

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 17 November 2004 at  
4.30 pm in Bishops House, St John's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Edinburgh  
Road, Portsmouth.

### **Present**

#### **Group A Representatives**

Jean Howarth, the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches  
Christine McMillan, United Reformed Church  
Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union  
David Hill, Roman Catholic Church  
Sue Vigar-Taylor, Buddhism  
Mrs Ephrat Miller-Foroughi, Baha'i

#### **Group B Representative**

Mr Brian Hay

#### **Group C Representative**

Katie Moore, Foundation Stage Advisory Teacher

#### **Group D Representatives**

Councillors    Malcolm Hey (Chairman)  
                      David Stephen Butler  
                      Terry Henderson

#### **Co-opted Representatives**

Sue Ganter  
Terry Carter  
John Lance

#### **Officers in Attendance**

Clive Erricker, Hampshire Area Education Office  
Judith Lowndes, Hampshire Area Education Office  
Teresa Deasy, Democratic Services, PCC

#### **Also in Attendance**

Canon David Hopgood, Dean of St John's RC Cathedral

## **22 Apologies for Absence (AI 1)**

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Patrick Quirke, Co-opted Representative; Mike Johns, Education Department, Portsmouth City Council; Oriel Alby, Church of England representative; Ted Parker, Salvation Army; Ros Griffiths; Roger Bentote, Teachers Liaison Panel; Georgie Tüzemen; Councillor Tom Blair.

## **23 Minutes – 23 June 2004 (AI 2)**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2004 be agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:**

### **(a) Minute No 16 – NASACRE Annual General Meeting –**

**In the third sentence the word ‘schools’ be replaced with the words ‘teaching training agencies’.**

### **(b) Minute No 20 – National Non Statutory Framework for RE Consultation –**

**The final bullet point on page 12 be amended to read as follows – ‘the section on the importance of religious education should be rearranged so that the third paragraph comes first.’**

## **24 Matters Arising**

### **(a) Minute No 13 – Chairman’s Correspondence (Publicity for Future Meetings)**

Teresa Deasy apologised for omitting to invite David Graham to attend this SACRE meeting as an observer. She confirmed that he would be invited to future meetings.

Teresa Deasy advised that, with regard to publicity about SACRE meetings, she had arranged for details of meetings to be publicised on Portsmouth City Council’s website at [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk). She had also arranged with the Media Unit at Portsmouth City Council for a short article on the work of the SACRE to be published in the magazine entitled ‘Term Times’ which is distributed to schools. The article would be appearing in the next edition of ‘Term Times’.

### **(b) Minute No 15a – SACRE Budget**

The Chairman advised that he would be obtaining information on how other SACREs were funded and would report back to a future meeting. He added that he was keen to push for funding to enable representatives from Portsmouth schools to attend RE courses organised by Hampshire County Council and for schools to receive Hampshire County Council RE publications.

Clive Erricker explained that the Primary RE News and the Secondary RE News, published by Hampshire County Council were free to all County schools. However, Portsmouth and Southampton schools would have to pay for copies of the publication.

### **Action**

Clive Erricker to obtain details of the cost of the supply of Hampshire publications to Portsmouth schools.

### **(c) Minute No 16 – NASACRE Annual General Meeting**

Clive Erricker reported that with regard to the funds available from West Hill he had been in touch with the West Hill RE Centre. Marion Agombar would be contacting him soon to supply details of available funding.

### **(d) Implementing the Agreed Syllabus**

Clive Erricker announced that the agreed syllabus was launched on the 15 July in the Great Hall at Winchester. Councillor Hey had represented the Portsmouth SACRE and a Portsmouth school, Miltoncross School, had participated in the launch ceremony.

## **25 GCSE Results 2004 (AI 4)**

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Clive Erricker handed out amendments to the GCSE Long Course for RE contained in Appendix 1 to the report which was circulated with the minutes. He explained that, for some reason, a breakdown of the results for RE for 2002 had been lost. This comparative information was needed for the 2004 Annual Report.

### **Action**

Teresa Deasy to check previous minutes and reports to obtain information for the 2002 GCSE RE results.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

## **26 Report of the Monitoring Sub-Group: Summary of Findings from Ofsted Reports 2003-4 (AI 5)**

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Clive Erricker advised that he would be monitoring the new Ofsted Inspection framework. It was unclear whether the new inspection would continue to focus on individual subjects.

Jeff Wheeler enquired whether the requirements under the new Freedom of Information Act would have any impact on access to this type of information. Judith Lowndes replied that it was considered unprofessional to mention individual schools. However, this information was available from the Ofsted Website.

The question of schools which were not meeting their statutory requirements with regard to the teaching of RE was mentioned. Clive Erricker explained that this matter was being dealt with.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Monitoring Group for the work that they had undertaken.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**27 SACRE Annual Report (AI 6)**

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Clive Erricker explained that the Portsmouth SACRE Annual Report would be sent to QCA and to Ofsted. Data from the Portsmouth report would be incorporated into a National report drawing information from all SACREs around the country would be published.

Clive Erricker referred to the Working Party of teachers and SACRE members from Portsmouth, Hampshire and Southampton, which had produced the new locally agreed syllabus.

New guidance handbooks for Secondary and Primary Schools would be produced to accompany the new agreed syllabus. It was hoped that these publications would be available by the end of the academic year.

Councillor Terry Henderson queried the statement in the section on Teacher Training that 'few delegates from Portsmouth' attended the Primary & Secondary Conferences. Clive Erricker explained that this was because there was a smaller number of primary and secondary schools in Portsmouth when compared to the numbers in Hampshire.

John Lance referred to the matter of resources available to SACRE, which was mentioned earlier. He expressed the hope that next year the matter of access to the Hampshire website and Hampshire County Council publications and training courses for the Portsmouth and Southampton schools could be addressed next year,

Sue Ganter enquired whether the course for teachers on the launch of the new syllabus had been well attended. Judith Lowndes replied that, as this course was free, it had been very well attended.

**RESOLVED (1) that thanks be expressed to the Hampshire County RE Advisers;**

**(2) that the report be noted.**

**28 Non Statutory National Framework for RE Launch –  
28 October 2004 (AI 7)**

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Sue Ganter reported that she had attended the National Framework Launch on behalf of the Portsmouth SACRE. She commented that there seemed to be mixed messages coming from the different speakers at the launch, with regard to the purpose and the target audience.

At the launch it was agreed that it would be a good idea for SACREs to write to all schools to advise them on the contents of the new framework document. She added that Charles Clark would be pursuing the matter of the Act of Collective Worship in schools. Charles Clark was supportive of the role of faith schools and saw the national framework as a means of strengthening their role.

The Chairman referred to the article in the 'Church Times' magazine, which was circulated with the agenda. He explained that mention was made in the article of Hampshire's new syllabus and explained that Hampshire County Council had written to 'Church Times' in response to the comment. Clive Erricker read out details of the letter from Hampshire County Council to the magazine. It was agreed that the Chairman in consultation with the County Inspector for Religious Education should write a letter to 'Church Times' echoing the same sentiments as Hampshire County Council's letter.

**RESOLVED (1) that the report be noted;**

**(2) that a letter be written to the 'Church Times' as stated above;**

**(3) that Mike Johns to find out which schools have received copies of the framework documents.**

**29 Portsmouth RE Conference (AI 8)**

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Clive Erricker reported that this year's RE Conference, held, as in previous years, at Portsmouth College had been a very successful event. He praised the work of the teachers who organised the Conference and expressed his gratitude to Mike Johns for the administrative help which the organisers had received this year.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**30 Sub-Group to Evaluate SACREs Activities (AI 9)**

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Clive Erricker reported that one meeting of the Sub-Group had taken place since the last SACRE meeting. They had used the Ofsted framework for inspection of SACRE as a reference document.

The suggestion to bring one of the Self Evaluation questions to a future SACRE meeting for discussion was agreed.

### **31 Calendar of Meetings 2005 (AI 10)**

The Chairman advised SACRE members that the first date in the calendar, ie Wednesday 5 March should read Wednesday 2 March. Members agreed that 4.30 pm was a convenient time for meetings.

The Chairman commented that it was usual for one meeting per year to be held in an appropriate venue, and asked members for suggestions as to future venues.

**RESOLVED that the following dates for meetings in 2005 be agreed:**

- **Wednesday 2 March**
- **Wednesday 22 June**
- **Wednesday 16 November**

**All meetings will be held at 4.30 pm, venues to be notified.**

### **32 Any Other Business**

#### **(a) Teacher Representation on SACRE**

Teresa Deasy advised that Mrs J Love of St George's Beneficial Primary School and Mr Mark Thomson of Priory Secondary School had resigned, as they were no longer teachers at Portsmouth Secondary Schools. She advised that it was important to recruit additional teacher members in order to ensure that meetings were quorate. She was recommended to contact the Teachers Liaison Panel representative in order to recruit additional members.

#### **(b) Methodist Representative**

It was pointed out that David Ray was no longer able to act as a Methodist representative on the Portsmouth SACRE and that, therefore, a replacement representative would have to be found. Canon Hopgood advised that he could provide details of the Methodist contacts in Portsmouth.

#### **Action**

Teresa Deasy to contact Canon David Hopgood to find out details of the Methodist contacts in Portsmouth.

#### **(c) QCA Conference for SACRE**

The Chairman mentioned that he had been invited to attend the above Conference on 9 December in London on behalf of the Portsmouth SACRE. However, as he would be unable to attend, Teresa Deasy had contacted Brian Hay who had agreed to attend on behalf of the Portsmouth SACRE. Brian Hay advised that he would present a feedback report on the Conference to the next SACRE meeting.

The meeting concluded at 6 pm.

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