



NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2019 AT 4.30 PM

KING'S CHURCH, SOMER'S ROAD, PORTSMOUTH PO5 4AQ (IN THE SMALL HALL)

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Membership

Vacant (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 located on Portsmouth City Council Website)

<https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=174>

(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

A G E N D A

1 Welcome and Introductions

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Moment for Quiet Reflection

Revd Sam Duddles to lead.

4 Membership update & Training

To note the resignation of Major Teresa Everett, Salvation Army (Group A) and the forthcoming resignation of Sarah Sadler (Group C) from July 2019.

Councillor Tom Coles has been appointed by Portsmouth City Council as one of the 2 elected members for Group D (with Councillor Suzy Horton).

To note the appointment of Debbie Lucas (Group C, Secondary Rep).

Ryan Brent is no longer a PCC representative but is eligible for invitation as a co-opted member of SACRE should the SACRE wish to make this appointment.

As there have been several changes to membership over the last year Patricia Hannam, the Professional Adviser, is considering running a training session in Portsmouth.

5 Declaration of Members' Interests

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.

6 Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 20 March 2019 (Pages 5 - 10)

RECOMMENDED the SACRE agrees the minutes of the previous meeting held 20 March 2019 as a correct record.

7 Matters Arising from the minutes

Members may raise any matters from the minutes that are not otherwise identified on the agenda.

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

9 Monitoring Group Report (Pages 11 - 12)

To receive the report from the meeting held on 20 May 2019.

RECOMMENDED that SACRE notes the findings of the monitoring group meeting.

10 National Issues impacting Portsmouth Schools, developments regarding Commission on RE. Also Ofsted new Framework for school inspections and NASACRE verbal update (Pages 13 - 16)

To receive the report regarding the Commission on RE including feedback from meeting held 13 June 2019. Plus a verbal update from the Professional Adviser.

RECOMMENDED that SACRE receive the report on the Commission on RE and consider a mechanism for co-opting a Governor and ITE representative to SACRE

11 Election of Chair

Former Councillor Ryan Brent and Councillor Suzy Horton were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively at the summer term meeting held on 13 July 2017 for a 2 year period. These periods of office are therefore up for renewal by the next meeting.

Consideration should therefore be given of nominations for these positions and the timing of the election.

12 Date and venue of the next meeting

To note the previously agreed dates at 4.30pm:

- Wednesday 20th November - at a school if possible
- Wednesday 18th March 2020 - Civic Offices

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.

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Agenda Item 6

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, 20 March 2019 at 4.00 pm at the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Ryan Brent (in the Chair - Group D)

Group A - Ruth Jenkerson,
Peter Davies with Chris Thomas
Geoff Wheeler,
Syed Aminul Haque
Sarah Coote,
Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo &
Christine McMillan

Group B - Jane Kelly & Revd Sam Duddles

Group C - Sandra Gibb

Group D - Councillor Suzy Horton (Vice-Chair) &
Maria Cole

16. Welcome and Introductions (AI 1)

Councillor Brent, as Chair, welcomed everyone and introductions were made by all present.

17. Apologies for Absence (AI 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Helen Reeder, Teresa Everett, Taki Jaffer, Aasha Small, Mike Stoneman, Sue Bowen and Ruth Guyer.

18. Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 3)

Peter Davies was attending his last meeting, representing the Evangelical Church, and it was fitting that he had been asked to lead the moment for quiet reflection. Peter spoke of the recent attacks on mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, and offered thoughts and prayers to all our Muslim friends and colleagues in its aftermath. He lamented the lack of peace in the world and in this country and quoted from Horatio Spafford's poetry from 1880s America (on the tragic loss of his family) and from the Bible, on the search for finding inner peace.

Councillor Brent, on behalf of everyone, thanked Peter for all of his input over the many years of service to SACRE, which had been greatly valued.

19. Declaration of Members' Interests (AI 4)

Elizabeth Jenkerson made her standard declaration that she is on the West Hill Panel that judges grants for SACREs.

20. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 14 November 2018 (AI 5)

It was noticed that the venue for the last meeting should have stated Highbury Primary School (as referred to in the welcome and introductions). Other than this correction, the minutes of Portsmouth SACRE held on 14 November 2018 were approved as a correct record.

21. Matters Arising from the minutes (AI 6)

None.

22. Membership Update (AI 7)

New members were welcomed - Chris Thomas was attending as the replacement representative for the Evangelical churches and Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datto was attending his first meeting as a Shia Muslim representative.

23. Brief updates or notification of items to be brought to a future meeting (AI 8)

Patricia Hannam suggested that a member of Portsmouth SACRE attend the NASACRE meeting in Manchester on 22nd May at Manchester and invited volunteers. **Rev Sam Duddles was interested and would check her diary.** Patricia would be going for Hampshire SACRE and whoever attended could help report back.

24. Monitoring Group Report (AI 9)

Patricia Hannam, Professional Adviser, presented her report which set out the monitoring work being undertaken and she reported that there was still an unsatisfactory response from secondary head-teachers regarding their Key Stage 4 provision. The group had looked at the monitoring visit to one school, which could not be named in the public meeting.

With regard to the 2018 GCSE results, the number of entries had stabilised and where Portsmouth pupils entered they were achieving higher than the national average. With 345 entrants, there remained concern regarding what the remaining 14-16 year olds were accessing, as all schools are meant to have RE provision at Key Stage 4, and the majority of pupils were from the 2 church schools (St.Edmunds and Charter/Ark). In response to questions it was reported that it was not mainly the academies that were unfulfilling this responsibility. Sandra Gibb reported that she was aware that secondary schools had tutor times that could potentially be used. Patricia Hannam was keen to find a secondary representative for the SACRE.

Only 2 of 10 secondary heads had so far responded, and members were mindful of the local authority maintaining general responsibility for academies.

RESOLVED

(1) that SACRE writes to all Secondary Head Teachers and that this is followed up by direct contact from the SACRE Professional Adviser to remind them that where GCSE is not taught at KS4, students should have access to a rich religious education curriculum. Further, to offer advice to school leavers on the requirements for RE in LA and Academy Schools, and to invite teachers to attend the Secondary RE Network meetings.

(2) That efforts are made to find a secondary school representative for Portsmouth SACRE.

25. Report from South West AREIAC conference for SACREs (AI 10)

Rev Sam Duddles reported on her attendance at the conference in Somerset on behalf of the SACRE, and had been surprised to be the only member of the clergy there. The day had been to update participants on developments and changes for RE and how this would look and how 'World Views' would be taught. Patricia Hannam had led a session on Religious Literacy, considering what it is expected from what children are being asked to explore and they lived out experiences.

Members were interested to hear of the session run by a team from Bristol who had organised school visits to local mosques, giving out certificates for attendance by a member of their SACRE, and who had challenged excuses given for non-attendance.

Patricia Hannam had enjoyed the day and had taken 4 others with her from different faiths and different SACREs. Elizabeth Jenkerson had attended to represent Hants SACRE and had been impressed by the speakers who had included Rudi Eliot (Chief Executive Officer REC) and Paul Smalley (Chairman NASACRE). **Patricia would request a copy of Paul's presentation to circulate to the SACRE.**

Concerns raised about the future of SACREs included what bodies may replace them, the balance between teaching RE and world view and the possible disconnect from councillors at local authorities. It was however thought that the changes would be delayed as there was not currently sufficient parliamentary time available for them to be implemented. Joyce Miler (Chair of REC and CoRE Commissioner) had stressed that they did not want to damage good practice already in place, such as good council engagement at Portsmouth SACRE.

Patricia Hannam expanded on her Religious Literacy talk at the conference, based on the work of 3 researchers via Brunel University, and the official findings would be launched on 4 June in Winchester, and **she would invite SACRE members to this.**

26. Update regarding the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus (AI 11)

Patricia Hannam, Professional Adviser, reported that she runs the Secondary Schools' network in Hampshire and her colleague Justine runs the Primary network. These sessions are held at the Training Centre and would like more schools to attend and invited comments on how this could be achieved, such as changes to the timing. Sandra Gibb reported that whilst the English Network was well attended, the Science Network was also dwindling, with teachers having pressure on their time and it was difficult to release staff, but if it was outside of school hours the teachers lost out on their family time.

Patricia would continue to monitor attendance.

27. Final report of the Commission on RE (AI 12)

Patricia Hannam, Professional Adviser, explained that the sub group had not met since the last meeting but that in the interim the Secretary of State for Education had written to the Chair of the Commission Reverend J Hall to inform him that there was no way that there would be legislative change in the life of this parliament. There were still issues to be raised to raise the profile of RE and feed back to NASACRE.

Elizabeth Jenkerson reported that the RE bursary had been reinstated and more time was being given for teacher training. Patricia further reported that there was also funding for subject knowledge regarding the PGCE in RE.

It was still the intention to convene the sub group and report back to the next meeting, to be hosted by Sam Duddles in early May, and members should contact the clerk if they wished to be involved.

28. Revised Framework and Handbook for Ofsted inspections of Schools (AI 13)

Patricia Hannam, Professional Adviser, presented her report regarding the new inspection framework from September and the handbook of inspection for maintained schools (all non-independent schools). The 4 areas included inspecting the quality of education which Patricia highlighted was missing specifying Religious Education. It was therefore proposed that a formal response would be sent by Councillor Brent on behalf of Portsmouth SACRE.

All members were encouraged to make individual responses too, using the consultation web link provided in the report and agenda.

There was some good news in that there is mention of Religious Education in the revised handbook (under Curriculum Flexibility pages 41 paragraph 159) "All pupils in maintained schools are expected to study the national curriculum subjects, religious education and age-appropriate sex education". The guidance also goes on to allow schools to take "radically different approaches to the curriculum" although Sandra Gibb pointed out that in Early Years this can include teaching through play, and for teachers the splitting of behaviour and personal development was welcomed.

The Professional Adviser's concern was at page 49 of the inspection handbook "Good/Intent" 4th paragraph regarding pupils studying the full curriculum did not specify inclusion of RE.

Patricia would be running training sessions for Portsmouth schools regarding the new inspection regime when it came into place in the summer. Each 2 day inspection would have 2 subject specialists attending, which may include RE as the foundation subject. She favoured the reinstating of the clear explanation of what is expected of collective worship.

Councillor Brent reiterated that as well as the formal response going from him, all members should read the consultation and make their own responses too by 5th April.

RESOLVED that Portsmouth SACRE submits a response to the consultation and that individual SACRE members make a response raising concerns about the omission of Religious Education in the grade descriptor for 'Good' under 'Quality of Education'.

29. Date and venue of the next meeting (AI 14)

The dates for the next meetings were agreed at 4.30pm venues to be advised:

- Wednesday 26th June
- Wednesday 20th November
- Wednesday 18th March 2020

The meeting concluded at 5.45 pm.

Councillor Ryan Brent
Chair of SACRE

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Agenda Item 9



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: Wednesday June 26 2019

Subject: SACRE Monitoring Group Report

Report by: Patricia Hannam

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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 in February 2019. The group is working to support SACRE in fulfilling it's duty to ensure the effectiveness of RE through the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus

The group received an update on primary and secondary Ofsted reports mentioning or alluding to religious education that had been undertaken in Portsmouth since the last meeting.

2. **Recommendations:** That SACRE receive the report

3. **Background:** The monitoring group met on 25th February 2019 at 16.00.

Present:- Mike Stoneman, Sam Duddles, Elizabeth Jenkerson, Patricia Hannam (who chaired the meeting on this occasion)

Apologies: Jane Kelly

3.1 Ofsted Visits: the group was reminded that the type of visit a school will receive from Ofsted is dependent on their existing Ofsted status. Where a school is already 'good' then usually the visit will be a single day and RE rarely mentioned in this case. However, if a school is likely to be moving categories in any direction, then there will be a two day inspection and a



longer report. The longer reports are more likely to mention RE but usually in relation to the way in which a school is promoting children or young people's Spiritual, Moral, Social or Cultural (SMSC) development which is a requirement for schools. Religious education in an LA school, Academy or Voluntary Controlled (VC) school is inspected under Section 5. However, RE in a Voluntary Aided (VA) school is inspected under a Section 48 inspection. A school's promotion of children and young people's SMSC development is also regarded as a key way in which a school can be judged as teaching 'British Values' and preparing children for life in modern Britain. No issues were raised through considering these reports on this occasion.

3.2 Monitoring Visits: No SACRE monitoring visits have been undertaken in this period.

3.3 KS4 RE and RS GCSE: There was discussion regarding continuing concern about the lack of RS/RE at KS4 in several Portsmouth Secondary schools. ON this occasion discussions were in light of a letter received from the DfE by the Chair of NASACRE. In light of this it was decided that SACRE professional Adviser should write to secondary head teachers across the authority seeking details of how RE is being taught at KS4. Before each letter sent the professional adviser should view the websites of each Portsmouth Secondary School, and the findings presented to SACRE.



Agenda Item 10



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: Wednesday June 26 2019

Subject: COMMISSION ON RE (CoRE) and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (REC)

Report by: Patricia Hannam, Professional Adviser

1. **Purpose of report:** The purpose of this report is to inform SACRE of activities of this SACRE in relation to the Commission on RE Report, including a meeting of SACRE members to discuss this. In addition, it gives an update of the activities of the Religious education Council in relation to the Commission on RE report.
2. **Recommendations:** That SACRE receive the report and consider a mechanism for co-opting a Governor and ITE representative to SACRE.
3. **Background:** The Commission on RE final report was published in September 2018. A small group of SACRE members met with SACRE Professional Adviser on 13th June to discuss the CoRE Report including Chris Thomas (Group A), Sam Duddles (Group B), Ruth Guyer (group A), Maria Cole (Group D).
4. **Consideration of CoRE Report Recommendations.**

Regarding the name change to 'Religion and Worldview' There was a shared concern that 'worldviews' could in a constrained curriculum lead to a diminishing of the opportunity to explore what it means to live a life with a religious perspective. It was agreed there was the need for academic rigor. Perhaps worldviews would be better placed in the PSHCE curriculum. The group shared a concern about the loss of Christianity at the center of RE as is at present and



whether RE's current 'Wholly Christian' nature should be retained. A concern that this expansion of the subject would lead to a resource and teacher training concern. Teachers will need to be very well trained to take in other worldviews. Regarding the National Entitlement, it was agreed in principle this could be helpful. If it can be shown it would improve the quality of teaching and help to raise the profile of RE. Regarding the recommendation that Ofsted should inspect RE, this was uncontroversial. The group felt that there would be no advantage to changing the composition of SACREs to the proposed new LANR&Es. Further it was regarded as likely to be a significant loss if the close relationship with the Local Authority was amended. The group felt it was grateful to the support and commitment to SACRE shown by Portsmouth LA.

A discussion took place also regarding the relationship between the academisation of schools and religious education as well as the impact of the EBacc on the reduction of RS GCSE entries across the authority.

It was suggested that Portsmouth SACRE Consider inviting/co-opting a representative from a governing body and a local ITE provider and that a mechanism for doing that be found.

5. **The Religious Education Council (REC) of England and Wales**, is a large body consisting of members of many organisations which have an interested position in relation to RE. This includes many faith bodies as well as national bodies such as the Association of RE Inspectors Advisers and Consultants. (AREIAC). SACRE professional Adviser sits on the REC as AREIAC representative.



The REC meets twice a year in London in various places of worship. The May 2018 meeting was held in Southwark Catholic Cathedral education centre.

6. Key matters presented and discussed in the May RE Council Meeting.

The REC Board is a body consisting of those elected from the whole REC membership. A small sub-group has been advising the REC Board on a way forward for the CoRE report findings, in light of the limited response received from the DfE. The REC board is proceeding to consider ways to take forward the CoRE report recommendations by grouping them into three broad groups.

- (i) Aspects of the report that can be put into place right away, acknowledging that some recommendations have already been met. For example, reinstating the bursary for RE PGCE and funding Subject Knowledge Enhancement courses for people wanting to train as RE teachers from other undergraduate disciplines.
- (ii) Aspects of the report that are not so contentious and could be implemented soon with some specific action. For example, encouraging government to consider bringing together a body to discuss the continuance of the 'right to withdraw' from RE which does not exist for any other subject. In addition, discussion can begin now on what the precise and desirable content of a National Entitlement would be - were it to exist.
- (iii) Aspects of the CoRE report that need further consideration. For example, the legal position of SACREs, and position and management of a



National Entitlement; and in general aspects of the CoRE report that would need legislative change.

The Chair of REC has been working to continue to keep RE in the national eye. The CEO continue to give a clear voice to matters relating to religious education in our schools in many national forums.

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

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Signed by: