

**PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 23 March 2016 at  
4.30 pm in Mayfield School, Mayfield Road, Portsmouth.

**Present**

**Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations  
reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area  
(Group A Representatives)**

Elizabeth Jenkerson, Baha'i Faith (In the Chair)  
Ruth Guyer, Judaism (Vice Chair)  
Syed Aminul Haque, Islam  
Marilyn Leggett, The Salvation Army  
Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union  
Renuka Vyas, Hinduism

**Representatives of the Church of England  
(Group B Representatives)**

Abigail Eales, Anglican Diocese  
Brian Hay, Anglican Diocese

**Teachers representing the various key stages and an association  
recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and  
negotiation  
(Group C Representatives)**

Eleanor Assinder  
Beverley Millsom  
Sandra Gibb

**Representatives of the Authority, at least two of whom shall be elected  
members of the Authority  
(Group D Representatives)**

Councillor Neill Young  
Taki Jaffer

**Also in Attendance**

Linda Jacobs, Professional Adviser, PCC  
Peter Smith-Parkyn, clerk, Democratic Services, PCC

**1 Welcome and Introduction**

The Chair welcomed everybody and thanked Eleanor Assinder for the use of her classroom and school to hold this meeting.

Linda Jacobs informed members of SACRE that she will be leaving Portsmouth City Council in July 2016.

## **2 Moment for Quiet Reflection**

Councillor Neill Young first explained that he is Portsmouth City Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Education, meaning he is responsible for education in the city.

Councillor Young said he was impressed with the outstanding work taking place throughout the city and its schools confirming the importance of exploration of spiritual and emotional development for children and young people in a safe environment.

Councillor Young expressed his personal sadness at the terrifying recent events and loss of life in Belgium and led SACRE in a moment of quiet reflection to think about all those affected at this difficult time.

## **3 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received on behalf of Honorary Alderman Tom Blair; Peter Davies; Jane Lewis and Reverend Alice Wood.

## **4 Declaration of Interests**

Elizabeth Jenkerson declared an interest in that she is on the selection board for Westhill grants.

Councillor Neill Young declared that he is the Cabinet member for Children and Education for Portsmouth City Council.

## **5 Minutes of the Previous Meetings held on 17 June 2015 and 11 November 2015**

**RESOLVED that**

- (1) the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2015 are a correct record; and**
- (2) the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2015 are a correct record, subject to a correction in Minute 31 to record . that Reverend Alice Wood was previously the headteacher of St Albans School, not Leigh Park Primary School. .**

## **6 Matters Arising**

### **(a) Minute No 21 - Updates (Primary Network meeting)**

Beverley Millsom confirmed that the Primary Network meeting took place and would like to express her thanks to Taki Jaffer, a sentiment echoed by Elizabeth Jenkerson.

## **7 Brief updates or notification of items to be brought to a future meeting**

None.

## 8 Brief updates of notable matters

Elizabeth Jenkerson reported on the following items;

### (a) SACRE Hub

Elizabeth reported on the value of meeting with other SACRE representatives and representatives from the University of Winchester. It is expected that at the next SACRE HUB meeting the guest speaker will be Adam Dinham, Professor of Faith & Public Policy and Director of the Faiths and Civil Society Unit, Goldsmiths, University of London.

### (b) Primary and Secondary Conference

Elizabeth reported that the next Primary Conference is on 27 May 2016 and the next Secondary Conference is on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Should any members of SACRE wish to attend, please contact Elizabeth Jenkerson.

### (c) Youth Voice

Youth voice premise is to give young people a forum to feed back their views on religious education, both the syllabus and teaching. These young people then feed their views back to their respective schools. It is understood that Hampshire currently operates Youth Voice and Portsmouth SACRE is asked to consider the viability of either setting up our own version or seeking to join with Hampshire.

A discussion took place about asking Portsmouth pupils firstly whether they would welcome this opportunity and secondly about the logistics of being given time out of school and cost. A suggestion by Councillor Young was to seek the views of an already established youth organisation, such as COPS (Council of Portsmouth Students).

Sandra Gibb agreed to contact COPS for this purpose.

### (d) Talk by Charles Clarke

Elizabeth Jenkerson suggested that SACRE members read Charles Clarke's "New settlement" as a fascinating insight in the potential direction of SACREs.

### (e) NASACRE AGM

Elizabeth Jenkerson reported that she will be attending the next NASACRE AGM on 17 May 2016.

### (f) Southampton document

Elizabeth Jenkerson, who is also a member of Southampton SACRE, reported that she has had sight of Southampton's draft advice document on the subject of religious dress in schools. Elizabeth considered that this information document once finalised, would be of interest to both Portsmouth schools and SACRE members.

Once the Southampton advice document is publically available, the clerk will circulate to SACRE members.

Elizabeth added that she had recently seen a number of rough cut versions of short films by Southampton Solent University, about two young people talking about their daily lives within the context of their religion.

Linda Jacobs added that she had recently seen a wonderful film by St. George's beneficial school entitled "Coming to the UK". The clerk agreed to circulate the link to SACRE members.

**RESOLVED that the updates and actions be noted.**

## **9 GCSE Results**

Linda Jacobs reported that on the whole outcomes appear to be on an upward trend. A sub-committee will be meeting in due course to analyse the results in greater detail and will report back to a future SACRE meeting their findings.

## **10 Updates on recent Ofsted visits to Portsmouth Schools**

Elizabeth Jenkerson reported that recent inspections on a number of Portsmouth schools had been mostly positive, with some improvements being made. Two schools that had received particularly favourable comments for RE were St Swithun's Catholic Primary and Cottage Grove Primary School.

## **11 Support for SACRE**

Linda Jacobs explained the support for RE information provided is a result of agreed discussions with Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS), particularly Patricia Hannam and Justine Ball.

Elizabeth Jenkerson said she felt that SACRE representatives would benefit from a briefing on the new Agreed Syllabus, in order to facilitate its launch, on the understanding it is approved.

SACRE members asked whether it was possible to identify the versions of RE Syllabus Portsmouth schools are using ahead of the expected launch of the revised syllabus.

**RESOLVED that SACRE ask all Portsmouth schools what RE syllabus they are using.**

## **12 Role of SACRE members and reporting**

The clerk explained the importance of both maintaining the details available to schools (The SACRE directory) and individual groups reporting back to their respective organisations. Members are also asked to give consideration towards succession planning or at least ensure others within their own organisations are aware of SACRE and its role and function.

Elizabeth Jenkerson offered to send a letter on behalf of SACRE to all organisations within the SACRE directory to seek confirmation of current details and offer to update, where requested.

**RESOLVED to invite all SACRE members and faith groups to advise the clerk of any updated information.**

### **13 Dates of future meetings**

**RESOLVED** that the following future meeting dates be agreed

- **Wednesday 8 June 2016**
- **Wednesday 5 October 2016**
- **Wednesday 1 March 2017**
- **Wednesday 7 June 2017**

The meeting concluded at 6:25pm.

Chair