

PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Thursday 1 March 2017 at
4.30 pm in Ground Floor Meeting Room 5, Portsmouth Civic Offices.

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)

Peter Davies, The Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union

Sarah Coote, The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Representatives of the Church of England

(Group B Representatives)

Rev. Jane Ball, 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)

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 Neill Young

Councillor David Tompkins

Also in Attendance

Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director for Education

Patricia Hannam, Professional Advisor (Hampshire
Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS))

Peter Smith-Parkyn, Clerk, Democratic Services, PCC

1 Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2 Moment for Quiet Reflection

Brian Hay led the moment of quiet reflection with a brief explanation of Anglicanism, the importance and meaning of Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent.

3 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Honorary Alderman Tom Blair; Reverend Alice Wood, Siôn Reynolds, Captain Teresa Everett, Syed Aminul Haque, Sue Bowen, Beverley Millsom and Councillor Suzy Horton

4 Declaration of Interests

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

5 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 6 October 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to the addition that Jane Lewis was in attendance.

6 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

7 Chair's announcements

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. Members were invited to express their interest if they wish to attend. Funding for travel only was confirmed to be available.

(b) All Parliamentary Party Group (APPG)

Elizabeth reported that APPG was quite active a few years ago and is encouraged to hear about their interim report on Religious Literacy. Elizabeth also informed members of SACRE that the focus of APPG for this coming period is working with the business community.

(c) RE publications and teachers' packs from the RE Centre

Elizabeth brought in a number of RE publications and teacher packs for SACRE members to view.

The updates were noted.

8 Monitoring of the Agreed Syllabus

Patricia Hannam confirmed that one of the first newly appointed monitoring sub-committee meetings shall review their Terms of Reference, which shall be brought to the next full meeting of SACRE for ratification and endorsement.

Patricia confirmed that the one of the purposes of monitoring sub-committee will be to meet SACRE's statutory duty to monitor Religious Education. The

sub-committee shall consist of a least one representative from each group on SACRE (including the Chair and Vice-Chair). The sub-committee will be able to review sensitive information frankly and shall provide a written report of their findings at a next full SACRE meeting.

The monitoring sub-committee shall also discuss and direct monitoring visits to schools, of which all members of SACRE shall be able to be a part of, not just those appointed to the sub-committee. Patricia confirmed that funding has made provision for four school visits for 2017/18. Patricia also confirmed that it is important that monitoring visits is working with schools that monitoring reports will always be shared with the relevant Headteacher.

On the questions of which schools will be selected to visit and whether Academies should be included for planned monitoring visits. There was general consensus that both schools who demonstrate good practice and those schools in need for improvement will be selected, to allow for the widest spectrum of data to be gathered. There was also a desire to include Academies in monitoring visits (particularly if they are using Living Difference III), keeping both Academies involved and looking towards the future of possibly having no non-academy schools. It was noted that Roman Catholic schools would not be included.

The Chair sought volunteers to sit on the monitoring sub-committee, with only Group B representative short, the clerk would contact all Group B representatives and will advise at the next meeting.

It was agreed that

- (1) the Monitoring sub-committee will meet and provide their Terms of Reference to the next full meeting of SACRE for approval and;**
- (2) the Monitoring sub-committee provide a written summarised report of their reviews to SACRE and;**
- (3) the report of any school visit will be shared, for comment, by the relevant headteacher of the school visited and;**
- (4) the following members be appointed to the Monitoring sub-committee Elizabeth Jenkerson (Group A), Sarah Sadler (Group C), Councillor Neill Young (Group D) and both the Chair and Vice-Chair be ex-officio.**
- (5) The clerk seek and report back on the Group B vacancy**

9 Report regarding the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus

Patricia Hannam reported that a number briefing sessions being held both in Portsmouth and outside of Portsmouth have been arranged. After a short discussion, it was agreed that Mike Stoneman and Patricia Hannam would work together to ensure we have full coverage of all Portsmouth schools.

It was agreed that Mike Stoneman and Patricia Hannam will liaise to ensure full coverage of the Living Difference III syllabus.

10 Update on the National Position of Religious Education

Patricia Hannam report to SACRE that the RE Council have funding for their review on legal, education and policy frameworks for Religious Education, of which it is expected that their interim report will be published at the end of 2017, with the final report being published 2018.

SACRE members expressed their interest and look forward to the seeing report.

Resolved that

- (1) the update be noted and;**
- (2) Patricia Hannam will provide the clerk for circulation the links to the 3 key reports "Westminster Faith Debate", "Wolf report" and Professor Adan Dinham's report.**

11 Religious Education, the wider curriculum and engagement with parents

Patricia Hannam shared copies of the Southampton document entitled "Advice for schools and community groups". Patricia further explained that Portsmouth SACRE may wish to consider producing its own version as the demographics of Portsmouth is different from that of Southampton. The Southampton document may be useful as a template. Patricia stressed that whilst the guidance document is helpful, each situation should be resolved on a "case-by-case" basis.

Resolved that

- (1) the Clerk circulate to all members of SACRE the Southampton guidance document and;**
- (2) the Monitoring sub-committee consider the matter of producing our own version of a guidance document.**

12 South Central HUB

Elizabeth reported that teachers have the free opportunity to attend Winchester for the Reading and Research Group on 30 March 2017 at 5pm (until 6:30pm). Subjects to be covered are: Hinduism and culture and talk on Christian ethics. Elizabeth confirmed that teachers may gain University credits towards their Master's degree by attending.

Resolved that the update be noted.

13 Updates or notifications from Members of SACRE

Members expressed their disappointment at not hearing about the Christmas service.

Resolved that the Clerk to contact the Music Hub and to ensure all SACRE members are informed of the details of Christmas Service.

14 Date and venue of next meeting (include schedule for 2017/18)

Sarah Sadler tentatively offered Highbury Primary School as the venue of the next meeting scheduled for the 7 June 2017, starting at 4:30pm.

Resolved that the Clerk contact the school and confirm arrangements

15 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Councillor Neill Young was proposed as Chair and Councillor Ryan Brent was proposed as Vice Chair, upon a vote both were elected to the positions respectively.

Councillor Neill Young proposed sincere thanks to both Elizabeth Jenkerson and Ruth Guyer for their hard work and dedication as the retiring Chair and Vice Chair. SACRE member whole-heartily agreed and shared their thanks also.

Councillor Neill Young explained that his background covered working for various not-for-profit organisations. Further for his dissertation for his degree in Journalism was on Religious broadcasting and is an active member of his local church.

Councillor Ryan Brent explained that he is a teacher at Portsmouth College and undertakes one-to-one mentoring for troubled children.

Resolved that

- (1) Councillor Neill Young is elected as Chair of SACRE for the period of 2 years and**
- (2) Councillor Ryan Brent is elected as Chair of SACRE for the period of 2 years and**
- (3) It is placed on record SACRE's sincere thanks to both the retiring Chair Elizabeth Jenkerson and Vice Chair Ruth Guyer for their dedication and hard work during their term of office.**

The meeting concluded at 5:47pm.

Chair