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**Subject:** Response to consultation from Hampshire SACRE

Dear sir/madam

I am writing as Chairman and on behalf of the Hampshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), in response to the consultation on the draft School Inspection Handbook.

We have four key concerns.

1. Page 13, bullet points 33 – 37. This section claims to be giving clarity on the Inspection of Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship. However the information in these bullet points is insufficient as it only refers to religious education in Faith Schools. In the current handbook there is a very helpful appendix giving details of what is required in all publically funded schools, including faith schools (see pages 74-77 of School Inspection Handbook, September 2018) . This makes it clear that all LA schools including voluntary controlled schools, are required to follow the Locally Agreed Syllabus and that Academies can do so. We regard it as vital that an equivalent is added into new handbook.

2. We we are pleased to note that Religious Education is included alongside the national curriculum in bullet point 159 on page 49. However, we are concerned that religious education is omitted in the grade descriptor of 'Good' judgement of the Quality of Education on page 49. Further, bullet point 161 (page 42) seems to imply that religious education is not a requirement at KS1. Section 352 of the Education Act 1996 identifies the distinctive place of religious education as part of the basic curriculum alongside the national curriculum. We regard it as essential that religious education is inserted on page 49 into the fourth bullet point and that the requirement to teach religious education in year R as well as in KS1 should also be made clear, so that lines 1-6 should read: "Pupils study the full curriculum; it is not narrowed. In primary schools, a broad range of subjects (exemplified by the national curriculum, *religious education and age-appropriate sex education*) is taught in key stage 1 and key stage 2 throughout all of Years 1 to 6, with religious education also taught in year R. In secondary schools, the school teaches a broad range of subjects (exemplified by the national curriculum, *religious education and age-appropriate sex education*) throughout Years 7 to 9, [or is in the process of transitioning to such arrangements.\*] ". In addition to this, since grade descriptor bullet point 4 relates to all schools (including primary phase), reference to the EBacc at this point would appear to be inappropriate.

3. We are concerned that the emphasis on the EBacc in bullet point 162 will have the effect of narrowing the curriculum at both KS3 and KS4, especially since religious education is not included in the EBacc. This is rather than meeting the declared intention of the reforms in this new framework to broaden the curriculum for students as stated in paragraph 161. The exclusion of RE from the EBacc is something that continues to trouble the religious education community nationally.

4. When inspecting religious education in schools, we would anticipate that inspectors are well informed about the Locally Agreed Syllabus, this is not mentioned at all in the handbook.

Finally, although this is not a particular concern, we think it would be helpful to define Cultural Capital in section 163; since this is a term that can be used in ambiguously.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Roz Chadd

Chairman of Hampshire SACRE