



**1. Terms of Reference:**

**i. Name of Commission:**

Commission on Religious Education

**ii. The purposes of the Commission:**

To review the legal, education and policy frameworks for RE, by a wide-ranging, inclusive and evidence-based process designed to inform policy makers about these areas. The ultimate aim will be to improve the quality and rigour of religious education and its capacity to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

**iii. Remit of the Commission:**

- To consider the nature, purposes, and scope of religious education.
- To identify the enabling factors that currently promote high quality RE, and the barriers that currently limit it.
- To identify what changes are needed to ensure the highest quality provision of RE.
- To ensure that recommendations focus on realistic and specific proposals aimed at both immediate and long-term implementation in the context of continuing educational reform.

In considering the above 4 tasks, the REC has identified the following areas for the Commission to consider:

- The quality of teaching and learning in RE
- The legal and structural arrangements
- The public and professional profile of the subject
- Recruitment, Initial Teacher Education and Continuous Professional Development

- The range of school settings in which RE should be required
- The age range for which RE should be required
- The right to withdraw (parents or carers, pupils and teachers)
- Whether or not there should be a common entitlement in RE, and if so what the entitlement should be

The REC expects the Commission to make explicit the evidence base for the recommendations they make, and ensure the conceptual clarity of any key terms used.

#### **iv. Parameters of the Commission**

The Commission should consider RE in all schools and colleges in England that educate pupils of any age up to 19, irrespective of whether they are mainstream, special or alternative provision, independent or maintained, and of a religious character or not.

The Commission should not consider:

- Admissions policies in schools of a religious character
- Employment of staff on the basis of their religion
- Collective worship

#### **v About the REC**

The Religious Education Council of England and Wales was established in 1973 to represent the collective interests of a wide variety of professional associations and faith communities in deepening and strengthening provision for religious education. It provides a multi-faith forum where national organisations with an interest in supporting and promoting religious education in schools and colleges can share matters of common concern. The REC's vision is that every young person experiences a personally inspiring and academically rigorous education in religious and non-religious worldviews. It seeks to work in a way that embodies values of cooperation, collaboration, openness, mutual respect and critical engagement.

**Chair:** The Very Revd Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster

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