

# **PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 11 March 2015 at  
4.30 pm Al Mahdi Mosque, Fareham.

## **Present**

### **Group A Representatives**

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

### **Group B Representatives**

Graeme Stewart, Anglican Diocese  
Brian Hay, Anglican Diocese

### **Group C Representatives**

Siôn Reynolds, TLP  
Sandra Gibb, Primary School Representative  
Eleanor Assinder, Secondary Teacher Representative  
Beverley Millsom, Special School Representative

### **Group D Representatives**

Taki Jaffer, Portsmouth City Council

### **Also in Attendance**

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

## **1 Welcome and Introduction**

The chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and expressed his thanks to the Imam for giving SACRE use of the venue. Thanks were also given to the ladies who prepared refreshments.

## **2 Moment for Quiet Reflection**

The Imam Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato led the moment of reflection in Arabic and English reciting a story about Moses, or Mûsâ with the moral of the story being to unburden yourself of prejudices, bias and hatred.

## **3 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Neill Young, Jane Lewis and Flick Drummond.

## **4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 12 November 2014**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.**

## **5 Matters Arising**

### **(a) Minute No 35a - SACRE website**

Sarah Long reported that a new website for EMAS, is being developed but is not yet complete. Sarah however, reassured the Council that SACRE content is still available online.

### **(b) Minute No 37 South Central HUB Meeting on 7 November 2014**

Beverly Millsom apologised that she had not been able to attend due to her school undergoing an Ofsted inspection.

## **6 Portsmouth School Visits**

Patricia Hannam, the Hampshire County Inspector Adviser RE/History presented her report on her visits to five of Portsmouth's secondary schools.

Patricia commented that she witnessed a range of good practice and teaching and that Portsmouth SACRE does not have any concerns at this time. It was however noted that with the initial introduction of Living Difference Revised 2011 (LDR2011), there had been little or no teacher training, which the new 2016 review can address.

Patricia noted that good teaching of Religious Education when seen in schools appears to be connected with that school having a strong Strategic Leadership Team (SLT)

Patricia advised the Council of the recommendations set out in the report as follows:-

Recommendation 1 - That a monitoring sub-group is convened by Portsmouth SACRE to meet twice a year to receive the confidential monitoring reports, review Ofsted reports mentioning RE and discuss GCSE Data.

The following people volunteered to form the monitoring sub-group; Eleanor Assinder; Elizabeth Jenkerson; Beverley Millsom; Ruth Guyer and Sarah Long. It was agreed that Elizabeth Jenkerson would chair the sub-group.

Patricia suggested that the sub-group could visit schools with a "Good" or "Outstanding" Ofsted rating, i.e. those demonstrating good practice.

Recommendation 2 - That a programme of monitoring the effectiveness of RE in Portsmouth primary schools is established during the next academic year in readiness for the implementation of a new agreed syllabus later in 2016.

This was agreed subject to the budget necessary to deliver this being available.

Recommendation 3 - That Secondary and Primary schools are invited to a training session on the revised LDR11.

This was agreed and will take place (as in Recommendation 5) when the teachers who complete the revision of the LDR are then enabled, with the support of the Hants Inspector, to run a series of CPD opportunities for Portsmouth teachers

Recommendation 4 - That SACRE write to all schools, with a slightly different letter for primary and secondary as well as academies, reminding them of their statutory duty to teach RE.

The Council agreed that the Clerk be asked to draft the letters, in consultation with the relevant teacher representatives on behalf of Portsmouth SACRE. In addition to reminding schools of their statutory duty, it was suggested that following points are also included; that RE is has been given an increased level of value with Ofsted inspections; and that teaching of RE is pivotal with SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) development and the British Values agenda.

Recommendation 5 - That the teachers who are involved with the revision of LDR11 are enabled (possibly with the involvement of the County Inspector for RE in Hampshire) to run a sequence of CPD sessions in Portsmouth following the review to ensure that the new syllabus is well understood and embedded across the authority.

The Council approved of the concept of running a number of continuing professional development (CPD) sessions for teachers on the revised syllabus.

**RESOLVED that.**

- (1) Patricia Hannam be thanked for her work**
- (2) Members of SACRE who accompanied Patricia on her visits be thanked**
- (3) The report be noted and the five recommendations (taking into account the comments made by the Council) be adopted as set out below**
  - a. That a monitoring sub-group is convened by Portsmouth SACRE to meet twice a year to receive the confidential monitoring reports, review Ofsted reports mentioning RE and discuss GCSE Data
  - b. That a programme of monitoring the effectiveness of RE in Portsmouth primary schools is established during the next academic year in readiness for the implementation of a new agreed syllabus later in 2016.
  - c. That Secondary and Primary schools are invited to a training session on the revised LDR11.
  - d. That SACRE write to all schools, with a slightly different letter for primary and secondary as well as academies, reminding them of their statutory duty to teach RE.
  - e. That the teachers who are involved with the revision of LDR11 are enabled (possibly with the involvement of the County

Inspector for RE in Hampshire) to run a sequence of CPD sessions in Portsmouth following the review to ensure that the new syllabus is well understood and embedded across the authority.

**7 SACRE Accounts 2014/15 and Forecast of Planned Expenditure for 2015/16**

Sarah Long presented both the current accounts and forecast of expenditure for the coming year. Sarah explained that a number of activities had not taken place, and for various reasons this has resulted in an under-spend of £2,039 which is to be given back to the Local Authority. It is therefore expected, given that SACRE has had significant under-spends for the previous 3 years that the LA grant may be reduced. However it was possible that instead the grant may be used to fund directly the planned expenditure, with particular emphasis and priority on the syllabus review and implementation of the recommendations set out in agenda item 6.

**RESOLVED that the SACRE Accounts 2014/15 and Forecast Planned Expenditure for 2015/16 be noted.**

**8 SACRE Annual report**

Sarah Long presented the draft annual report to the Council, which had been previously circulated to all members. The Council were asked to provide any suggested amendments or comments in writing before the end of March 2015. Subject to anything being received, the Annual Report will be finalised and published early in April 2015.

**RESOLVED that the Annual Report is approved subject to minor revisions delegated to Sarah Long to implement and is published.**

**9 SACRE Draft Action Plan 2013-16**

Sarah Long presented the draft Action Plan.

**RESOLVED that the draft Action Plan be noted and adopted as the Portsmouth SACRE 2013/16 Action Plan.**

**10 RE Boxes - Update**

Sarah Long reported that the RE boxes have been loaned out at a steady rate over the first quarter of the year, which was encouraging. Sarah tabled the schedule of loans made to various schools, showing loans had been made on 49 separate occasions and covering a variety of faiths.

It was noted that a few Academies were using this resource which raised the possibility of co-opting an Academy representative on to SACRE.

**RESOLVED that the update be noted.**

**11 South Central HUB meeting - report**

Eleanor Assinder presented her report on her visit to the South Central Hub meeting to the Council. Eleanor reported that the event was smaller than expected with nine attendees but was well worth attending.

It was noted that the first meeting date mentioned in the first section "Research/Reading group with possible Masters Accreditation" should read "11 May" rather than "10 May".

**RESOLVED that Eleanor Assinder be thanked for attending and reporting back to SACRE.**

## **12 Election of SACRE Chair and Vice-Chair**

Peter Davies had informed the Council of his intention to stand down as the Chair of Portsmouth SACRE at the previous meeting and invited members to make nominations for his successor.

He said he had enjoyed his time as Chair of SACRE and reassured members that he will continue to serve as an ordinary member.

He thanked Ruth Guyer who has supported him as Vice-Chair throughout his term of office.

It was proposed by Peter Davies and seconded by Taki Jaffer that Elizabeth Jenkerson be the Chair, which was unanimously agreed.

It was proposed by Peter Davies and seconded by Elizabeth Jenkerson that Ruth Guyer be the Vice-Chair, which was unanimously agreed.

Taki Jaffer thanked Peter Davies for his dedication and leadership as SACRE chair, on behalf of all members of the Council.

**RESOLVED that;**

- (1) Elizabeth Jenkerson be elected as Chair of Portsmouth SACRE**
- (2) Ruth Guyer be re-elected as Vice-Chair of Portsmouth SACRE**
- (3) Peter Davies be thanked for his term in office as Chair**

## **13 Brief updates or notification of future agenda items**

Elizabeth Jenkerson informed the Council of an upcoming conference (3 September 2015) on the role of faith in British schools at the University of Winchester. It is sponsored by SEEFF (South East England Faiths Forum), the University of Winchester, and NASACRE. It is unknown at this time whether HIN (Hampshire Interfaith Network) will be a co-sponsor, but they are involved. The keynote speaker will be Alan Brine who recently retired as Ofsted official responsible for RE. There will be sessions specifically for SACRE members, school governors, and others. More information on this will be shared when available.

Ruth Guyer raised her concern that it had been reported elsewhere that a teacher had used newspaper articles as source material to teach about circumcision and Judaism. The Council agreed that it must remain vigilant to protect against such poor teaching practices and noted that no reports had

been received that this practice is taking place in Portsmouth.

Patricia Hannam said that in Hampshire it is their plan to create opportunities for both specialist and non-specialist RE teachers to meet with faith experts. This would enable participants to discuss matters that have been put to them or which they would like more information about in a safe and informal environment. Eleanor Assinder and Sandra Gibb agreed that they would welcome such an opportunity and added that it would be helpful to include questions on cultural as well as faith matters. Patricia Hannam agreed that it is important to distinguish between issues of culture and religion.

Patricia Hannam reminded the Council of the need to convene the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC), ahead of the next scheduled meeting. Members were also reminded that all members of Portsmouth SACRE are members of ASC and it is very important that the ASC meeting be quorate, with representatives from all groups in attendance.

#### **14 Date and venue of the next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 17 June 2015 at 4:30pm. Beverly Millsom suggested that Redwood Park School could be used as the venue for the next meeting. The clerk will confirm these arrangements once finalised.

The meeting concluded at 6:15pm.

Chair