
NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2020

TIME: 5.00 PM (OR AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS
CONFERENCE, WHICHEVER IS THE EARLIER)

THE EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM - THIRD FLOOR, THE GUILDHALL

Telephone enquiries to Joanne Wildsmith (023) 9283 4057
Email: joanne.wildsmith@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Membership

Councillor Suzy Horton (Chair)
Reverend Sam Duddles (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Tom Coles
Maria Cole
Taki Jaffer
sarah coote
Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo
Syed Aminul Haque
Elizabeth Jenkerson
Christine McMillan
Geoff Wheeler
John Mills
Pastor Chris Thomas
Akshat Metha

Sue Bowen
Jane Kelly
Sandra Gibb
Helen Reeder
Kari Laing
Aasha Small
Debbie Lucas
Gemma Self
Paula Withers
Ali Beechurst
Ryan Brent

(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

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Moment for Quiet Reflection

4 Declaration of Members' Interests

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

Note: should any interest arise during the meeting, members are asked to declare at that time.

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

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 November 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

6 Matters Arising from the minutes of 20 November 2019

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

7 Membership Update

To note the resignations of Revd Jane Ball (Group B) and Marilyn Leggett (Group A).

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

To receive any brief updates from members of SACRE.

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

9 Monitoring Group Report (Pages 11 - 12)

Patricia Hannam, Professional Adviser to the SACRE, to present the report of the monitoring sub group held on 4th March 2020.

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

10 Determinations Policy (Pages 13 - 16)

To receive a report from Patricia Hannam, SACRE's Professional Adviser, presenting proposals for a Portsmouth SACRE Determinations Process. A draft policy and form are attached.

RECOMMENDED that SACRE agree a Determinations Process.

11 National and local updates on Religious Education

To receive a report from Patricia Hannam, SACRE's Professional Adviser, on the activities of national RE bodies such as the Religious Education Council (REC) and the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) as well as other local matters of significance not discussed elsewhere on this agenda.

A volunteer is also sought to represent Portsmouth SACRE at the NASACRE annual conference, this year on 18th May in London.

RECOMMENDED

- (i) that the report by the Professional Adviser be noted.**
- (ii) that a representative attend the NASACRE annual conference on 18th May in London to represent Portsmouth SACRE.**

12 Date and venue of the next meeting

It is proposed that the next scheduled meeting take place on Thursday 25th June at 4.30pm.

It is hoped that this be held in a place of worship, preferably one of Portsmouth's mosques.

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 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, 20 November 2019 at 4.30 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Suzy Horton (in the Chair) (Group D)

Group A - sarah coote, Elizabeth Jenkerson
Christine McMillan, Geoff Wheeler
John Mills, Chris Thomas, Akshat Metha

Group B - Jane Kelly & Revd Sam Duddles (Vice-Chair)

Group C - Aasha Small, Debbie Lucas
Group D - Maria Cole

Mike Stoneman, Patricia Hannam & Joanne Wildsmith

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Tom Coles, Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo, Syed Aminul Haque, Bowen, Sandra Gibb, Ali Beechurst and Ryan Brent

42. Welcome and Introductions (AI 1)

Councillor Horton, as Chair, welcomed everyone and thanked Aasha Small for taking members on a tour of Medina Primary School. SACRE members appreciated seeing the hard work going into the teaching of RE and were impressed by its evident application.

Introductions were then made around the table.

43. Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 2)

Aasha Small led the reflection, using the example of the representations of Brahmen in the Hindu faith and the qualities embodied in the most well known gods and goddesses and asking everyone to think of those who turn to them for different things.

44. Apologies for Absence (AI 3)

Apologies had been received from Councillor Tom Coles, Sandra Gibb, Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo, Sue Bowen, Helen Reeder, Ryan Brent and Syed Aminul Haque.

45. Declaration of Members' Interest (AI 4)

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

46. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 26 June 2019 (AI 5)

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2019 be approved as a correct record.

47. Matters Arising from the minutes (AI 6)

- i) Artefact boxes used by schools (Min 37) - in response to questions
Mike Stoneman reported that Portsmouth schools should be aware of this resource through EMAS and as part of their signing up to traded services. It was suggested that if there were items missing that the appropriate faith groups could be contacted to ask if they would be willing to replace these. Mike would ask Karen Thomas and Rubi Giles to take forward this suggestion.
- ii) Pat Hannam reported that contact with secondary heads was going forward (action in Min 38) and also that she was still pursuing contact with charitable trusts to help fund cover for teachers attending courses.

48. Membership Update (AI 7)

The resignations of long-standing members Tom Blair (Roman Catholic) and Ruth Guyer (Judaism) were noted. The appointment of Ali Beechurst to Group C as a Primary Representative was welcomed.

As Ruth Guyer had been heavily involved in school visits and had been a previous Vice-Chair a card would be sent to thank her for her good services and her best wishes to the SACRE were reported.

Pat Hannam reported that efforts were being made to secure new replacement members.

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

Maria Cole reported that a directory of contacts for places of worship had previously been made available for schools; Mike Stoneman undertook to look into and asked if a copy of the old directory could be sent to him and Pat with a view to providing an updated electronic document. This could sit alongside the recent guidance document that had been published (refer to item 55).

50. Monitoring Group Report (AI 9)

Pat Hannam, Professional Adviser, explained for newer members the role of this group in looking at the effectiveness of the implementation of the agreed syllabus Living Difference III and to look at Ofsted findings and GCSE results.

Under the new Ofsted framework only 1 report had been available but RE was going to be considered more by their inspectors in the future. All school inspection visits will now be 2 days, with some receiving "deep dive" closer interrogation. Mike Stoneman reported that the Section 8 reports seen so far were very slim.

Pat Hannam reported that the inspectors want to check that the curriculum is taught with coherence and will look at the impact and intention of teachers. The indications are that RE will be reported back better and Pat was aware of more teachers being interested in attending RE courses. Debbie Lucas reported that Admiral Lord Nelson School had received a practice inspection, but this had not resulted in written feedback. There is a Specialist Advisory Group so that the inspectors would be more knowledgeable in their subjects with one subject advisor for RE, half of their time would be used to train inspectors. In response to questions it was further reported that there is a South East region for Ofsted and that the inspectors were unlikely to challenge the syllabus (which had been checked with the Hampshire County Council Legal Team), which was highly regarded and used by other local authorities.

Mike Stoneman reported that there would be an analysis of GCSE data once it was available, which was later this year.

SACRE received the monitoring group, as updated at the meeting, and noted the findings.

51. Constitution Revision - membership (AI 10)

When the SACRE had previously looked to update its constitution the issue of agreeing membership (particularly to Group A) for less established faith groups had been identified as needing further consideration. The need for membership to be valid had been discussed. Therefore the wording on the agenda had been suggested, in liaison with Portsmouth City Council's Legal Services, to be added to the amended constitution. SACRE members were supportive of this wording being reflected in the constitution, and there would be clarification that it related to the 1996 Education Act. **This process for using a membership sub group as and when needed was agreed.**

There was a further discussion regarding whether membership should be extended to parent governors and young people. It was felt that the responsibility for teaching RE lay with the schools.

52. Update regarding the forthcoming review of the Agreed Syllabus (AI 11)

Patricia Hannam, as Professional Adviser, wished to give advance notice that with the Agreed Syllabus needing to be adopted every 5 years (the current one was adopted in 2016 so would need updating in 2021) a review meeting was needed in 2020. It was suggested that the 4 local authorities review their joint syllabus together. Therefore there is a need to convene the Agreed Syllabus Conference, which would be immediately prior to the next full SACRE meeting, at which the 4 groups would need to discuss the minutes of

the previous meeting and then meet together to approve these. It was therefore imperative that all 4 groups would be represented to ensure a quorum was reached.

Patricia Hanna undertook to make known the date of the Hampshire meeting on the syllabus as she would be making a presentation there.

53. National and local updates on Religious Education (AI 12)

- i) Annual NASACRE Conference - Monday 18 May in London - at the next meeting volunteers would be sought to attend to represent Portsmouth SACRE. Elizabeth Jenkerson would be attending as a member of the national executive and she gave further details on keynote speakers and sessions; full details are available to view on the NASACRE website which all members would be reminded of logon details.

- ii) Commission on RE - the full report can be viewed here:
<https://www.commissiononre.org.uk/>

Research projects were being planned for looking into what the term "world views" means with a report due to be presented in the Spring and a 2 day conference in June for the REC.

- iii) Religious Literacy - The summary of the report had been sent out with the agenda. Patricia Hannam expanded on the report's findings, with the term 'religious literacy' being used loosely. Researchers had worked on an extended review looking at what literacy entails, from the historic context of the 1870 Elementary Education Act of functional literacy, which was different to critical literacy which had emerged and had been witnessed in the Civil Rights movement. She commended the report and some members of SACRE would look at this further in a reading group which Revd Sam Duddles offered to host.

54. Annual report 2018/19 (AI 13)

The draft annual report was circulated with the agenda. Discussion took place regarding the setting of the 4 distinct SACRE membership groups as part of the 1988 Act, with the Church of England having 4 representatives from the established church (which was different to the arrangements in Wales). It was reported that for the Hampshire SACRE the Humanist representative was co-opted and was non-voting.

It was suggested that the report be amended slightly at 1.3 regarding composition to be in line with the Portsmouth SACRE constitution, to show that the 4 the local authority (Group D) should include at least 2 elected members (not necessarily all). At 1.5 a function of SACRE is to recommend to the LA that the current agreed syllabus should be reviewed.

Patricia Hannam had included the detailed Action Plan, and one of the actions was to ensure that replacement members are found to fill vacancies. Aasha Small offered to get in touch with the local Gurdwara regarding the Sikh vacancy.

John Mills asked why there was no mention of the short RE course; Patricia Hannam responded that this had ceased to count towards accountability measures.

RESOLVED that the Portsmouth SACRE Annual Report, as amended, be received and forwarded to the relevant national and local bodies.

55. Guidance Document (for information) (AI 14)

Mike Stoneman presented the document which Justine Ball of HIAS and a working group including SACRE members had contributed towards, which was now published to provide guidance to schools. This had been sent to all schools and was published on the Portsmouth Education Partnership website, and this was receiving positive feedback from the headteachers. Aasha Small concurred that this was a useful reference point and her school would be sharing this with colleagues at a staff meeting to raise awareness. Patricia Hannam felt that this would also be useful for the professional development of staff.

The availability of the guidance document was welcomed and noted.

56. Policy for Determinations on collective worship (AI 15)

Patricia Hannam explained the background to this item. There had been no requests from schools in recent years for determination of withdrawal from collective worship in LA schools and academies where these are not schools of religious character, as for all the other schools this should be broadly Christian. If a school has sufficient numbers of children who are not Christian it is possible for a local authority school to make a request to the SACRE that this is set aside (if agreed collective worship still takes place but it is not broadly Christian). For academies the request goes to the Department for Education.

Therefore an up to date procedure should be in place to deal with requests for determinations from schools (it cannot be by individual parents) who have consulted with their governors. Patricia Hannam was taking advice from London Boroughs, where requests were more prevalent, and would like to meet with a one-off sub group to discuss a draft procedure before it is taken to the full SACRE for ratification.

Geoff Wheeler suggested that in fulfilling the SACRE role of monitoring collective worship a questionnaire could be sent to schools.

It was therefore **AGREED that:**

- i) A small sub group look at a draft policy for determination in January; volunteers included Aasha Small, Jane Kelly, Debbie**

Lucas, Elizabeth Jenkerson and Sam Duddles, to report back to SACRE.

ii) Mike Stoneman and Patricia Hannam would look at questions for schools on collective worship (and withdrawals).

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

The next meeting (including a short separate meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference) would take place on Tuesday 18th March 2020 at 4.30pm at the Guildhall.

Venues for future meeting were discussed and it was hoped that a visit to a mosque could be arranged for the June meeting (Debbie Lucas offered to make contact once a date was confirmed).

The meeting concluded at 6.30 pm.

Councillor Suzy Horton
Chair of SACRE



Agenda Item 9



Title of meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date of meeting: Wednesday 18 March 2020

Subject: SACRE Monitoring Group Report

Report by: Patricia Hannam, SACRE Professional Adviser

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 4 March 2020. 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 on GCSE results across the authority, follow up visits to Portsmouth schools as well as consideration of reports from visits to Portsmouth schools by Ofsted that mentioned or alluded to religious education undertaken in Portsmouth since the last meeting.
2. **Recommended that SACRE receive the report**
3. **Background:** The monitoring group met on 4th March at 15.00.

Present:- Cllr Suzy Horton (Chair) Reverend Samantha Duddles (Vice Chair), Jane Kelly, Debbie Lucas, Jo Peach, Patricia Hannam & Joanne Wildsmith.

Apologies: Elizabeth Jenkerson

3.1 Ofsted Visits: the group was reminded about the new Ofsted

Framework/Handbook that now guides the Ofsted visits. Reports are not much shorter and intended for parents, they now give very little detail. 6 Portsmouth primary schools had received an Ofsted visit during the period considered at the meeting. Only one report mentioned 'religion' in relation to



culture, however not in relation to the RE Curriculum. This school was an Academy and it was decided that Portsmouth SACRE Professional Adviser would write to the regional director of the trust to enquire whether Living Difference III was being used for their RE Curriculum.

3.2 Monitoring Visits: SACRE Professional Adviser was able to make a visit to as school and this was reported on positively at the meeting. Two further half day follow-up visits are being made to the RE Department.

3.3 KS4 RE and RS GCSE Results: The unverified data was considered at this meeting. Portsmouth 4+ GCSE result in 2019 was 78.8% and well above the national (71.4). However, there is a wide variation between schools hidden in that data. Although those who sit GCSE Full Course in Portsmouth overall in some schools achieve well, there is still concern about the number of young people who do not have the opportunity to study RE at KS4. The professional adviser runs a secondary network meeting once each term in the Havant area to which Portsmouth schools are welcome to attend.

3.4 Creation of resources: A non-examination Core RE course for KS4 is being developed. It is hoped some Portsmouth Schools might be able to be involved in the piloting of this. In addition, a Human Resource was discussed which could support the curriculum and the school and model community. The professional adviser and vice-chair will follow this up and bring to a future meeting.

Agenda Item 10

Portsmouth SACRE - Draft Determination Policy

Applying for a determinationⁱ

Background

All maintained schools must provide a daily act of collective worship (CW). The act of CW must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". For some schools this may not be appropriate, for example, if their pupils are predominantly from non-Christian faiths.

A Local Authority (LA) school can apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for an exemption from the requirement to provide CW that is "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". The application can relate to a clearly defined group or to the whole school. This does not remove the requirement to hold a daily act of CW. This application will be assessed by the SACRE who will come to a "determination" on whether an exemption can be allowed. A determination lasts for up to five years.

This process does not apply to LA maintained voluntary controlled or voluntary aided schools, since the character and content of CW in these schools is determined by the governing body.

An Academy school must apply for a determination from the DfE.

The Process

Any LA school seeking to apply for a determination should complete the attached form and send it with the required accompanying documents to the address provided, for consideration by SACRE.

Completed applications should be with the SACRE Clerk at least SIX weeks before the SACRE meeting that will consider the application. SACRE meeting dates are published here <https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=174&Year=0>

SACRE will seek to respond within 3 weeks of that meeting. The response will either be to grant or deny the application for a determination, or may request further information. Schools are strongly advised to have consulted with SACRE's professional advisers in advance of making an application.

The Application

Applications for a determination can only be made by the head teacher of the school.

If a school is considering making an application the head teacher must consult the school's governing body, who in turn may wish to seek the views of parents. The head teacher and governing body may wish to take advice from SACRE professional advisers.

There is no set period for any consultation to have taken place, but the school may provide appropriate guidance for those involved which explains what the proposed changes would mean.

It is important that enough time is given for all concerned to respond.

Head teachers, together with the governing body, are likely to want to take the results of the consultation into account when deciding whether to proceed with their application.

Applications received will be assessed based on the following evidence, to include:

- An explanation of why a determination is needed
- A breakdown (in percentages) of children from families they believe the determination will apply to
- Evidence of consultation with the governing body
- Evidence of consultation with parents of children currently attending the school if sought by the governing body

How SACRE will make a decision

Once the application and accompanying documentation has been received by the SACRE Clerk, a small group of SACRE members will hold a preliminary meeting before the Chairman's briefing preceding the next SACRE. This group will be convened as required by the Clerk to SACRE and consist of a representative of each of SACRE group, a co-opted member (if required) and the SACRE Professional Adviser(s). If there is insufficient time to convene this group before the next SACRE meeting, then a recommendation regarding the determination will be put before the following SACRE meeting.

The SACRE can only accept or reject an application, not modify it.

If a determination is granted, any request for renewal of an existing determination must be submitted by the head teacher to SACRE for review **at least 6 months prior** to the lapse of the determination. This review should follow the same process as the initial application. This timescale is to safeguard, assuming all circumstances remain the same as before, there is no break in the determination.

Notes:

The current and relevant legislation and statutory powers upon which this document has been prepared are: – s.394(1) Education Act 1996, s.70 and Schedule 20 of School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Schools may find it helpful to refer to a document known as 'Circular 1/94', pp. 20-25. Whilst being aware that some of the legislation referred to has been repealed, it gives explanation of the position pertaining in general to Collective Worship in general as well as regarding applications for determinations: <http://www.educationengland.org.uk/documents/dfe/circular1-94.pdf>

ⁱ This process does not apply to Local Authority maintained Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools.



**APPLICATION FOR AN 'EXEMPTION FROM BROADLY CHRISTIAN
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (DETERMINATIONS) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
appropriate education acts (i.e. - s.394(1) Education Act 1996, s.70 and Schedule 20
of School Standards and Framework Act 1998.)**

School:

DfE number:

Headteacher:

Telephone Number:

Date of application for determination:

Please provide:

1. Explanation why a determination is needed
2. Current analysis of the religious diversity of the pupils at your school
3. Evidence of consultation with the governing body
4. Evidence of consultation with parents of children currently attending the school if sought by the governing body

Head teachers may also choose to provide Information to SACRE on what the school's policy on collective worship is going to be, how it will be managed and details of the form it will take.

SACRE can provide further advice if required.

Please return this form and any relevant attachments to:

Clerk to Portsmouth SACRE, C/o Democratic Service, Portsmouth City Council, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2AL

or by e-mail to: Democratic@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

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