

**PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 18th of June 2008 at 4.30pm in Conference Room A, 2nd Floor, Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

Present

Group A Representatives

Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union
Ruth Guyer, Judaism
David Lewis, The Religious Society of Friends
Peter Davies, Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
Reverend Beryl Wright, Methodist Church
Christine McMillan, United Reformed Church
Sue Vigar-Taylor, Buddhism
Syed Aminul Haque, Islam
Ephrat Miller-Foroughi, Baha'i Faith

Group B Representatives

Brian Hay, Church of England
The Venerable Trevor Reader, Church of England
Reverend Roger Calder, Church of England

Group C Representatives

Alison Spittles, Teacher Representative
Georgina Mulhall, Teacher Representative
Roger Bentote, Teacher Liaison's Panel

Group D Representatives

Councillor David Horne (in the Chair)
Taki Jaffer, PCC Representative

Co-opted Representatives

Sue Ganter, Interfusion
Kieran Anderson, Interfusion
Terry Carter, Retired RE Teacher – Deputy Head Teacher

Officers in Attendance

Mike Johns, General Advisor, Children, Families & Learning, PCC
Teresa Deasy, Democratic & Community Engagement, PCC

15 Presentation on the Baha'i Faith by a SACRE Member, Mrs Ephrat Miller-Foroughi (AI 1)

As the Baha'i faith did not have a local venue for worship, it was agreed at the last meeting that Ephrat Miller would host an information session and presentation on the Baha'i faith in the Civic Offices.

Prior to the business of the meeting, Ephrat welcomed the SACRE members to the meeting and gave a short PowerPoint presentation on the origins and beliefs of the Baha'i faith. She distributed leaflets about the faith to all members of SACRE.

Teresa Deasy explained that Ephrat Miller had also presented a photograph of the Baha'i shrine in Haifa to the SACRE. As Portsmouth City Council is twinned with Haifa municipality in Israel, it was decided to place the photo in Conference Room H, which is designated the Haifa Room. The SACRE members would be able to view the framed photo in the Haifa Room if they wished.

16 Apologies for Absence (AI 2)

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Annette White, Patrick Quirke, Councillor David Stephen Butler, Moses Tutesigensi, John Lance, Celia Axton and Gill Parmee.

17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th March 2008 (AI 3)

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- a) In the list of apologies the reference to Annette Wright should read Annette White.
- b) Minute No. 5(b) the action note for Mike Johns to read "ACTION Mike Johns to write to RE secondary school_ teachers"
- c) Minute No. 7 SACRE Budget – the reference to the Jewish Way of Life Exhibition in the last sentence of paragraph 2 the word "about" should be amended to "from".

A further amendment in relation to this minute was requested with reference to the first sentence on page 6. This should be amended to read, "Kieran Anderson commented that he did not believe this was a good use of the SACREs funds, in the light of the shortage of funding for training teachers".

18 Matters Arising (AI 4)

- a) **Minute No. 5(b) - SACRE Annual Report**

Mike Johns explained that he had not carried out the Action Note to write to RE Teachers, as requested. His reasons for not doing so was because the authority had received an OFSTED Report indicating that they did not reach the statutory requirements for RE. Therefore, he did not feel it was appropriate to write to RE Teachers as requested by the SACRE.

b) Minute No. 7 – SACRE Budget

With reference to the Action Note to investigate the possibility of obtaining funding from the Haifa Portsmouth Friendship Link Committee to fund the Jewish Way of Life Exhibition, Teresa Deasy mentioned that she had reported this to the Haifa Committee. The Haifa Portsmouth Friendship Link Committee had indicated that it would be willing to look at a formal request for funding for the exhibition from the SACRE provided that full details of costings were supplied.

c) Minute No. 9 – RE Resources for Portsmouth Schools

Georgina Mulhall referred to the document entitled “Thirty Good Things a Good SACRE Can Do” mentioned at previous meetings and commented that the Portsmouth SACRE was well on the way to achieving some of the objectives set out in the document. She added that there would be an article in the next issue of “Term Times” on the RE resources initiative. She expressed her thanks to SACRE members for their support for the project, which had been launched the previous week. Some 22 people had attended the launch, including SACRE members.

With regard to the RE resource boxes, the feedback from teachers so far was positive. Teachers were extremely impressed with the resources provided. With the funding and support provided by SACRE, Georgina had been able to provide enough boxes to resource RE for schools for the Autumn and Spring terms. She asked the SACRE if they were prepared to release a further £1,000 from the budget towards the financing for next year’s boxes. She added that the museum service were also providing some funding.

Georgina expressed her thanks to the Museum Service’s Education Officer for her support for the project. This officer had suggested a SACRE logo to be incorporated on the boxes. It was further suggested that pupils from Portsmouth schools be asked to design the logo.

Georgina added that she had worked on a press release and had been interviewed on local radio to publicise the work being done on RE in Portsmouth schools. She was very excited about the impact of the project on the teaching and learning of RE in Portsmouth schools and expressed her thanks to SACRE for their support.

Peter Davies, on behalf of the SACRE expressed his congratulations to Georgina on the quality of her work on the resources project. He put out a plea for all SACRE members to search their cupboards for religious artefacts, which could be used for the resource boxes. Ruth Guyer added that a collection box had been provided in the synagogue to collect artefacts for the project.

SACRE members considered the suggestion to produce a SACRE logo to be designed by pupils and it was agreed that this was a good idea.

With regard to the request for £1,000 from the SACRE budget, Mike Johns explained that if this amount were to be donated to the project, that would leave a remainder of £1,500.

Taki Jaffer suggested seeking funding from other organisations, such as the Learning Skills Council. He added that, sometimes that this time of the year they sometimes had money left over which needed to be spent. It might therefore be a good idea to approach them.

ACTION Taki Jaffer to email Georgina Mulhall with details of contacts for funding streams.

The SACRE agreed unanimously to fund the resources project to the tune of £1,000 from the SACRE budget.

Georgina Mulhall suggested that it might be useful for the SACRE to nominate a sub-committee responsible for dealing with the upkeep of resources for the RE boxes. The following SACRE members volunteered to become members of the sub-committee:

Ephrat Miller-Foroughi, Kieran Anderson, Beryl Wright, Sue Vigar-Taylor and Roger Bentote.

19 SACRE Area Networking Meeting (AI 6)

Mike Johns reported that he and Councillor Horne had attended the Networking meeting of local SACRE's on the 27th March. The meeting had been attended by representatives from the following SACRE's: Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton. The Isle of Wight SACRE representatives had submitted their apologies. The meeting had been very useful and the terms of reference were agreed.

The key themes discussed at the meeting were:

- to support the agreed syllabus – Clive Erricker has set up a networking meeting to initiate this project.
- SACRE directory
- who supports SACRE schools?
- the training of RE teachers – representatives from the PGCE course at Chichester had offered advice and support to schools.

The main focus was on the 2010 agreed syllabus, which had to be revised and resubmitted. The meetings would continue to run and the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 3rd July at 2.00 pm at the Civic Centre in Southampton. Further updates would be submitted to SACRE.

20 Local Authority Representation on SACRE (AI 7)

Mike Johns reported that a number of advisory staff from the Learning and Achievement Service had already left or would be about to leave the service. Some staff members would be replaced, but others would not. As a consequence, his role in the organisation was about to change. He would be taking on the role of National Strategy Advisor and this would mean that he would no longer have the capacity to fulfil his 15 days per year commitment to work on SACRE.

The Local Authority had drawn up a person specification for a replacement officer to support SACRE and the following requirements were agreed: a local authority employee with a knowledge of RE, in a position to support teaching and learning in schools and a good understanding of how SACRE works was necessary. As Georgina Mulhall was no longer working as a full-time teacher, it was suggested that she would be in a position to support SACRE for 20 days per year. Mike Johns confirmed that he would also continue to support SACRE for three days per year. He commented that this would put the SACRE in a better position compared to previously. His 15 days per year would be increased to 23 altogether made up of 20 days to be provided by Georgina Mulhall and the three days, which he himself would make available. This new arrangement would take effect from July this year.

Georgina Mulhall commented that her SACRE work would compliment her RE work for schools and she was very happy to take it on.

Roger Bentote commented that the SACRE were very fortunate in being able to take advantage of Georgina's skills, knowledge and enthusiasm. SACRE members welcomed this new arrangement.

Alison Spittles brought up the matter of more teacher representatives on the SACRE.

ACTION Mike Johns to invite more teachers, especially secondary school teachers, to become SACRE representatives.

21 Interfusion (AI 8)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Sue Ganter reported that, since the last meeting of the SACRE, Interfusion had entered into a sort of hibernation, due to the failure to obtain any funding. This was despite putting in a number of bids. They were particularly disappointed at their failure to obtain funding from NASACRE, as they had been very confident to obtain such funding due to NASACRE's support and good impression of Interfusion. However, on this occasion NASACRE had received a number of bids from new groups and had decided that they should support these new groups to encourage them.

Mike Johns confirmed that he had processed a £100 grant from SACRE for Interfusion.

Sue Ganter went on to say that she was currently working unpaid to put in bids for funding. Interfusion had support from the PCC Funding Advisor and they were working on a bid from Esmé Fairburn and the Big Lottery Young People's Fund and they were awaiting the outcome.

With regard to office accommodation, they had to move out of their offices at the Diocese of Portsmouth, as this space was required for other uses. They had another premises lined up and waiting. However, they were unable to move until they had secured funding.

The Chair commented that, on behalf of the SACRE he wished the Interfusion Group well in their quest for funding. He expressed his disappointment that they had been unable to secure funding from NASACRE.

22 Any Other Business

(a) Methodist Representation on the SACRE

The Reverend Beryl Wright reported that she had come to the end of her four-year tenure as the Methodist Church representative. She added that she had replaced the Reverend Chris Ray. A new Superintendent of the Methodist Church had recently been appointed and her name was the Reverend Jackie Case. The Reverend Case would be taking over as the Methodist representative on the SACRE with effect from the next meeting. Beryl Wright commented that she had enjoyed her four years with the SACRE and it had provided her with a window on the world of which she had not previously been familiar.

On behalf of the SACRE, the Chair expressed his thanks to the Reverend Beryl Wright for her service to SACRE and wished her well for the future.

(b) New Church of England Representative on the SACRE

Bryan Hay introduced the Reverend Roger Calder to the meeting, as the new Church of England representative to fill the vacancy. The Chair welcomed Roger to the meeting.

(c) Solent Youth for Christ Representative

Georgina Mulhall introduced Dave Aarons as the Solent for Christ Representative. She reported that Martin Ment had previously represented the Assemblies for God on the SACRE. However, as Martin had not attended previous meetings, his emails had been diverted to Dave Aarons, who had expressed an interest in becoming a member of the SACRE.

(d) Interfusion Member – Moses Tutesigensi

Sue Ganter reported that Moses would be going to university in the Autumn and therefore he would no longer be able to represent Interfusion on the SACRE. A new Interfusion representative would be introduced to the SACRE at the Autumn meeting.

e) One World Week

Sue Vigar-Taylor informed members that One World Week would be starting next week and advised SACRE members to visit the website at www.oneworldweek.org to have a look at the activities which will be taking place. They were looking into linking into SACRE schools and this was a very important initiative to bring faiths together and promoting dialogue.

Christine McMillan added that there would be a meeting on Wednesday, 9th July at 1.30 pm at the Victory Business Centre, Conference Suite and invited SACRE members to attend.

23 Date of Next Meeting (AI 10)

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held at 4.30 pm on Wednesday, 12th November 2008 in Conference Room A, Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

The meeting concluded at 5.45 pm.

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24 June 2008