



NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2018 AT 4.30 PM

**ST. GEORGE'S BENEFICIAL C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL, HANOVER STREET,
PORTSEA - SCHOOL HALL (ALL VISITORS TO REPORT TO RECEPTION)**

Telephone enquiries to Joanne Wildsmith (023) 9283 4057

Email: joanne.wildsmith@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Membership

Councillor Ryan Brent (Chair)

Councillor Suzy Horton (Vice-Chair)

Group A - Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area

Group B - Representatives of the Church of England

Group C - Teacher representatives

Group D - Representatives of the Local Authority

(Full Membership is located on Portsmouth City Council's website)

(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Welcome and Introductions

To welcome new members and introduce other members of the Council.

2 Moment for Quiet Reflection

Elizabeth Jenkerson, SACRE Baha'i representative, is invited to lead on the moment for quiet reflection.

3 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

4 Declaration of Members' Interest

Members are asked to identify any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on any matters on the agenda.

Note: Should any indication of an interest arise during the meeting, members are asked to declare at that time, as soon as is practicable.

5 Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 14th March 2018 (Pages 5 - 10)

RECOMMENDED the SACRE Council agrees the minutes of the previous meeting held 14th March 2018 as a correct record.

6 Matters Arising from the minutes and Membership update

Members may raise any matters from the minutes that are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Membership update: A request has been received from the United Reform Church to resume membership on SACRE, with the nomination from the Wessex Synod of the URC being Christine McMillan to attend future meetings as their representative.

7 Chair's Communications (Pages 11 - 12)

To acknowledge receipt of Advice to Primary Schools from a research project at Cardiff University.

An executive summary is attached with link to the resource pack for 'Diversity of Religion and Belief - Guidance and Resource Pack for Primary Schools in England and Wales'.

8 Brief updates or notification of items to be brought to a future meeting

To receive any updates from Members of SACRE.

Note: Items requiring decision will need to be brought to a future meeting.

9 Monitoring Group Report (Pages 13 - 16)

To receive the report from the meeting held 21 May 2018.

Recommendation from the Monitoring Group:
SACRE recommends a professional education course for new subject leaders of RE at KS1 and KS2 is made available to Portsmouth teachers in the autumn of 2018.

10 Amendments to the Portsmouth SACRE Constitution

To receive a report regarding proposals to amend the Portsmouth SACRE Constitution, following consideration by the SACRE monitoring group.
(Report to follow)

RECOMMENDED that the Portsmouth SACRE adopt an amended constitution following discussion at this meeting.

11 Portsmouth version of the Southampton Guidance Document

To receive a verbal update from the Professional Adviser on progress made thus far.

12 South Central HUB

To report on the background and history of this group and discussion regarding SACRE involvement. There will be a verbal update by the Professional Adviser from the meeting held on 12th June.

13 National update

There will be a verbal report:

- i) Noting that the Commission on Religious Education final report will be launched on 12th September
- ii) Giving feedback from NASACRE AGM on 24th May 2018.

14 Date and venue of the next meeting

To note the previously agreed dates during the next academic year of Wednesdays at 4.30pm:

Main SACRE(@4:30pm)	Pre Agenda & Monitoring Sub (3pm)
Wed 14 November 2018	8 Oct 2018
Wed 20 March 2019	18 Feb 2019
Wed 26 June 2019	20 May 2018

For the next meeting SACRE members are asked to suggest or volunteer a venue for this meeting, returning to the previously established of hosting at least one meeting a year at a faith venue, a school and the Civic Offices where possible.

Members of the public are now permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting or records those stating explicitly that they do not wish to be recorded. Guidance on the use of devices at

meetings open to the public is available on the Council's website and posters on the wall of the meeting's venue.

Agenda Item 5

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held on Wednesday, 14 March 2018 at 4.30 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Ryan Brent (in the Chair)

Group A - Elizabeth Jenkerson, Peter Davies, Sarah Coote, Geoff Wheeler and Ruth Guyer

Group B - Sue Bowen and Sam Duddles

Group C - Sarah Sadler and Sandra Gibb

Group D - Councillors Ryan Brent and Suzy Horton

Also in attendance - Pat Hannam (Professional Adviser), Mike Stoneman Assitant Director of Education and Joanne Wildsmith, Clerk.

7. **Welcome and Introductions (AI 1)**

Councillor Ryan Brent welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that introductions were made around the table, especially as there were some new members/officers at this meeting. Revd Duddles was the new Church of England representative, with the resignation of Brian Hay and Joanne Wildsmith was replacing Peter Smith-Parkyn as clerk to the SACRE.

8. **Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 2)**

Sarah Coote, the Religious Society of Friends representative led the moment for quiet reflection. She explained about their diverse beliefs and encouraged joining in silence. Sarah read the Quaker text: Advice and Queries numbers 1 and 3, the latter encouraging inward stillness.

Councillor Brent, as Chair, thanked Sarah Coote for her opening reflection.

9. **Apologies for Absence (AI 3)**

These had been received from Capt.Teresa Everett, Renuka Vyas and Councillor Tompkins.

Joanne Wildsmith, as Clerk, passed on a message from former member Beverley Millsom who had enjoyed her time as Special Needs Group C Representative on SACRE, and thanked members and officers for their support, kindness and friendship.

10. Declaration of Members' Interest (AI 4)

Elizabeth Jenkerson reported that she is on the West Hill Panel that judges grants for SACREs.

11. Minutes of the Previous meetings - 21 February 2018 (and 8 November 2017) (AI 5)

It was further explained that the special meeting of 21 February had been called for the actions of the inquorate meeting of 8 November 2017 to be approved but that both sets of minutes were being brought to this meeting to allow all members the chance to raise any matters of accuracy or matters arising.

Elizabeth Jenkerson pointed out that within the minutes of the special meeting of 21 February 2018, within minute 4 there was reference to the need for the previous meeting to be submitted, and the reference to 8 November 2018 should in fact be 8 November 2017, which was correct within the rest of that minute.

RESOLVED that subject to the above amended date in minute 4, the minutes of both the meetings of 8 November 2017 and 21 February 2018 were approved as correct records of these meetings.

12. Matters Arising from the minutes of 8 November 2017 and 21 February 2018 (AI 6)

- (i) Minute 7 of 8 November 2017 & minute 4 of 21 February - Membership and Constitution

Pat Hannam reported that she was in the process of seeking the new Islamic Shi'a representative and would continue to progress this with the community. This led to discussion about the appointments process for representatives on the Portsmouth SACRE, and it was noted that the constitution was not explicit on this, with the practice being that Portsmouth City Council appoint the councillor Group D members only, and that the SACRE accept the nominations of the faith groups.

Action: The Chair asked that the Monitoring Group be tasked with looking at the Constitution to see where revisions are needed and for any amendments to be brought back to the full SACRE for approval. It was hoped that this could be brought back to the June meeting.

13. Brief updates or notification of items to be brought to a future meeting (AI 7)

As well as the constitution it was suggested that there be further discussion on encouraging representatives from a variety of faiths to attend the SACRE meetings to reflect Portsmouth as a multi-cultural society. When invitations

are extended it is for the organisations to ensure that these are suitable appointments to meet the aim of stressing the importance of RE in the city.

14. Monitoring Group Report (AI 8)

It was noted that the Monitoring Group had taken place on 21st February 2018 (not 22nd February).

Pat Hannam presented her report on the recent meeting of the new group, which meets a few weeks in advance of the full SACRE, to monitor the effectiveness and implementation of the Agreed Syllabus. The monitoring group also has access to detailed information of GCSE results. Ofsted no longer specifically look at RE, but makes references to its provision within their inspection reports. A Commission report on RE is expected to be published in September 2018.

The report set out the results of primary school visits, which indicate that RE teaching is going well, especially where staff have attended training provided by Justine Ball (HIAS primary RE Inspector/Adviser). However 2 of the school visits had raised questions/concerns; one local authority school had already been contacted by the Professional Adviser to offer help. However another converter academy trust school raised concerns because it was only using parts of the Living Difference III syllabus. Living Difference III should be used only in its entirety to ensure a coherent curriculum is planned that enables children to make progress in RE.

It was also noted that all Church of England schools should be using Living Difference III in its entirety (with a choice of concepts within it) including for the teaching of Christianity. Discussion took place regarding the Diocesan expectation of use of the 'Understanding Christianity' resource to augment the teaching of Christianity units in Church of England primary Schools. The cycle of enquiry should be planned as usual with Understanding Christianity resource providing materials especially for the 'enquire', 'contextualise' and occasionally 'evaluate' steps. Understanding Christianity should not be used alone but as to complement the Agreed Syllabus Living Difference III. Considerable work has been undertaken by HIAS advisers Justine Ball and Pat Hannam to ensure this can work well. They can be contacted for further advice. There followed a further discussion exploring some critiques that are emerging nationally regarding Understanding Christianity and it is recognised that there is a particular theological perspective prevalent in the resource and that it does not represent all Christian theological perspectives. It was noted the Free Church Federal Council has also produced a resource in relation to the Reformation. It is hoped that a national evaluation would take place soon.

The GCSE results for 2017 would be the last year of A*-G grading before the introduction of 9-1 grading from this summer. There had been a halving of the number taking the full GCSE course in Portsmouth from 2016 to 2017, although those taking the course were achieving well against the national results. It did raise the question of what the rest of the 14-16 year old students were doing? Part of the lower take up could be attributed to RE not forming

part of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and the national shortage of specialist RE teachers.

SACRE members felt that the recommendation could be adjusted to not only praise the achievement levels (compared to the national average) but also to praise the levels of progress made. The letter to teachers should ask that the congratulations be shared with the pupils.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) SACRE's professional adviser writes to school leaders, including Academy Trusts, where there is concern about their primary RE
- (2) SACRE congratulates Portsmouth Schools that are progressing as well and those which are achieving above the national average in RS GCSE in 2017.
- (3) SACRE's professional adviser writes to all Portsmouth secondary head teachers to make enquiries as to what is happening for all students at KS4 in current years 10 and 11. Where there is evidence that GCSE has not been sat by all or most students they should be reminded that if students are not studying for RS GCSE that the Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference III, is available and should be followed at KS4 to ensure the right approach to religious education at this stage of a young person's school career and to ensure an appropriate level of challenge.

15. South Central HUB (AI 9)

Pat Hannam presented her report on the recent meeting of the South Central SACRE RE Hub, which has grown to include 12 local SACREs and university members. Discussion there had centred on how to support teachers and details of the Research and Reading Group was attached to the report, which included dates of future meetings.

A copy of the interfaith calendar produced by the Hub was circulated at the meeting which included impressive artwork by RE pupils.

Regarding attendance at the Hub meetings the Chair wished to widen participation, so that those who were interested and could attend could be invited, with reporting back to the full SACRE. Elizabeth Jenkerson had previously attended and stressed these meetings are open to SACRE members.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be received;
- (2) That dates of South Central SACRE RE Hub meetings be circulated to members for volunteers to attend on behalf of the Portsmouth SACRE.

16. Date and venue of the next meeting (AI 10)

Before the close of the meeting Pat Hannam reminded members that inter-authority training was available, especially for new members at Winchester.

The date of the June meeting needed to be revised and the following dates were agreed:

Weds 27th June - to be hosted by St George's Beneficial School (volunteered by Sandra Gibb)

Weds 14th November 2018

Weds 20th March 2019

(all at 4.30pm)

The meeting concluded at 5.40 pm.

Councillor Ryan Brent
Chair of SACRE

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 7

Diversity of Religion and Belief

A guidance and resource pack for primary schools in England and Wales

Peter Hemming, Elena Hailwood, Connor Stokes (Cardiff University)

Executive Summary

Diversity of religion and belief is increasingly recognised within education as a strand of social difference deserving of attention. However, primary schools in England and Wales have not always had easy access to clear guidance on how to approach the issue. This guidance and resource pack brings together relevant policy frameworks, academic research, and good practice into a single document, also providing signposts to helpful resources in the field. It draws on expertise from across the sector, including from researchers, teaching professionals and educational organisations.

The pack provides schools with the tools to create an environment that recognises and values diversity of religion and belief, as well as deliver good quality Religious Education that promotes interfaith respect and understanding. It has been designed to speak to the particular needs and circumstances of schools with more or less diverse pupil intakes, schools with or without a religious character, and schools located in urban or rural contexts. The guidance and resource pack is free of charge and is available to download in PDF format from: <http://orca.cf.ac.uk/110147/>

The pack includes information on the following:

- *Legislative, curriculum and inspection frameworks*
- *Guidance for schools:*
 - *Developing a whole school approach*
 - *Positive inter-faith relations*
 - *Good quality Religious Education*
 - *Inclusive assemblies and collective worship*
 - *Accommodating religious needs*
 - *Religious festivals and celebrations*
 - *Parents and the wider community*
- *Curriculum resources, organisation listings, examples of displays*

This page is intentionally left blank



Agenda Item 9



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Date of meeting: 27th June 2018
Subject: SACRE Monitoring Group Report
Report by: Patricia Hannam

1. **Purpose of report:** The purpose of this report is to inform SACRE of the findings and discussions that took place during the meeting of the SACRE monitoring sub-group on 21st May 2018. The group is working to support SACRE in fulfilling its duty to ensure the effectiveness of RE through the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus

The group received an update regarding primary Ofsted reports mentioning RE or SMSC or preparing children and young people for life in modern Britain, findings of 1 visit to Portsmouth Primary schools as well as update on professional education opportunities available for Portsmouth teachers and school leaders.

The Portsmouth SACRE Constitution was also reviewed by those attending this meeting as requested by full SACRE.

Recommendations: That 'New to leading RE at KS1 and KS2' course is made available for primary schools in Portsmouth.

Background: The monitoring group met on 21st May 2018 at 15.30.

Attendees - Cllr Suzy Horton (vice chair chairing this meeting) , Elizabeth Jenkerson, Rev S Duddles, Jane Kelly, Sadler, Patricia (professional adviser) and Joanne Wildsmith (clerk)

Apologies - Cllr R Brent (chair), Peter Davies, Sandra Gibb, and Mike Stoneman



2. Evidence considered

2.1 Ofsted Visits: the group recalled the different Ofsted visits and reports that may be written following these visits. Longer reports written after a 2 day visit are more likely to mention RE specifically or infer something about RE through mention of a schools requirement to promote children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development or with regard to preparing them for life in modern Britain. In the period examined no Portsmouth secondary schools had received a visit from Ofsted . This was the second period where no secondary schools had been visited. 1 Portsmouth primary school (academy) had been visited for a full (section 5) inspection (2 days) and required improvement (RI). This report specifically mentioned that the quality of teaching in religious education required improvement. This school does not currently attend RE networks. 3 further primary schools had a short 1 day visit and retained their 'good' judgement however these reports did not mention RE explicitly.

2.2 SACRE Monitoring Visits:

2.2.1 In this period, SACRE Advisers have made visits to 1 further Portsmouth Primary school, making 10 visits altogether, one further visit is planned. This school had a good long term plan in place, the lesson seen was well prepared and other medium term planning was available. The concept map had been well thought through and all teachers were using the approach. The requirements of the syllabus were met.

2.2.2 Conclusion: The 10 visits that have been made give a positive endorsement of the way Living Difference III has been implemented across Portsmouth since its adoption in 2016. The profile of RE seems high in Portsmouth primary schools

2.3 Professional education opportunities for schools

- A network for primary RE subject leaders takes place once each term. About 12 schools regularly attend this meeting.



- The monitoring group discussed the fact that the subject leadership of RE can change quite frequently in primary schools for a number of reasons. It was therefore considered desirable to enable a new subject leader's course to take place in Portsmouth during the autumn term.

2.4 GCSE religious studies

- The monitoring group were reminded that the GCSE Full Course called Religious Studies (RS), is intended to be a 2 year course sat at the end of year 11, however some schools teach the GCSE RS over three years, beginning in year 9. This course is intended to be taught in 120 hours, Ideally in three lessons per fortnight, over 2 years.
 - The New Religious Studies GCSE that has been examined for the first time in the 2018 examination series is more 'knowledge heavy' and has been placing different demands upon teachers and also students.
 - SACRE monitoring group will be looking carefully at the number of GCSE entries that have been made when this information becomes public in the autumn. Nationally there is information indicating a further reduction in entries.
 - Where GCSE is not taught at KS4, students should have access to a KS4 religious education curriculum that not only meets the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus but also ensures schools meet the OFSTED requirements for religious education as set out in the Ofsted Inspection Handbook.
 - Information is awaited following enquiries made to Portsmouth Secondary Schools as to what is being offered to students at KS4 in current years 10 and 11.
3. **Review of SACRE Constitution.** As agreed in the Full SACRE meeting in February, the Monitoring Group discussed recommended amendments to the constitution.



Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

.....
Signed by: