

**PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 21st June 2006 at 4.30 pm
at Southsea Synagogue, The Thicket, Southsea, Hants.

Present

Group A Representatives

Celia Axton, Roman Catholic Church
Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union
Julius Klein, Judaism
Sarah Coote, The Religious Society of Friends
Ted Parker, The Salvation Army
Reverend Beryl Wright, Methodist Church
Mohammed Riyami, Islam
Mrs Ephrat Miller-Foroughi, Baha'i
Christine McMillan, United Reformed Church

Group B Representatives

Brian Hay, Church of England
The Venerable Trevor Reeder, Church of England

Group C Representatives

Patrick Quirke, Secondary Teacher Representative
Annette White, Foundation Stage Advisory Teacher
Georgie Tüzemen, Advanced Skills Teacher

Group D Representatives

Councillor Malcolm Hey
Councillor Hugh Mason
Councillor David Horne
Councillor Darron Phillips

Co-opted Representatives

Sue Ganter
Kieran Anderson, PYiFF
Sarah Jamieson, PYiFF

Officers in Attendance

Clive Erricker, County Inspector for RE, Hampshire Area
Education Service
Judith Lowndes, General Inspector for RE, Hampshire Area
Education Service
Mike Johns, Foundation Subjects Adviser, PCC
Teresa Deasy, Democratic Services, PCC

11 Appointment of SACRE Chair (AI 1)

The Executive Member for Education, Councillor Hugh Mason, addressed the meeting and explained that, in accordance with the SACRE Constitution, which predated Portsmouth becoming a Unitary Authority and adopting cabinet style government, it would appear that the Education Committee was responsible for the appointment of the SACRE Chair. However, since Portsmouth City Council was now constituted in a cabinet style, the Executive Member for Education would be responsible for appointing the SACRE Chair. Therefore, it was now his responsibility to appoint the Chair. Having consulted with all PCC Councillors on the SACRE, he had decided to appoint Councillor David Horne as the new SACRE Chair.

He expressed his thanks to Councillor Malcolm Hey for the excellent work which he had carried out during his four-year tenure as Chair of the SACRE.

12 Election of SACRE Vice Chair (AI 2)

Councillor David Horne took the Chair. He explained that there was now a vacancy for the position of Vice Chair, following the resignation of Oriel Alby from the Portsmouth SACRE. He referred to the SACRE voting procedure, as outlined on the agenda, and requested nominations from each representative group.

A general discussion followed on possible nominations. Ted Parker was asked if he would like to take up the position of Vice Chair and he accepted. As there were no other nominations, all SACRE groups expressed their unanimous agreement to the appointment of Ted Parker as the Vice Chair. Therefore, there was no need for each group to vote individually.

13 Apologies for Absence (AI 3)

Apologies for absence were received from the following: Roger Bentote, Alison Spittles, Terry Carter and John Lance.

Teresa Deasy announced that an apology had been received from Peter Davies, who represented the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches, as he had suffered a heart attack

Teresa also announced that Dalbara Kalsi had contacted her to offer his apologies for this meeting and to tender his resignation as the Sikh representative on the SACRE. Mr Kalsi had advised that his work pattern had changed and therefore, he would not be able to attend meetings. Teresa added that she was liaising with Mr Kalsi in order to find a new Sikh representative.

14 Minutes 2 March 2006 (AI 4)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2006 be agreed as a correct record.

15 Matters Arising (AI 5)

(a) Minute No 7 – Report from the Monitoring Sub-Group

Clive Erricker referred to the SACRE resolution to suspend the activity of the Monitoring Sub-Group regarding its role in the scrutiny of GCSE performance. In accordance with the SACRE's resolution, he was reporting back to the meeting on the advisability of the full SACRE scrutinising GCSE results. He recommended that, in view of the small number of schools in Portsmouth where RE was taken as a GCSE subject, a reasonable solution for the future would be to bring this report to SACRE, pointing out the items for scrutiny.

(b) Portsmouth Youth Interfaith Forum

Mike Johns reported that Sue Ganter had recently been appointed as the Co-ordinator and he offered his congratulations to her on behalf of the SACRE.

(c) Minute No 10(c) – Report on the Future of RE

Christine McMillan referred to the action note for her to provide Teresa Deasy with a copy of a report on the future of RE, for circulation to SACRE members. Unfortunately, she had been unable to find the report at the time and therefore had not produced it for circulation. However, since that time a PDF version had become available and she would be forwarding this to Teresa Deasy for circulation to SACRE members.

16 NASACRE Annual General Meeting (Appendix 1 and 2) (AI 6)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Judith Lowndes referred to her report on the NASACRE AGM held on 4 May. She highlighted the announcement by the Chair of NASACRE that a member of the NASACRE Executive would be available to visit SACRE to talk about its work. She suggested that the Portsmouth SACRE might wish to avail of this opportunity.

Schools would now be asked to complete self-evaluation forms in order to monitor their own provision. It was being proposed that the Culham Institute should scrutinise the self-evaluation reports. This matter had been discussed at the last meeting of this SACRE, when it was decided to opt out of this proposal.

Another item of interest was in relation to the activities of the Bristol and Hull youth interfaith forums. She commented that it would be very interesting to see how youth interfaith forums develop.

Judith went on to give details of the talk by Mark Chater of QCA. The key point to note from his talk was the improvement of communications. Hampshire SACRE had invited him to visit to clarify the position regarding the possibility that the non-statutory national framework might become statutory. If this were to happen, the joint authorities' agreed syllabus might no longer be valid.

Clive went on to explain that QCA would be interested in meeting various groups, such as: employers, governors, teachers and SACRE members. The Portsmouth SACRE had been invited to forward ideas.

Mike Johns advised that a consultation process would be starting in October with teachers on the AREIAC document. Public consultation would follow in February 2007.

Mike Johns further reported that proposals for the revision of the national curriculum in relation to history and geography had been published the previous week. As soon as the proposals relating to RE were published either he or Clive Erricker would be informing all secondary teachers.

Mike announced that, in relation to A-level, the curriculum revision would take effect this year. In relation to GCSE provision, for the 14-19 age group, there was a proposal to remove the course work element of the curriculum and to replace it with another form of assessment.

Judith Lowndes referred to Appendix 2 of the report, the questionnaire produced by the NASACRE. It was agreed that SACRE members would feed their responses to Teresa Deasy over the next two weeks for onward transmission to Mike Johns.

RESOLVED that SACRE note the report and consider how initiatives reported on from the conference should contribute to its development plan in relation to self-evaluation of SACRE, a SACRE development plan and the monitoring of self-evaluation of RE provision in schools.

17 Implementation of the Agreed Syllabus (AI 7)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Clive Erricker referred to his report and stated that the "Living Difference" primary and secondary handbooks together with CD ROMs were now available and he passed examples round for SACRE members to look at. Electronic copies would also be available. Any SACRE member requiring a copy was recommended to contact Clive.

Teachers were accepting ownership of the agreed syllabus and its tight focus on a systematic approach to teaching and learning. A letter had been sent to all secondary headteachers. Admiral Lord Nelson and Miltoncross schools would be meeting a development group in Havant in the near future.

Judith Lowndes reported that the primary and secondary newsletters produced by Hampshire County Council three times per year had now been reduced to two. The RE team were not happy with this reduction.

Mike Johns mentioned that Georgie Tüzemen had been approached by the Culham Institute and that some of the work she had been doing with primary schools would be published on their website. Mike also advised that this work was already available on the portsmouth-learning.net website and that facility was also available to secondary teachers. Patrick Quirke agreed to publish some of the work from his school on the website.

ACTION

- (1) Patrick Quirke to put the secondary education information on the Learning Network.**
- (2) The Chair of SACRE to write to express concern to Hampshire County Council on the reduction of the RE newsletters from three editions per year to two.**

Clive Erricker drew the SACRE members' attention to the extract from the British Journal of Religious Education, reproduced in Appendix 3. The journal had reviewed the agreed syllabus for Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton. He expressed his satisfaction with this review and the interest nationally in our syllabus, highlighting the fact that the Diocese of Westminster would be adopting our agreed syllabus.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

18 Portsmouth Youth Interfaith Forum (PYiFF) (AI 8)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Sue Ganter referred to her report and expressed her delight that now the forum was up and running. She had taken up the post as co-ordinator on 22 May. The Anglican Diocese of Portsmouth had supplied the premises and some support to the project. However, she wished to stress that the forum wished to retain its independence from the Diocese. She also reported that it was hoped a Sikh representative had been reappointed on the forum.

Sue reported that one of the young people from the forum had completed the Langstone Harbour walk on 21 May with Sue and her husband to raise funds for the forum.

It was hoped to participate in the "Thursday's Child" interfaith event in London on 7th July 2007.

Sue reported on a football tournament organised by the Royal Navy for groups of people representing different ethnic minority groups and that there was a possibility of the PYiFF members participating as individuals (not PYiFF representatives)

Sue went on to say that she was currently having to recruit more young people to the forum. She was losing some members who were going on to university and some who were unable to continue due to exam pressures. There were currently vacancies for the following faiths to be represented: Baha'i, Sunni Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and no faith. The next meeting of the forum would take place on 28th June. Sue advised that, currently, the forum could be contacted at the All Saints Centre but shortly they would be moving to Peninsular House. The telephone number was 023 9282 1137. She could be contacted on her mobile number 07900 661868. The forum's email address was PYiFF@freenet.co.uk.

Sue further advised that Sarah Jamieson would be resigning from the forum, as she would be going to university.

Councillor Malcolm Hey expressed his congratulations to Sue on her appointment and his thanks to her for keeping the forum ticking over during the period while funding was being sought and her appointment was being made. On behalf of the forum, he also expressed his thanks to Sarah Jamieson for her work with the forum.

In reply to a question from Councillor Hugh Mason regarding the security of the financial arrangements for the forum, Sue explained that funding had been secured until March 2007. Mike Johns explained that he was working with Sue and the Anglican Diocese to explore more funding possibilities and sources for the future.

Ted Parker requested clarification on the forum's financial links with SACRE. Sue explained that the forum was no longer financially connected to SACRE. However, the forum wished to retain its links with the SACRE.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

19 Any Other Business

(a) Bishop Kenneth Stevenson

It was reported that Bishop Kenneth Stevenson's leukaemia had returned and that he was currently undergoing further chemotherapy. Prayers were asked for his recovery.

(b) Portsmouth GCSE RE Conference

Patrick Quirke reported that the Portsmouth GCSE RE Conference this year would be held at Southdowns College, due to an increase in the number of participants. He expressed his thanks to the Headteacher of Miltoncross for his support for the conference. He advised that the conference would take place on 17 July from 9.00 am to 2.30 pm and invited all SACRE members to attend.

(c) Expression of Thanks to Julius Klein

The Chair expressed his thanks to Julius Klein for kindly arranging for this SACRE meeting to take place at the synagogue. He asked Julius to pass on his thanks, on behalf of the forum, to the synagogue elders for their hospitality.

20 Date of Next Meeting (AI 9)

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 November 2006 at 4.30 pm in Conference Room B, Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

The meeting concluded at 6.00 pm.

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15 August 2006