

PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 14 November 2012 at 4.30 pm in the Executive Meeting Room, The Guildhall, Portsmouth.

Present

Group A Representatives

Peter Davies, The Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches (In the Chair)
Ruth Guyer, Judaism
Jane Lewis, Quakers
Marilyn Leggett, The Salvation Army

Group B Representatives

Reverend Juliet Straw, Church of England
Brian Hay, Church of England

Group C Representatives

John Spiegelhalter, Teachers' Liaison Panel
Patrick Quirke, Secondary Teacher Representative
Beverley Millsom, Special School Representative

Group D Representatives

Councillor Lynne Stagg, Portsmouth City Council
Taki Jaffer, Portsmouth City Council
Maria Cole, Portsmouth City Council

Co-opted Representatives

Sue Ganter

Officers in Attendance

Sarah Long, Local Authority Representative
Teresa Deasy, Democratic Services

27 Moment for Quiet Reflection

Marilyn Leggett, the Salvation Army representative, led the members in a moment of quiet reflection. Marilyn referred to the celebrations this year concerning the Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and added that the Salvation Army was celebrating its 146th anniversary this year. The Salvation Army was now working in 125 countries. The first meeting to held held in Portsmouth was in the Portland Hall in Kent Road, Southsea in June 1873. In Portsmouth next year the Salvation Army would be celebrating its 120th anniversary of existence in Portsmouth.

Currently, the Salvation Army is very involved in the fight against human trafficking. More than 2 million people are trafficked every year of which 50% are children. The Salvation Army is trying to raise awareness of this fact and further information is available on the internet.

28 Apologies for Absence (AI 2)

Apologies for absence were received from the following: Emily Fletcher, Sandra Gibb, Gemma Self, Sarah Handley and the Reverend Trevor Reader. Brian Hay announced that the Reverend Trevor Reader was about to retire and therefore a new representative would have to be sought from the Anglican community. Brian undertook to follow this up.

ACTION: Brian Hay to make enquiries about a Church of England representative to take over from the Reverend Trevor Reader.

Teresa Deasy announced that the following had resigned from the SACRE:

- Dr Ruth Richmond of the Roman Catholic Diocese – Teresa reported that she had been in touch with the Roman Catholic Diocese and had asked for them to nominate another representative and they had confirmed that they would be doing so as soon as possible.
- The Reverend Jackie Case, the Methodist representative had also resigned having left the district. Teresa reported that she had also contacted the Methodist community to ask them to nominate a new representative.
- As SACRE members were aware, the SACRE vice-chair Ephrat Miller, the Baha'i representative, had resigned as she was undertaking a course of study to become a kinesiology practitioner as well as continuing to work as a supply teacher. Therefore, she would not have enough time available to carry out SACRE duties. For this reason, an election was required for the position of vice-chair.

29 Minutes – 20 June 2012 (AI 4)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2012 be agreed as a correct record.

30 Matters Arising (AI 5)

There were no matters arising.

31 Election of Vice-Chair (AI 6)

It was proposed by Taki Jaffer and seconded by Marilyn Leggett that Ruth Guyer be elected as vice-chair to the Portsmouth SACRE.

RESOLVED, unanimously, that Ruth Guyer be elected to the position of vice-chair.

32 Student Enrichment Day – Friday 22 June at Portsmouth College (AI 7)

Sue Ganter gave a presentation on the Student Enrichment Day.

(TAKE IN PRESENTATION)

Sue explained that the enrichment day took place on 22 June 2012 and 12 secondary schools had been invited. Six schools attended: Miltoncross, City of Portsmouth Girls' School, Charter Academy, St Edmund's Catholic School, St John's College and Admiral Lord Nelson School. 148 students were booked to attend and 139 attended on the day. The numbers per school ranged from 5 to 41.

Students attended four different workshops during the day with a plenary "question time". Twelve presenters covering a range of faith or belief systems attended. The Southern Co-operative Funeral Directors also provided a presenter at the last minute due to one of the presenters of the faith groups having to pull out. This presenter turned out to give a valuable input and students found his workshop very interesting and relevant.

The response from the students was positive and some suggestions were made with regard to future conferences. School staff responses were also positive but it was explained that there was a need to clarify the target audience for future conferences. The presenters also responded positively and six or seven of them agreed to participate in future conferences.

Regarding the finance of the conference, students or their schools paid £5 per pupil. This raised a total of £695. As only a few of the presenters actually claimed expenses, with costs deducted the total amount to be transferred to SACRE amounted to £526.40.

The event was held at Portsmouth College which was a free venue. Patrick Quirke of Miltoncross also participated and Miltoncross School provided some administrative support.

Sue Ganter proposed a vote of thanks to all those who had participated in the conference. On behalf of the SACRE, Peter Davies thanked Sue for her work on the conference this year. It was proposed that a similar conference be put on the following and this was agreed by the SACRE.

RESOLVED that a Student Enrichment Day be held in the summer term of 2013 and that Sue Ganter be appointed to organise the conference.

33 Portsmouth SACRE Supporting Secondary RE Teachers (AI 8)

The chair explained that the SACRE had benefited from Georgina Mullhall being the AST for RE during her tenure as the LA adviser to SACRE, as this had enabled her to establish good relationships with primary schools. Fortunately, Beverley Millsom had been able to carry on this good work. At the last meeting, SACRE had decided that there was a need to set up similar relationships with secondary schools and it had been agreed that Sue Ganter would be an appropriate person to undertake this task.

At the moment due to pressures in the education sector, it was important to proceed cautiously with this approach. Therefore, a start would be made to embark on a conversation between schools and the SACRE. Peter explained that a letter had been drafted to be sent from the SACRE to all secondary school heads enclosing a copy of a questionnaire regarding the teaching of RE. It was proposed to send the draft letter to the Teachers' Liaison Panel for their comments prior to distribution to schools.

The chair went on to comment that this approach did not mean that all the work would be carried out by Sue Ganter. The idea was that Sue would help SACRE members to get involved with secondary teaching of RE.

A discussion then took place on the importance of offering support rather than surveillance.

34 SACRE Protocol Sub-Committee Meetings (AI 9)

The notes of the meetings held on 18 July and 10 October 2012 were attached with the agenda.

(TAKE IN NOTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON
18 JULY AND 10 OCTOBER 2012)

Sarah Long explained that this committee had been set up to agree a protocol for school visits by SACRE members. It was necessary to ensure that schools were given a written protocol regarding SACRE members' visits so that the arrangements for visits were set out clearly and had been agreed by all parties. In order to get some ideas, they had looked at the Isle of Wight and NASACRE governors' visits to schools protocols. They had agreed that when the protocol was formally decided it should be presented to the Teachers' Liaison Panel.

35 SACRE Website Sub-Committee Meeting (AI 10)

Beverley Millsom reported that, unfortunately, only she and Sarah Long had attended the meeting. However, they had gone ahead and looked at other SACRE websites in order to decide what the Portsmouth SACRE site might look like and who would be responsible for it. At the moment, the SACRE website was attached to the EMAS website but it was expected that it should be a standalone website.

Michael Dawes suggested that if SACRE members could agree on what they wanted on the website, it would be very easy for him to design the website. He agreed to undertake this task but he explained that SACRE would have to pay for the hosting of the site, however, that would only amount to approximately £15 per annum.

Members agreed that this was an excellent suggestion and some items for inclusion on the website were photos of the RE boxes, the RE conference pictures, RE lessons pictures provided by Georgina Mulhall, information on the syllabus, the SACRE directory and the SACRE newsletter.

At this point at 5.55 pm the vice-chair left for another engagement.

Sarah advised SACRE members that the EMAS service was working on the SACRE directory and they were checking with faith representatives to update the directory. There would be no hard copies of the directory, as it would be available online.

RESOLVED that the SACRE agree to commit the sum of £50 to spend on the website and to authorise Michael Dawes to organise.

36 Joint SACRE Meeting (AI 11)

The notes of the joint SACRE meeting held on 5 October 2012 and the protocols and terms of reference were attached with the agenda.

(TAKE IN NOTES OF THE MEETING, PROTOCOLS AND
TERMS OF REFERENCE)

The chair reported that the SACRE meetings between the local SACREs used to take place a few years ago but they had lapsed. He had suggested a revival of the meetings, as they had proved very useful. Hampshire County Council had therefore, agreed to host a revival meeting in Winchester on 5 October. Participants from the following SACREs attended: Bournemouth, Poole, Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and West Sussex. They all reported on how their SACREs were progressing.

As a representative of the Portsmouth SACRE, the chair commented that he believed that Portsmouth SACRE was very well supported by Portsmouth City Council and he hoped that this would continue. Patricia Hannam, the RE adviser to the Hampshire SACRE had been present at the meeting and was a useful contact. It might be useful to invite her to a future meeting of the Portsmouth SACRE.

37 Help a Local School get Recognised for Promoting Inclusion and the Growth of Mutual Understanding (AI 12)

(TAKE IN EMAIL DISTRIBUTED WITH THE AGENDA GIVING
INFORMATION OF THE 2012 ACCORD INCLUSION SCHOOLS AWARD)

The clerk reported that she had forwarded this email to the headteacher of St George's Primary School to ask if she knew of any schools which might like to participate in this award. However, the response received indicated that it was unlikely that Portsmouth schools would satisfy the criteria to be able to participate.

The SACRE members noted the email and it was agreed that they would alert any schools to the existence of this award.

38 Local Reports (AI 13)

(a) School Visits

As Ruth Guyer had to leave the meeting early, Taki Jaffer gave a report on Ruth's visit to St Paul's Primary School during the school's Faith Week. Ruth had attended as one of the faith representatives and had delivered two sessions on Judaism. Taki explained that he had done a session on Islam and Jaswant Singh had provided a session on Hinduism.

(b) RE Twilights

Beverley Millsom reported that seven people had booked the twilight sessions via the MLE system and five had attended as extras. During the sessions they discussed school protocol and the possibility of inviting Judith Lowndes of Hampshire County Council to a future meeting. Three possible dates for this meeting had been agreed and a letter was sent out to schools to canvass the best date. It was agreed that SACRE members could be invited to attend the meeting.

ACTION

Beverley Millsom to send more details to Teresa Deasy to enable her to invite SACRE members.

Beverley also reported that on 23 January a group would be visiting the Jami Mosque at around 4.00 pm.

The meeting on 1 May would be a follow up to the assessment meeting attended by Judith Lowndes.

(c) RE Boxes

Members asked whether it would be possible for schools to have the boxes for a longer period of time. Sarah Long advised that a paper copy list was available of the RE boxes. However, an electronic copy is also available on the EMAS website. Sarah added that she, Beverley and Sue Ganter had tried, on four occasions to arrange a meeting with Sharon Watling at the City Museum. However, they had not managed to find a suitable date. The meeting was necessary to discuss the maintenance of the boxes and to promote them more to schools. They believed that this was an underused resource.

39 Any Other Business (AI 14)

(a) One Day Religious Education Seminar

Patrick Quirke advised that in 2011 he had organised a training day for RE teachers and it had been agreed that a similar event should be organised early in 2013. The date being suggested was some time in January. Last year SACRE members had been invited and those who had attended had agreed that it had been a very worth while event.

It was suggested that it might be possible to organise this meeting under the auspices of SACRE with the aim of giving an overview of the GCSE RE course. This was agreed by the SACRE unanimously.

(b) Special Schools Christmas Event

Beverley Millsom reported that this event would take place on 6 December at 10.30 am at St Thomas' Cathedral. It was agreed that she would send details of the invitation to Teresa Deasy for forwarding to SACRE members.

(c) Council of Portsmouth Students Representative

Beverley Millsom mentioned that the Council of Portsmouth Students representative had not attended any meetings recently.

ACTION

Teresa Deasy to investigate.

40 Dates for Next Year's Meetings (AI 15)

The dates for meetings in 2013 were noted.

Dates

- Wednesday 13 March at the Quaker Meeting House, Hilsea, Portsmouth
- Wednesday 19 June, Ethnic Minority Achievement Service, Craneswater Junior School site, Southsea
- Wednesday 13 November, Portsmouth City Council offices

The meeting concluded at 6.30 pm.

TMD/DMF
29 November 2012
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