



NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 3.30 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER - SECOND FLOOR, PORTSMOUTH GUILDHALL

Telephone enquiries to Lisa Gallacher (023) 9283 4056

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Information with regard to public access due to Covid precautions:

- Attendees will be requested to undertake an asymptomatic/ lateral flow test within 48 hours of the meeting.
- If symptomatic you must not attend and self-isolate following the stay at home guidance issued by Public Health England.
- All attendees are required to wear a face covering while moving around within the Guildhall (requirement of the venue)
- Although it will no longer be a requirement attendees may choose to keep a social distance and take opportunities to prevent the spread of infection
- Hand sanitiser is provided at the entrance and throughout the Guildhall. All attendees are encouraged to make use of hand sanitiser on entry to the Guildhall and are requested to follow the one way system in place.
- Attendees are encouraged book in to the venue (QR code). An NHS test and trace log will be retained and maintained for 21 days for those that cannot or have not downloaded the app.

Membership

Reverend Sam Duddles (Chair)

Councillor Tom Coles
Maria Cole
Taki Jaffer
Councillor Ryan Brent
sarah coote

Jaswant Singh-Digpal
Barbara Spiegelhalter
Geoff Wade
Sue Bowen
Jane Kelly

Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato
Syed Aminul Haque
Elizabeth Jenkerson
Christine McMillan
Geoff Wheeler
Pastor Chris Thomas

Kari Laing
Aasha Small
Debbie Lucas
Gemma Self
Ali Beechurst
Jessi Wilson

(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 Election of Chair followed by Welcome and Introductions

To elect a Chair for this meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

This will be followed by welcome and introductions.

Note: whilst the membership of the Agreed Syllabus Conference is the same as for Portsmouth Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education, this is a separate statutory body.

2 Apologies for Absence

To receive and note any apologies for absence.

3 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.

4 Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 6 July 2020 (Pages 5 - 8)

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the previous Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 6 July 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

5 Deputations from the public

To receive any written deputations from the public if any have been received.

6 Adoption of the reviewed and revised agreed syllabus for religious education in Portsmouth: Living Difference IV (Pages 9 - 10)

Every five years each Local Authority is required to review its agreed syllabus for religious education. The review process has now completed with Portsmouth SACRE members taking an active part in this.

This item will be presented by Patricia Hannam, Professional Adviser to SACRE.

RECOMMENDED That the Agreed Syllabus Conference approves the revised Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV, and recommends to the local authority that it is adopted as the Locally Agreed Syllabus for use across the authority's schools.

Note: This is subject to a formal vote the protocol for this is:

- Each of the four groups of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) discuss within their own groups their joint vote on the revised syllabus.
- Each group is entitled to 1 vote and according to non-statutory guidance, in order for the revised syllabus to be approved, all four groups must vote in favour.
- If the vote is not unanimous, the ASC must seek to arrive at a proposal which is acceptable to all four groups.

(If the situation remains unresolved, then the Secretary of State ultimately has the power to impose a syllabus on the authority.)

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Agenda Item 4

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Agreed Syllabus Conference held on Monday, 6 July 2020 (a virtual meeting via MSTEams, livestreamed)

Present

Councillor Suzy Horton (in the Chair) Group D

Councillors Elizabeth Jenkerson - Group A
Christine McMillan - Group A
Sue Bowen -Group B
Revd Sam Duddles - Group B
Sandra Gibb - Group C
Aasha Small - Group C
Ali Beechurst - Group C

Officers Present - Patricia Hannam, Jo Peach and Joanne Wildsmith

Apologies for Absence

sarah coote, Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo, John Mills, Chris Thomas and Jane Kelly

1. Election of Chair followed by Welcome and Introductions (AI 1)

Patricia Hannam, Portsmouth SACRE's Professional Adviser, opened the meeting and explained that this meeting was the rescheduled Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC), as the previous meeting had been due to be held in the first week of Coronavirus lockdown, restricting public gatherings. She invited nominations for a Chair for this ASC meeting:

Councillor Suzy Horton was proposed by Elizabeth Jenkerson and seconded by Revd Sam Duddles, and duly elected to chair this meeting. Cllr Horton welcomed everyone and asked for those present to confirm their attendance at this virtual meeting, and explained the regulations governing the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence (AI 2)

Apologies for absence had been received from John Mills, Chris Thomas, sarah coote, Jane Kelly and Sheik Fazle Abbas Datoo.

3. Declaration of Members' Interest (AI 3)

Elizabeth Jenkerson wished to make her standard declaration of being a judge for West Hill grants.

4. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 6 October 2016 (AI 4)

Those members who had been present at the last ASC meeting in 2016 were asked to consider the accuracy of the minutes.

It was proposed by Elizabeth Jenkerson and seconded by Cllr Horton that these be approved as a correct record. The minutes of 6 October 2016 were accordingly adopted.

5. Deputations from the public (AI 5)

Joanne Wildsmith advised that no written communications had been received from members of the public.

6. Revision of the Portsmouth Agreed Syllabus: Living Difference (AI 6)

Patricia Hannam, as Professional Adviser to SACRE, introduced this item, explaining the proposal to agree to review the agreed syllabus from 2016, as required in legislation. She invited questions before a 10 minute adjournment was held, which allowed the 4 groups to be able to discuss how they would wish to vote, with arrangements in place for a spokesperson for each group to feed back.

When the meeting was re-adjourned the following votes were relayed:

- Group A (faith groups) via Elizabeth Jenkerson - in favour of review
- Group B (Church of England) via Revd Sam Duddles - in favour
- Group C (teaching representatives) via Aasha Small - in favour
- Group D (Portsmouth City Council representatives) via Cllr Horton, in favour of review

RESOLVED that the previously agreed syllabus Living Difference III be reviewed.

7. Brief update on joint working - review process (AI 7)

Patricia Hannam, Professional Adviser, reported that a joint meeting of the local SACRE groups, who shared the syllabus, would be taking place on Friday 10th July at 9.30am, which she hoped some Portsmouth SACRE members could attend. Elizabeth Jenkerson (Group A) would be attending to also represent Southampton SACRE, Sam Duddles (Vice Chair) and Jane Kelly (both Group B) had indicated they hoped to attend for Portsmouth. The purpose would be to start to look at elements requiring revision in the syllabus where necessary, and Justine Ball was assisting Patricia in this process. There would be a year to re-write including to consult with religious authorities. The aim was to update the next full SACRE meeting in the autumn and look at a final syllabus document at another joint meeting across the 4 authorities in July 2021, for approval at an ASC in autumn 2021. The new syllabus may be called Living Difference IV.

The Chair was pleased that there had been some volunteers to attend and she also hoped to join part of the meeting. A volunteer teacher was needed

regarding Early Years, and Sandra Gibb passed on details of a local contact with this expertise. A primary and secondary teacher from Portsmouth are invited to attend the writing group meetings. Patricia Hannam would make contact with those interested in attending this first review and subsequent writing group meetings.

Councillor Horton thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

The meeting concluded at 4.15 pm.

Councillor Suzy Horton
Chair

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Agenda Item 6



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of meeting: SACRE Agreed Syllabus Conference

Date of meeting: 3 November 2021

Subject: Adoption of Living Difference IV as locally agreed syllabus for religious education

Report by: Patricia Hannam, Professional Advisor to SACRE

1. **Purpose of report:** The purpose of this report is to present the Agreed Syllabus Conference with the revisions to the agreed syllabus for religious education
2. **Recommendations:** That the Agreed Syllabus Conference approves the revised Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV, and recommends to the local authority that it is adopted as the Locally Agreed Syllabus for use across the authority's schools.
3. **Background:** Primary legislation required that an agreed syllabus for religious education is reviewed every five years. The current syllabus Living Difference III that built on the previous syllabus of 2004 and 2011, was adopted for use in December 2016. Living Difference IV has been developed following a period of review since the last ASC in June 2020.
4. The locally agreed syllabus Living Difference III has been shared across the four local authorities of Portsmouth, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, and Southampton, since December 2016.
5. Meetings have taken place with representatives from SACREs from the four authorities in July 2020 and again in 2021. In between time many consultation meetings took place with teachers and other advisers and experts in the field. In light of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, all meetings have taken place virtually. This is a significant time to be reviewing the locally Agreed Syllabus in the light of recommendations of the Commission on RE (CoRE) report published in 2018. The review has taken the CoRE recommendations into account in developing Living Difference IV.
6. SACRE has been involved in all consultation processes and reports have been made at each meeting during the period of review and revision.
7. Living Difference IV has been prepared and a presentation will be made to SACRE to support this report, on the key elements that have stayed the same and the key elements that have been revised in light of the consultation process. It is intended that Living Difference IV will ensure teachers across the authority have access to the guidance and support they



need to teach the highest quality religious education to children and young people living in Portsmouth.

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

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Signed by: