

PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday, 3 March 2004 at 4.45 pm
at the Immanuel Baptist Church, Victoria Road North, Southsea.

Present

Group A Representatives

Julius Klein, Judaism
Jean Howarth, the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical
Churches
David Lewis, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Ted Parker, Salvation Army
Mrs Ephrat Miller-Foroughi, the Baha'i Faith
Dalbara Kalsi, Seikism
Christine MacMillan, United Reform Church
Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union
Mohamed Riyami, Islam

Group B Representatives

Reverend Oriel Alby
Brian Hay

Group C Representatives

Roger Bentote
Jane Love
Georgie Tüzemen

Group D Representatives

Councillor Malcolm Hey (Chairman)
Councillor David Stephen Butler

Co-opted Representatives

Sue Ganter
John Lance
Terry Carter
Patrick Quirke

Officers in Attendance

Clive Erricker, Hampshire Area Education Office
Judith Lowndes, Hampshire Area Education Office
Mike Johns, Portsmouth LEA
Teresa Deasy, Democratic Services, Portsmouth City
Council

1 Visit to Portsmouth Jami Mosque

The meeting was preceded by a visit to the Portsmouth Jami Mosque in Victoria Road North. Mr Badrus Zaman welcomed SACRE members to the mosque: he explained how prayers were conducted and generally how worshippers used the mosque.

2 Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Leo Madden and Alistair Thompson.

3 Minutes - 19 November 2003 (AI 2)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

Georgie Tüzemen advised that, minute number 4(b), should be amended to record that she had been appointed as an advanced skills teacher who specialises in teaching RE.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2003 be agreed as a correct record subject to the above amendment.

4 Matters Arising (AI 3)

(a) Minute Number 5 - SACRE Members Visits to Schools

Since the last meeting, the Secretary advised that she had not received any reports on school visits by members. The Chairman encouraged SACRE members to visit schools for collective worship sessions.

(b) Minute Number 11 - SACRE Budget

The Chairman reported that, following the SACRE request at the last meeting, he had investigated the matter of a budget for SACRE. He stated that there was a small sum allocated to SACRE for expenditure on specialist services provided by Hampshire County Council.

Members discussed this matter and it was felt that it would be useful for the Portsmouth SACRE to have a small budget which could be used fund miscellaneous expenses, such as the National Conference attended by Sue Ganter.

The Chairman commented that he would continue to press for a budget for the Portsmouth SACRE in addition to the £3-£4,000 allocated for consultancy fees.

5 National Conference on the Effectiveness of SACRE (AI 4)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Sue Ganter presented her report and commented that she had found attendance at the National Conference on behalf of SACRE to be a most useful experience.

Clive Erricker reported briefly on what had happened since the National Conference:

- The National Framework for RE was being written
- The launch date was September 2004
- The document provided non statutory guidance on the teaching of RE
- The National Framework would be published at the same time as the agreed syllabus, to be launched by Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council. The agreed syllabus would remain the legal document to be followed by schools in the three local LEAs and would be the basis on which Ofsted would inspect the quality of RE in those schools.

Clive pointed out that, in developing the agreed syllabus, the three SACREs were taking account of the national framework.

Graham Langtree, principal writer of the National Framework for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), would be addressing the representatives of the three SACREs at the agreed syllabus conference on 29 March.

Consultation would be taking place during May, June and July with various interested bodies. Graham Langtree had set 19 May as the date for consultation with SACREs. It was agreed that Mike Johns and Oriel Alby would attend as representatives of the Portsmouth SACRE.

Clive also mentioned that NASACRE would be holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 20 April. It was agreed that Patrick Quirke would attend on behalf of the Portsmouth SACRE.

SACRE members expressed their thanks to Sue Ganter for her excellent report and notes.

Resolved that the report be noted.

6 Governing Bodies and Statutory Requirements (AI 5)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Clive Erricker explained that Ofsted had changed the way inspections were carried out in schools. The statutory requirements for schools with regard to both collective worship and religious education, would now become a feature of satisfactory governance. This was not previously the case. Update 43 explained how judgements would be made as to when not satisfying a statutory requirement would or would not be deemed a matter of unsatisfactory governance

SACRE members considered that this was an important change and discussed the matter. Members stressed the importance of making governors aware of this new requirement. Mike Johns advised that he had been in touch with Andy Heaward of Governor Services and that he and Clive Erricker would be organising training sessions for governors to advise them of their responsibilities regarding religious education and the role of SACRE. Information on the new requirements with regard to collective worship would be incorporated into this training session.

ACTION

The Chairman would liaise with governor services and write to the chairs of all school governing bodies to draw their attention to the forthcoming training courses.

Resolved that the report be noted.

7 Excellence and Enjoyment (AI 6)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Judith Lowndes advised that, in September, the DfES had produced a document for primary schools entitled "Excellence and Enjoyment", a copy of which was provided at Appendix 4.

Resolved that the report be noted.

8 Interfaith Network Survey (AI 7)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Clive Erricker reported that the Interfaith Network had published a survey of local interface activity in the UK. The survey also included a booklet on good practice guidelines for interface structures and local government. The work of SACREs had been included in this publication and Portsmouth SACRE had responded to the questionnaire sent to SACREs as part of this survey. Clive Erricker added that he had ordered copies for each SACRE chairman. SACRE members could obtain copies of the guide from the Hampshire RE Centre in Winchester.

Resolved that the report be noted.

9 Virtual Tour of Southsea Synagogue (AI 8)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Clive Erricker showed members of SACRE a CD Rom showing a virtual tour of Southsea Synagogue. He said that the RE team had produced the virtual tour with the help of Julius Klein, of the Southsea Synagogue. The CD Rom and accompanying booklet by Judith Lowndes were intended for use in primary schools and was available to buy at a cost of £15 from the RE Centre.

Julius Klein commented that the production was visual rather than verbal and it was intended to stimulate children and to give them a taste of what went on at the synagogue.

Clive Erricker explained that this production was linked into what was being proposed in the revised RE syllabus. The production of the CD rom had been financed from Hampshire County Council's ICT budget. It was hoped to produce similar audio visual aids depicting other faiths and their places of worship. However, they would be looking for other sources of funding for future productions.

10 Dates of Next Meetings (AI 9)

(a) Next Meeting Wednesday 23 June 2004

It was agreed that this meeting would be held at 4.00 pm in Conference Room B, Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

(b) Meeting Wednesday 17 November 2004

It was suggested that this meeting could be held at the Roman Catholic Cathedral.

ACTION

Teresa Deasy to make enquiries.

11 Any Other Business

(a) Resignations of SACRE Members

Teresa Deasy announced that she had received a letter of resignation from SACRE from Sue Kanavan, a Group B representative.

It was also announced that Jane Love, a Group C representative, had also resigned.

ACTIONS

1. Brian Hay to seek another representative to replace Sue Kanavan.
2. Mike Johns to seek a representative to replace Jane Love.

(b) Handbook for SACRE Members

Teresa Deasy announced that she had obtained copies of the handbook for SACRE members and invited members present at the meeting to take copies.

ACTION

Teresa Deasy to order further copies of the handbook for SACRE members.

The meeting concluded at 5.55 pm