

**PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 17 November 2010 at
4.00 pm in Conference Room A, Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

Present

GROUP A REPRESENTATIVES

Peter Davies, the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical
Churches (In the Chair)
Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union
Ruth Richmond, Roman Catholic Church
Sue Vigar-Taylor, Buddhism
Reverend Jackie Case, Methodist Church
David Clanachan, representing Ruth Guyer, Judaism
Ephrat Miller-Foroughi, Baha'i Faith
Marilyn Leggett, Salvation Army

GROUP B REPRESENTATIVES

Brian Hay, Church of England

GROUP C REPRESENTATIVES

Beverley Millsom, Special School Representative
Gemma Self, Early Years Representative
Christine Liddle, Primary Teacher Representative
Sandra Gibb, Headteacher, St George's Beneficial
Primary School

GROUP D REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor David Horne
Councillor Malcolm Hey
Councillor David Stephen Butler
Taki Jaffer

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Johns, Local Authority Representative
Clive Erricker, RE Adviser
Teresa Deasy, Democratic Services

CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVE

Joe Eves, Council of Portsmouth Students

30 Teacher Presentations (AI 1)

Gemma Self gave a short presentation.

31 Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 2)

Peter Davies led the moment for quiet reflection.

32 Welcome to Council of Portsmouth Students Representative

Peter Davies welcomed Joe Eves of the Council of Portsmouth Students to his first meeting of the SACRE.

33 Portsmouth Mosque Poppy Protest

Taki Jaffer referred to the demonstration held outside the Portsmouth Jami Mosque the previous Saturday in connection with Remembrance Day. This was a counter protest in connection with the burning of remembrance poppies by an Islamic group in London. The Imam had been very saddened by the protest and had condemned the Remembrance Day poppy burning.

It was agreed that a letter be sent on behalf of the SACRE expressing sympathy to the Imam.

Taki Jaffer further reported that in his work as interfaith co-ordinator in schools, he had been advised that there were some Muslim children who were being bullied as they were thought to be involved in burning poppies. He stated that it was most important to demonstrate that the Islamic community in the city condemned this practice.

Sue Vigar-Taylor reported that there was a lot of unpleasant material on Facebook relating to this on 9 November, as some people had thought that 9/11 referred to 9 November instead of 11 September.

34 Apologies for Absence (AI 3)

Apologies for absence were received from the Reverend Trevor Reader, Church of England representative, Ruth Guyer who was represented by David Clannachan, Patrick Quirke, Secondary School Representative, Sue Ganter, Co-opted Representative, Paula Withers, Secondary School Representative, Gill Parmee, Primary School Representative and Christine McMullan, United Reform Church.

35 Minutes of the Meeting held 23 June 2010 (AI 4)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

It was pointed that there were two minutes that were numbered 26. The clerk was requested to change the numbering.

With regard to minute numbered 28(e) on page 15 with reference to the Church of England SACRE representative, Brian Hay reported that Lilian Weatherley, one of the Church of England representatives, had retired from her post with the Anglican Diocese, and not Hampshire County Council as reported in the minutes.

Subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

36 Matters Arising (AI 5)

(a) Minute No 26 – Local Authority Representation on the SACRE

Mike Johns referred to his return to the role of Local Authority Adviser to the SACRE. He explained that Georgina Mulhall's appointment as Deputy Headteacher at Flying Bull Primary School meant that due to her increased curricular commitments, she had to give up her role as Local Authority Adviser to the SACRE. He added that Clive Erricker, who was here today, had specifically been commissioned to support SACRE for four days for the work on the Agreed Syllabus.

(b) Minute No 28(a)– Portsmouth SACRE Chair

Mike Johns commented that he had worked very closely with Georgina Mulhall during her time as Local Authority Adviser to the SACRE. During this time, SACRE had achieved much especially with regard to engaging members and working with schools. He stressed the need to maintain this positivity. Therefore, he believed that in order to maintain this momentum it was very important to have a strong SACRE chair. As Councillor David Horne's term of office had to an end, it was necessary to elect a new chair.

Having regard to the SACRE constitution, he noted that the constitution stated that the SACRE chair must be a member of the City Council. However, the SACRE constitution also made provision for changes to be made and for an annual review. Having carried out research regarding other SACREs and chairmanship, he discovered the SACRE chairs of many authorities were not members of the City Council. Therefore he suggested that it would be possible to amend the constitution.

SACRE members discussed the suggestion and agreed to amend the constitution. They suggested that the term of office of four years was perhaps too long and it was agreed that it should be reduced to two years.

Mike Johns also referred to the requirement in the constitution to produce an annual report for submission to QCDA. However, since this quango would cease to exist by March 2011, he suggested that it would be appropriate to change this requirement in the SACRE constitution. He further suggested that SACRE should produce an annual report but the format should be changed with the aim of celebrating and informing the general public about the work of the

SACRE.

The SACRE members formed into their groups and took a vote on the above proposals to amend the SACRE constitution. The proposals were agreed by all groups.

RESOLVED that the Local Authority Adviser be authorised to amend the constitution as follows:

- **The SACRE chair need not be a member of Portsmouth City Council.**
- **The term of office of the SACRE chair should be two years.**
- **The requirement to produce an annual report to the QCDA be deleted and replaced with a requirement to produce an annual report to celebrate the work of SACRE.**

37 School Visits (AI 6)

(TAKE IN LIST ATTACHED)

SACRE members noted the proposed school visits for the autumn term and members were advised to make arrangements to attend the schools as set out in the table.

38 Jewish Way of Life Exhibition (AI 7)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

As Ruth Guyer was unable to attend the meeting, David Clanachan gave a report on his experience as a volunteer from the Jewish community at the exhibition. He commented that, left to themselves, the children visiting the exhibition played with the toys and the exhibits without necessarily learning from the visit. Therefore, it soon became obvious that a structure was needed to lead the pupils through the exhibition and to explain the topics. This was undertaken by the volunteers and was suggested to the exhibition organisers as a possible course of action for future exhibitions. He had been impressed with the pupils of some schools, particularly faith schools with regard to their knowledge about the Jewish faith. He commented that the involvement of the Jewish community had enabled young people in Portsmouth to become aware of the fact that there was a long-standing Jewish community in the city.

Beverley Millsom commented that she had taken a coach load of pupils from her school and they had all learned a lot at the exhibition. The pupils had particularly appreciated the experience of having a Jewish person read the Torah to them.

Taki Jaffer added that he had brought 25 people from the mosque and they had also found the exhibition to be a good experience.

Councillor David Stephen Butler added that the presence of the Israeli Jews from Tiltan College, who had produced the posters for the exhibition, had added to the exhibition. He expressed his thanks to the Jewish community

for their work with the city museum in setting up the exhibition. He wished to acknowledge the work undertaken by Ruth Guyer and Georgina Mulhall and the funding for the exhibition from the Haifa-Portsmouth Link Committee.

39 GCSE Conference (AI 8)

As Paula Withers, who was due to report on this item, was unable to attend the meeting, it was decided to defer it to the next meeting.

40 RE Twilights (AI 9)

Beverley Millsom reported that she had organised the autumn twilights with assistance from Georgina Mulhall.

The spring twilights would involve a meet and greet session to be held on 2 March at the Dame Judith Professional Centre between 4 and 5.00 pm. She had worked with Ephrat Miller, Sue Vigar-Taylor and Georgina Mulhall to plan the twilights for this year. Further information could be obtained from the following website: www.celebratingre.org and going to the What's On tab.

Beverley invited all SACRE members to attend the 2 March meeting so that they could meet with RE managers. She was hoping that faith group representatives would be able to pair up with teachers and that this might lead to more faith representatives coming into schools to assist in teaching RE. She suggested that faith representatives attending the twilight sessions could bring a card with them giving their name, contact details and information about what they could do to assist in schools.

Clive Erricker had been invited to give a speech at the beginning of the twilights and he would be bringing his books on RE. Beverley added that she was currently planning the summer twilight sessions.

41 Annual Report (AI 10)

Mike Johns referred to the annual reports submitted to QCDA over the years. However, with the government's abolition of various quangos including QCDA, he questioned whether it was necessary to submit an annual report this year. It was suggested that as QCDA would not be disbanded until March, it would be advisable to submit a report.

NASACRE would need to review the situation. He therefore proposed that SACRE should produce an annual report as usual and it was agreed to produce a report as agreed at minute number 36(b).

Mike suggested that it might be appropriate for a SACRE member to collect all the information from the minutes of meetings during the year and from SACRE members who wished to submit information to them. He hoped that between now and the end of the academic year something could be put together in the form of a newsletter. The newsletter/ report could then be passed to the communications unit to look at and format as necessary. Taki Jaffer advised that SACRE needed to acknowledge the negative as well as the positive in the report. This was agreed, as it might be useful for readers of the report to see where improvements could be made.

Ephrat Miller-Foroughi agreed to collate the information from the minutes and from information provided by SACRE members. Mike Johns asked SACRE members to send information to him for inclusion in the report.

42 RE Boxes (AI 11)

As Georgina Mulhall was no longer acting as the local authority adviser, Mike Johns suggested that it would be appropriate for a member of the SACRE to monitor the RE boxes. This task would involve a termly check on all artefacts to ensure that they were all present and replacing damaged articles. This work would be carried out with the support of the City Museum. Sue Vigar-Taylor agreed to undertake this task for the current term.

43 March 2011 National RE Month (AI 12)

Ephrat Miller-Foroughi reported on the working party which had formed at the last meeting and of which she was a member. The group also comprised the following members: Peter Davies, Sue Ganter, Beverley Millsom, Sue Vigar-Taylor. She stated that the group had recently met to discuss ideas and arrangements. One of the ideas put forward was that schools located near a place of worship could be encouraged to visit these places of worship. The idea was that the faith venues should be open for schools to walk in for an hour or so and to have a tour and a talk etc. SACRE could assist schools in linking them to a place of worship near to the school.

Beverley Millsom mentioned that the group had also discussed encouraging the local community to come into local places of worship and inviting parents into schools to meet children, especially children belonging to different faith and ethnic groups.

44 Report to Portsmouth SACRE on the Ofsted Long Report and Ofsted Meeting for Agreed Syllabus Collaboration on 1 October 2010 (AI 13)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Clive Erricker reported that a conference was held on 1 October and attended by 50 local authority advisers/inspectors who constituted the Agreed Syllabus Collaboration Group. The purpose of the conference was to ask local authorities to review their agreed syllabuses.

He referred to Appendix 1 of the report, which was the PowerPoint presentation of the Ofsted report. This focused on the need for agreed syllabuses to focus on enquiry, progression and challenge.

The idea was put forward that this was a defining moment for SACREs in that different SACREs composed of two or more authorities could work together to produce a combined agreed syllabus. He suggested that if SACREs did not work together, there was the possibility that RE could fall behind as a subject, as there was no national direction.

SACRE members considered the report and agreed the recommendation.

RESOLVED that a report on the findings and recommendations of the

Ofsted Long Report: *Transforming Religious Education?* as presented at the meeting on 1 October 2010 and on its implications for RE in Portsmouth should be made available to all schools (as in Appendix 2).

45 Any Other Business (AI 14)

(a) Exhibition on the experiences of Jewish children during the holocaust - information item

Teresa Deasy referred to this item which was set out on the agenda and circulated an information leaflet giving further details.

(TAKE IN INFORMATION LEAFLET)

The City Council's Haifa-Portsmouth Friendship Link Committee would be bringing an exhibition entitled "No Child's Play" to Portsmouth in January 2011. The exhibition would focus on the circumstances in which Jewish children lived in Europe before World War 2 and how some of them survived the holocaust.

The timing of the exhibition would coincide with the Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January) and it would be held in the activities room in Portsmouth City Museum from 20 January to 13 February 2011.
Times;

- Schools only from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm weekdays
- General public from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm weekdays and 10.00 am to 5.00 pm at weekends

(b) Display of RE work from Portsmouth Schools in the Central Information Library

SACRE members were advised that that the next meeting of the SACRE on Wednesday 6 April would be held in Portsmouth Central Library to enable SACRE members to view and arrange the display of RE work from schools.

They were also reminded that Sue Vigar-Taylor would be giving a presentation on Buddhism at this meeting.

(c) Portsmouth Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum – White Ribbon Event 2010

Taki Jaffer reported that a "Reclaim the Night" march would be held at 7.00 pm on 25 November. He urged SACRE members to show their support to end violence against women. The march would take place from the Spinnaker Tower to the Guildhall Square for a rally.

(d) Portsmouth Music Services Special Christmas Celebration

Beverley Millsom advised that an invitation and reply form had been emailed to SACRE members for the Portsmouth Music Services to a special Christmas celebration on Thursday 2 December at Portsmouth

Anglican Cathedral starting at 10.30 am.

Beverley added that her school, Redwood Park, would be taking part as they did each year. She commented that the occasion promised to be another great success this year and that it was well worth a visit.

46 Proposed Dates for Meetings in 2011 (AI 14)

- Wednesday, 6 April 2011 at 4.00 pm in Meeting Room F, Portsmouth Central Library
- Wednesday 22 June (school venue to be decided)
- Wednesday 16 November (Civic Offices)

The meeting concluded at 5.30 pm.

TMD/DMF
1611117m.doc
23 November 2010