

PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Thursday 6 October 2016 at
5.30 pm in Conference Room A, Civic Offices, 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)

Peter Davies, The Fellowship of Independent

Evangelical Churches

Marilyn Leggett, The Salvation Army

Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union

Representatives of the Church of England

(Group B Representatives)

Rev. Jane Ball, Anglican Diocese

Brian Hay, Anglican Diocese

Abigail Eales, 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)

Beverley Millsom, Special School Representative

Eleanor Assinder, Secondary Teacher Representative

Sarah Sadler, Primary School Representative

Sandra Gibb, Primary School Representative

Representatives of the Authority, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the Authority

(Group D Representatives)

Councillor Ryan Brent

Councillor Suzy Horton

Councillor David Tompkins

Also in Attendance

Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director for Education

Stephen Horsman, Professional Adviser, PCC

Patricia Hannam, Hampshire Inspection and Advisory
Service (HIAS)

Captain Teresa Everett (The Salvation Army)

Sarah Coote (Quaker, Religious Society of Friends)

Peter Smith-Parkyn, Clerk, Democratic Services, PCC

43 Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting, which started late due to the longer than anticipated Agreed Syllabus Conference held immediately before this meeting.

44 Moment for Quiet Reflection

Stephen Horsman led the moment of quiet reflection by circulating a poem. Each line expressed inspirational concepts and each person present read one line in turn. The Group contemplated the effect of changing the emphasis of each line from "you/someone" to "me /I".

45 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Honorary Alderman Tom Blair; Councillor Neill Young, Reverend Alice Wood, Ruth Guyer, Siôn Reynolds and Renuka Vyas.

46 Declaration of Interests

Elizabeth Jenkerson declared a non-prejudicial interest in that she is on the selection board for Westhill grants.

47 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 5 July 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to the addition that apologies were received on behalf of Geoff Wheeler.

48 Matters Arising

(a) Minute No 21 - RE News Letter

The clerk reported that RE News Letter can be circulated to members of SACRE on the understanding that it is not shared, as SACRE pay for this subscription.

(b) Minute 25 - Religious Education Syllabus Steering Group Sub-Committee

The clerk reported the sub-committee comprises of Elizabeth Jenkerson, Ruth Guyer, Abigail Eales, Beverley Millsom and Councillor Ryan Brent.

Patricia Hannam informed members that there will be a Living Difference III launch in Hampshire on 8 December 2016.

49 Brief updates or notification of items to be brought to a future meeting

The following items were reported:

(a) Upcoming NASACRE AGM

Elizabeth reported that the next NASACRE AGM is expected to be held in York on 16 May 2017.

(b) Question on provision of guidance of approved absence from school on the grounds of religious observance

The clerk reported that this matter has been highlighted following a request from a member of the public for the Council to provide

information on the number of occurrences schools have approved absence on the grounds of religious observance. Stephen Horsman confirmed that he will be looking into the matter and will bring a report to a future meeting for SACRE to consider.

(c) SACRE members were asked to note the new user ID and password for the NASACRE website, previously circulated.

(d) The suggested reading/debating items identified in the latest NASACRE briefing circular was drawn to the attention of SACRE members, with the main items being:

- a. Open letter to Justine Greening MP
- b. Tell MAMA report
- c. All Parliamentary Party Group (APPG) Report on Religious Literacy
- d. The Religious Education Council (REC) launches independent Commission on RE

(e) School Uniform - Guidance

It is understood that Southampton SACRE have started on provision of a draft guidance on this matter and Elizabeth Jenkerson suggested that Portsmouth SACRE consider this also at a future meeting.

(f) Mayfield Secondary School - Ofsted inspection

Eleanor Assinder reported that Mayfield school had recently been inspected by Ofsted and achieved a Good rating, up from their previous rating.

(g) Music Hub - Christmas Celebrations

Beverley Millsom agreed to provide to the clerk for circulation the details of this year's Christmas celebrations.

The updates were noted.

50 Decision of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)

It was noted the ASC agreed the revision of the new syllabus, entitled "Living Difference III" and the syllabus will be put for consideration by the Cabinet member for Education at Portsmouth City Council for formal ratification and endorsement.

51 Annual Report 2015/16

The draft Annual Report 2015/16 was presented by Stephen Horsman, having finalised the draft from the previous professional adviser.

It was proposed by Peter Davies and seconded by Brian Hay, that the Annual Report, subject to minor editing by the Chair and Professional Adviser and the inclusion of the Chair's Introduction be approved.

It was agreed that

(1) the Annual Report 2015/16 be approved (subject to minor amendments, delegated to the Chair and Professional Adviser) and;

(2) the Clerk circulates the final version to those listed in Appendix D of the report.

52 Extracts of Recent OFSTED inspections reports (relating to RE and SMSC [Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development])

There were no updates at this time.

Patricia Hannam informed SACRE that OFSTED takes extremely seriously a schools' promotion of children and young people SMSC development in the formulation of the overall judgement of a school's effectiveness.

53 Term of Office - Chair and Vice-Chair

The clerk informed SACRE members that the term of office for both the Chair and Vice-chair is up for renewal as they will each have served 2 years by the time of the next meeting.

Both Elizabeth Jenkerson (Chair) and Ruth Guyer (Vice-Chair) indicated that they would be standing down.

SACRE members were invited to contact the clerk to register their interest and/or to enquire about either of these roles.

54 Date and venue of the next meeting

The next scheduled meeting of SACRE is Wednesday 1 March 2017 (venue to be decided) starting at 4:30pm.

The meeting concluded at 6:20pm.

Chair