
NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

WEDNESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2014 AT 4.30 PM

GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM 3 - CIVIC OFFICES

Telephone enquiries to Peter Smith-Parkyn (023) 9268 8361

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Membership

Peter Davies (Chair)

Ruth Guyer (Vice-Chair)

Group A - Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area

Group B - Representatives of the Church of England

Group C - Teacher representatives

Group D - Representatives of the Local Authority

(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome and Introductions**
- 2 Declaration of interests**
- 3 Moment of Quiet Reflection**

Elizabeth Jenkerson has agreed to lead to moment of reflection.

4 Items for a Brief Update or for a Future Agenda

SACRE members are asked to provide brief updates on relevant SACRE matters for later in the meeting. Should the matter be more substantial than a brief update can provide SACRE will give their consideration to include the matter as a main agenda item at a future meeting.

5 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 June 2014 (Pages 1 - 8)

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2014 be agreed.

6 Matters Arising

SACRE members to receive updates on matter arising from the minutes.

RECOMMENDED that the updates be noted.

7 SACRE Budget (Pages 9 - 10)

To welcome and receive an update on SACRE budgetary position from Rachel McKeever, Portsmouth City Council's Business Manager for Education and Strategic Commissioning Service.

8 South Central Hub Meeting on 7 November 2014

To receive an update on the South Central Hub meeting.

RECOMMENDED that the update is noted.

9 Student Enrichment Day Conference 2014 (Pages 11 - 14)

To receive a report and presentation from Sue Ganter, the Student Enrichment Conference project manager on the conference that took place earlier this year.

RECOMMENDED that the report is noted.

10 Future Student Enrichment Conferences

As requested from the previous meeting, SACRE are asked to consider the future of student enrichment conferences.

RECOMMENDED that SACRE members make and agree a proposal on the future of student conferences.

11 SACRE Membership and Elections

**RECOMMENDED (1) that SACRE membership for groups A, B and C members are renewed for from this date for a period of 4 years.
(2) that nominations are given to the clerk before the next scheduled meeting, for the election of chair and vice-chair.**

12 Any Other Business

13 Date of next meeting and venues

Members of the public are now permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting or records those stating explicitly that they do not wish to be recorded. Guidance on the use of devices at meetings open to the public is available on the Council's website and posters on the wall of the meeting's venue.

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Agenda Item 5

PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 25 June 2014 at
4.30 pm at Portsmouth City Council's Civic Offices, in Ground Floor Meeting
Room 3.

Present

Group A Representatives

Peter Davies, The Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches (In the Chair)
Marilyn Leggett, The Salvation Army
Elizabeth Jenkerson, Baha'i Faith
Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union
Ruth Guyer, Judaism
Mr Syed Aminul Haque, Islam

Group B Representatives

Emily Fletcher, Anglican Diocese

Group C Representatives

Beverley Millsom, Special School Representative
Patrick Quirke, Secondary Teacher Representative
Sarah Sadler, Primary School Representative

Group D Representatives

Maria Cole, Portsmouth City Council

Co-opted Representatives

Sue Ganter

Also in Attendance

Sarah Long, Local Authority Representative
Peter Smith-Parkyn, Democratic Services
Pat Hannam, H.I.A.S. Inspector Adviser

13 Welcome and Introduction (AI 1)

The chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

14 Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

There were no interests declared.

15 Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 3)

Peter Davies led the moment of reflection with his musings over the use of the word "thankfulness", indicating that it is often misused and reserved for special occasions. Peter suggested that thankfulness should be used all the time, with, as Peter put it 'every day being thankful'.

16 Apologies for Absence (AI 4)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Horne, Councillor Lynne Stagg and also Sandra Gibbs, Juliette Shaw, Sue Vigar-Taylor, Jane Lewis, Renuka Vyas, Taki Jaffer, Paula Withers, Rachel McKeever, John Spiegelhalter and Brian Hay.

17 Any items for AOB (AI 5)

The following items were raised to be discussed later in the meeting;

- a) Peter Davies - SACRE Network meetings
- b) Maria Cole - Civic Services
- c) Patrick Quirke - His replacement on SACRE
- d) Peter Davies - The co-opting of former SACRE member

18 Minutes of the Previous Meetings held on 12 March 2013 (AI 6)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

The minutes of the SACRE meeting were reviewed, with two amendments in the apologies for absence, the inclusion of Emily Fletcher and the removal of Jane Lewis, as Jane Lewis was present.

Minute 6 (b) in the first paragraph to include "at the synagogue" after the words "five teachers".

Minute 9 in paragraph seven, correction of "St. Culham" to "Culham St. Gabriel's".

Minute 9 in paragraph eight, correction in that it is Elizabeth Jenkerson who declared an interest with Westhill, not Ruth Guyer.

Incorporating these amendments, it was proposed by Ruth Guyer and seconded by Elizabeth Jenkerson that the minutes be agreed as a correct record.

Resolved that the minutes were approved subject to the amendments above.

19 Matters Arising (AI 7)

(a) Minute No 6 c - RE Boxes

Sarah Long explained that she is consulting with the Local Authority about giving the RE Boxes a web presence on its website. Sarah also confirmed that Peter Davies's 2013 Student Enrichment Conference presentation is on the website.

Sarah Long asked SACRE members again for further information about each of the contents of the RE boxes. It would be very welcome and could provide more support for the teachers who use them

(b) Minute No 6 d - Information sharing

The clerk tabled details of the previous two years of GCSE Religious Education results for Portsmouth Schools. Concern was raised as to whether this information should be public or not. SACRE therefore agreed to return all copies pending confirmation on the status of the information.

RESOLVED that the: Clerk confirms the status of previous RE GCSE results and reports back to SACRE.

20 Finance Sub Committee Minutes held on 12 March 2014 and 14 May 2014 (AI 8)

SACRE members reviewed the minutes of the Finance sub-committee of the 14 May 2014. Elizabeth Jenkerson questioned the comment on page 8, stating that role of SACRE is monitor as set out in 2010 guidance, contrary to the statement in the minutes. Concern was expressed that SACRE needs to be careful to be a critical friend to assist teachers and schools and not be seen as a body that would prevent schools working with SACRE.

An amendment to the first paragraph on page 9, changing Culham to Westhill was also requested.

RESOLVED that subject to the amendments above the finance sub-committee minutes be approved.

21 Planned Projected Budget Expenditure for 2014/15 (AI 9)

Following concerns previously raised by SACRE members, it was agreed that the SACRE budget be detailed showing planned spending commitments and priorities.

SACRE members noted the planned spending priorities.

Members of SACRE reiterated that it would be useful to invite again the Council's finance officer to help explain the SACRE budget and accounting.

Patricia Hannam commented on the suggestion that she run a secondary school 'conference', that it might be more useful to run it as a 'course' instead.

22 Student Enrichment Day on July 3rd 2014 - Sue Ganter to report on developments so far (AI 10)

Sue Ganter reported to SACRE her disappointment that only six out of the nine schools are expected to attend the conference, currently equating to 80 students.

Some key factors impacting on delivering the conference are;

- Permissions for students to attend not being obtained;
- A clash with a Geography field trip
- KS3 exams have moved

Sue Ganter expressed her disappointment with these issues, especially given the fact that schools have known about the conference since January.

Sue suggested that in order to reach the numbers desired, that the offer to attend the conference could be extended to other schools, to include Year 6 students. It was noted however that this would not allow much time for schools to prepare and gather associated permissions.

Elizabeth Jenkerson noted that it would perhaps be prudent to highlight that part of the conference includes representatives from professional undertakers, which might be a concern to some parents.

Sue Ganter expressed her hope that the teachers would prepare their students and that both pupils and teachers will be encouraged to ask questions on the day and if possible, given the short notice, submit questions in advance.

SACRE members are welcome to come along and help on the day of the conference and bring their cameras.

Sue Ganter further suggested that it might be useful to provide more advice to the workshop contributors, including holding meetings before the conference.

Sue Ganter informed members that she estimates that so far she has spent 125 hours working on the conference. Even with the help of EMAS providing basic administration, for which she is grateful, this still amounts to a lot of work. Patrick Quirke added that when he ran the conference, his head teacher allowed him to use the school's admin staff, and supported Sue's position that it would be a very difficult task for one person to do alone.

The discussion then moved on to whether there will be a 2015 student conference. Sue Ganter suggested that a future conference could perhaps be extended to include South East Hampshire and Years 7,8 and 9.

It was noted that it would be too late to apply for a suitable grant from NASACRE/Westhill and the deadline for grant applications from Culham St. Gabriel's is in September.

Peter Davies suggested that the clerk canvass opinions from SACRE members by email on the future of the Student Conference and that this be placed on the November agenda as a main discussion item.

RESOLVED that the Clerk
o emails members of SACRE for their opinions on future Student
Conferences and;
(2) to add as a main agenda item for the November meeting "Future of
the Student Conference"

23 SACRE Website (AI 11)

The Chair, Peter Davies reported that at present, SACRE has a web presence thanks to EMAS but, at this time have not progressed any further with its own.

24 RE Twilight (AI 12)

Beverley Millsom reported the last RE Twilight took place on 10 June 2014 at Flying Bull School and seven teachers attended. Ms Millsom further commented on the very informative presentation they received at this event, which was well received by all.

Beverley Millsom thanked SACRE for the substitute days. Details of the next 3 network meetings will be circulated

25 School Visits - with Patricia Hannam (AI 13)

Patricia Hannam reported on the four school visits so far to Portsmouth schools.

Comments:

- Teaching in Portsmouth: what she has seen so far is good and SACRE need not be worried.
- Only one of the four schools was concerned by the visit; all schools showed a willingness to understand and improve.
- Possible inclusion of Portsmouth on the new revision of the "agreed syllabus" with Hampshire in 2015/16
- Patricia Hannam proposed her four recommendations to SACRE for their consideration as follows;
 - That a monitoring sub-group is convened by SACRE to meet twice a year to receive the confidential monitoring reports and discuss GCSE results
 - That the other secondary schools in Portsmouth are visited during the autumn term and further reports are brought to future SACRE meetings
 - That secondary and primary schools are invited to training sessions on LDR11
 - That SACRE write to all schools, primary, secondary and academies, reminding them of their statutory duty to teach RE.
- Patricia Hannam explained that new grades were being introduced (i.e. A* - G is being replaced by a numerical system, with 7 = A and 4 = 4)

Peter Davies and Portsmouth SACRE thanked Patricia Hannam for her work and report.

26 Any other business (AI 14)

a) SACRE Networking Meetings

Elizabeth Jenkerson reported that she had attended a NASACRE meeting recently, with Stephen Lloyd as the main speaker who impressed her with his knowledge. Similarly, Patricia Hannam who also attended said the meeting, proved to be of great value.

b) Co-opting proposal

It was proposed by Sue Ganter and seconded by Geoff Wheeler, that following the requirement by law of the resignation of Patrick Quirke, that he be co-opted on to SACRE. Following a constitutional discussion it was agreed in principle but will be subject to an email vote that will be arranged by the Clerk.

Maria Cole also wished to add that this may be her last meeting as the Council representative due to the recent Local Council Elections. Everyone agreed that Maria would continue to be welcome to both receive the details of future meetings of SACRE and attend should she cease to be an appointed member.

RESOLVED:

(1) that the Clerk email voting members concerning the proposal to co-opt Patrick Quirke on to SACRE

(2) that the Clerk continue to send details of SACRE meetings to Maria Cole should she cease being one of the Council's representatives.

c) Civic Services and events

It was suggested by Maria Cole that members of SACRE might benefit by receiving details of Portsmouth's civic services and events throughout the year and this was agreed.

RESOLVED: that the clerk find out about these events and circulates them by email to all SACRE members.

27 Date of the next Meeting (AI 15)

SACRE members noted that the next meeting will be on Wednesday 12 November 2014 at 4:30pm. It is hoped that this meeting of SACRE can be held at a faith venue to be confirmed.

28 Suggested Dates for 2014/15 Meetings (AI 16)

The following dates were agreed, with the venues still to be confirmed

- Wednesday 12 November 2014
- Wednesday 11 March 2015
- Wednesday 17 June 2015

Meeting concluded at 6:16pm.

Chair

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SACRE Budget 2014-15

Updated: 28/10/14

2014-2015				
Date	Description	Income £	Outgoings £	Balance £
01/04/13	Starting Balance			2,000.00
01/04/14	Money carried forward from 2013/14 income	1,712.00		3,712.00
23/04/14	Patricia Hannan HCC monitoring visit Priory School 09/05/14 PO NO: 2786718 (Raised by R Giles)		350.00	3,362.00
06/05/14	NASACRE grant for 2014 conference	2,500.00		5,862.00
06/05/14	Patricia Hannan HCC attendance at Summer Term SACRE meeting PO NO: 2787796 (Raised by R Giles)		300.00	5,562.00
30/07/14	Sue Ganter PO: 2800078 £315 paid in 2013/14 budget Total of £2,500 to S Ganter for 2014 Student Conf.		2,185.00	3,377.00
April	3 days supply for B Millsom Networking preparation		480.00	2,897.00
June	Pat Hannam visits to City Boys		350.00	2,547.00
July	Pat Hannam visits to Miltoncross PO: 2792248		350.00	2,197.00
2014/15	Pat Hamnam? Sec School Conference		350.00	1,847.00
Spring 2015	Governors training		250.00	1,597.00
Aug-14	Primary Curriculum Development (inc 2 days supply costs)		400.00	1,197.00
18/06/14	Annual subscription to NASACRE PO: 2794510		95.00	1,102.00
30/07/14	Reimbursement of creche costs for SACRE conference		19.25	1,082.75
27/10/14	Pat Hannam visit to King Richard School PO to be raised		350.00	732.75
				732.75
				732.75
	Total income	4,212.00		
	Total outgoing		5,479.25	
	Balance			732.75

In Summary:

Items in red are planned expenditure

Items highlighted in green have been processed via finance

Note:
There is £2,199.15 of planned expenditure (items currently showing in red).
Taking into account this planned expenditure, SACRE have £732.75 in the budget to spend in 2014/15.

If the planned expenditure does not happen, this amount and any unspent budget will be returned to the LA.
Currently this totals: £2,932.00

No monies can be carried forward on this account to 2015/16

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Agenda Item 9

Diversity

Portsmouth SACRE RE Enrichment Day 3rd July 2014

Summary Report on Event



Funded by NASACRE / Westhill Trust, Portsmouth SACRE held a one day RE Student Enrichment Conference, themed 'Diversity'. Year 9 & 10 students from across the city enjoyed interactive workshops led by excellent voluntary contributors from a range of faiths and relevant contexts. They met 'real people' not polished, professional presenters – but believers willing to engage openly with issues and questions, including Muslim women, funeral directors and a range of Christians, some of whom shared workshops with Orthodox Jews (real diversity experienced!). Portsmouth College (16-19) generously provided the venue and several SACRE members and volunteers supported.

This was an opportunity for students to extend their learning experience outside the inevitable constraints of the classroom, taking some responsibility for their own learning and spiritual and moral development. Most have opted for GCSE but this is not a restriction. Teachers prepared students in advance and will follow up in the classroom, to maximise the learning impact and disseminate the positive experiences. Students were organised in groups from different schools to give them a chance to meet diverse people, engage with new ideas from their peers, glimpse college life, and encourage the sharing of experiences back in school. The day started with a stimulating, lively and noisy welcome session to break the ice and ended with an interesting Q&A Plenary, rounds of applause and gifts of superb flowers for contributors, donated by the Southern Cooperative Florist.

Organising did not go entirely according to plan! More than one workshop contributor couldn't confirm at the last moment and numbers fell: 180 students were booked from 9 schools, but several had to pull out or reduce numbers at the last minute, for reasons such as changes to KS3 exams or staff. The planned 10 workshops were cut to 8; eventually 80 students from 6 diverse schools attended.

Despite the last minute crises, the conference itself was very successful. All participants are asked to complete Evaluations, used to improve the event each year and in funding bids. Asked how the day had enriched their RE, the vast majority of students (the most important respondents!) had positive comments about improved knowledge, insights and the fun they had:

'We could ask whatever questions we wanted rather than being worried'

'It was very interesting & it was really good being able to talk to people from the different religions'

'Religion is wider than I thought'

Asked 'What can we improve next year?' 6 said 'nothing' and 8 wanted more workshops! 'Amazing' 'fun', and 'awesome' popped up; the compulsory teenage 'boring' proved their praise was honest!

The key question: Would you recommend that students from your school attend this event next year? 64 said 'yes'! 2 said 'no' and of the 5 'it depends', 2 asked for a particular workshop leader!

Anything else you would like to say? evoked lots of thanks and: *'Great day and I would love to see more'*

All contributors and 5 schools said they would participate again (1 awaited student feedback). Many contributors appreciated the opportunity and told how much they had got out of the day.

For a real flavour of the event, please refer to the Student Programme, including personal introductions from workshop leaders and / or my response to students regarding their Evaluations.

Sue Ganter

Portsmouth SACRE co-opted member and Enrichment Conference Organiser.

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Dear Students who attended the Portsmouth SACRE RE Enrichment Conference

I thought you might like to know that your Evaluations were worth completing – if the event runs next year, I will use them, as I did for this year! There were overwhelmingly positive comments about workshop leaders, how much knowledge you had gained & how useful & interesting it was to hear from real people, including some faiths or philosophies you had not met before.

A flavour of your answers:

In what ways did today enrich RE for you?

Opened my eyes to another view.

We could ask whatever questions we wanted rather than being worried.

It was very interesting & it was really good being able to talk to people from the different religions.

Better understanding of knowledge of different religions and the people we met were really informative and useful and made the day enjoyable.

☺ A lot of people said they had fun! ☺

What can we improve next year?

Nothing

All was amazing

More activities

More workshops*

Great day and I would love to see more

Perhaps a longer Q&A debate at the end

More variety of religions e.g. Hindu & Buddhist**

** More workshops were planned originally, but I had to cut down when some schools had to pull out at the last minute – there were 80 of you – there should have been 160!*

***Some Buddhists had expressed a strong interest but unfortunately could not make it.*

Would you recommend this event to students from your school?

YES 64 / NO 2 / DEPENDS 5 (2 mentioned getting Moses!)

Many workshop leaders were complimentary about the event and about you!

- Students were more than prepared to challenge any religious narrowness of view. ...students...were intelligent, insightful & in a few cases very articulate. It was very refreshing.
- Lovely to chat & be able to dispel myths, with younger people.
- Always a pleasant experience to be able to discuss our faith and organization with students & answer questions of theirs.
- I was not expecting that the students would have so much interest regarding religious beliefs
- My participation on the day was a great opportunity that I will never forget

Thank you for your helpful comments. I am contacting workshop leaders summarising your views & your feedback on their workshops. I will also report to Portsmouth SACRE and our funders this year – NASACRE and the Westhill Trust. Your comments may be used in bids for future funding. If you have more views about the Enrichment Day, please ask your teacher to pass them on to me.

Lots of you said 'thank you'.....I would like to thank *you* for your participation, interest & enthusiasm!

Best Wishes and Good Luck with your future studies

Sue Ganter

Portsmouth SACRE RE Enrichment Conference Organiser 2014

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