

**PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 11 November 2015 at  
4.30 pm in the Church of the Resurrection, Penrhyn Avenue, Cosham.

**Present**

**Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations  
reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area**

(Group A Representatives)

Elizabeth Jenkerson, Baha'i Faith (In the Chair)

Peter Davies, The Fellowship of Independent  
Evangelical Churches

Ruth Guyer, Judaism

Syed Aminul Haque, Islam

Marilyn Leggett, The Salvation Army

Jane Lewis, Quaker

Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union

Renuka Vyas, Hinduism

**Representatives of the Church of England**

(Group B Representatives)

Rev. Alice Wood, Anglican Diocese

Brian Hay, Anglican Diocese

**Teachers representing the various key stages and an association  
recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and  
negotiation**

(Group C Representatives)

None present

**Representatives of the Authority, at least two of whom shall be elected  
members of the Authority**

(Group D Representatives)

None present

**Also in Attendance**

Linda Jacobs, Professional Adviser, PCC

Peter Smith-Parkyn, Clerk, Democratic Services, PCC

The Clerk advised that this meeting of SACRE is not quorate as no representatives from Groups C or D were present.

As no decisions can therefore be made, the minutes of the previous meeting and all decision items will need to be approved at the next quorate meeting.

**30 Welcome and Introduction**

The Chair welcomed everybody and thanked Reverend Alice Wood for the use of her Church to hold this meeting.

The Chair welcomed Linda Jacobs, the new Local Authority Professional

Adviser and invited Linda to introduce herself to the Council.

Linda Jacobs thanked the Chair and explained that she was the previous Professional Adviser's line manager and had previously been a teacher representative on Hampshire's SACRE. Further, in her current role for the last two-and-a-half years as Portsmouth City Council's Educational Improvement Officer, Linda has visited most of Portsmouth's Schools. Linda informed the Council that she is also an Ofsted Inspector, although clearly does not inspect any schools in Portsmouth.

### **31 Moment for Quiet Reflection**

Before Reverend Alice Wood led the moment of quiet reflection she explained that she was previously a Head teacher of Leigh Park Primary School.

Reverend Alice Wood read a passage from Chapter 1, Kings, with reference to "A Still Small Voice" which can be interpreted to teach that the powerful and loud is not necessarily the voice that should be listened to.

### **32 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Honorary Alderman Tom Blair; Councillor Neill Young, Maria Cole, Beverley Millsom, Sarah Sadler and Taki Jaffer.

### **33 Declaration of Interests**

Elizabeth Jenkerson declared an interest in that she is on the selection board for Westhill grants.

### **34 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 17 June 2015**

**Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2015 are a correct record, which will need to be formally agreed at the next quorate meeting.**

### **35 Matters Arising**

#### **(a) Minute No 28 - Co-opting on to SACRE**

As there were no teacher representatives present, the Council could not be updated as to whether one or more Academy representatives would wish to be co-opted on to SACRE. The Chair through the Clerk will correspond with SACRE teacher representatives ahead of the next meeting.

Linda Jacobs enquired whether there might be interest from the academies into entering into a "Traded Services" concept with a nominal Service Level Agreement (SLA) being levied.

Although unconfirmed, it is believed that all of Portsmouth Schools, including Academies are still currently using LDR 2011 or the previous version of the locally agreed syllabus. Brian Hay as a Governor at the Charter Academy confirmed that they are following the agreed syllabus LDR 2011.

SACRE members discussed the "pros" and "cons" for all parties with regard

to potential changes to RE, inclusion of Academies, the Locally Agreed Syllabus, a potential national syllabus and collective worship. Members generally agreed that whilst work is taking place at national level on these matters, nothing has been decided for SACRE to respond to at this time.

### **36 Updates from the Chair**

Elizabeth Jenkerson reported on the following items;

#### **(a) Secondary School Conference**

Elizabeth reported that the conference was a good opportunity to talk to representatives from different boards.

Along with representatives from other Universities the main speaker was Adam Dinham, Professor of Faith & Public Policy and Director of the Faiths and Civil Society Unit, Goldsmiths, University of London.

#### **(b) South Central Hub**

Elizabeth reported that the South Central Hub had not met this term.

However, she asked that any teachers interested in gaining credits towards a Master's degree should contact her directly.

#### **(c) Inter Faith Network**

Elizabeth reported that IFN is presently focusing on religious literacy.

#### **(d) Farmington Scholarships**

Elizabeth confirmed that Farmington scholarships are well respected and always have money available for training. Information on current opportunity was circulated with the agenda.

#### **(e) Monitoring sub-Committee**

Elizabeth reported that Monitoring sub-committee is due to meet soon and commented that more attention should perhaps be given to Primary Schools and 2015 GCSE results are not yet available

Linda Jacobs confirmed that she will provide the results, when available so that the sub-committee may scrutinise the details ahead of a main SACRE meeting. Linda suggested that it may be worth reviewing the RE results with other subjects to allow for context and over a period time - probably for at least a 3 year period.

**The updates were noted.**

### **37 Brief updates of notable matters**

Ruth Guyer reported on the South East England Faith Forum Conference held on 3 September 2015 which Brian Hay also attended.

The main thread of the conference was the "role of faith in British Schools". Ruth reported that in the morning there was a panel discussion entitled the "Faith perspective". The afternoon comprised of a number of workshops covering; SACRE today; SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development); Prevent Agenda; and Legal guidance.

Elizabeth raised Hampshire's "Youth Voice" and asked whether Portsmouth should attend or run our own. Ruth commented that the challenges of taking children out of school may prohibit Portsmouth being able to take part in Hampshire's. SACRE members present agreed that the idea of doing something to share knowledge and for this to be fed back is desirable but, it is uncertain whether schools could accommodate this.

Ruth commented that she herself is more than happy sharing information in schools and added that she attended St. Paul's (in Paulsgrove) "World Faith Week" before half term.

Linda Jacobs reminded SACRE that the Local Authority presently pays for schools to receive "RE News" which is published termly.

Linda Jacobs commented that in her experience teachers appreciate Networks but careful consideration on the location and timing of these meetings is needed as travelling can be a disincentive.

### **38 Agreed Syllabus Conference**

The minutes of the Agreed Syllabus Conference were noted.

### **39 Portsmouth SACRE Action Plan**

Linda Jacobs presented the action plan. The SACRE members present thanked Linda and offered no further comments on the Action Plan.

**The Portsmouth SACRE Action Plan was noted.**

### **40 Annual Report 2014/15**

**The Annual Report 2014/15 was agreed un-amended which will need to be formally agreed at the next quorate meeting.**

### **41 Collective Worship (Debate item)**

Linda Jacobs reminded SACRE that Collective Worship is still a statutory requirement and also comes under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 for school inspections.

It was noted that the majority of schools comply with this requirement with their schools' assemblies. Linda Jacobs commented that with regards to Collective Worship and furthering Action Plan item 4.2, it might be worth asking schools to provide their views on this matter. Elizabeth Jenkerson added that perhaps SACRE members could offer to go to schools and visit assemblies as part of this information gathering exercise.

Linda Jacobs asked whether SACRE would be minded to offer schools guidance on Collective Worship. It was felt that SACRE would need to understand better the current position before doing so.

Elizabeth informed SACRE that there is a conference due to be held later in the year in Sheffield on the issue of Collective Worship, with the main speaker being Charles Clarke.

**RESOLVED that the update be noted.**

**42 Date and venue of the next meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of SACRE is Wednesday 23 March 2016 (venue to be decided) starting at 4:30pm.

The chaired asked whether SACRE members would be minded to move the 15 June 2016 meeting, as she would not be able to make this date.

The clerk will email members of SACRE ahead of the next meeting with alternative dates, for approval at the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 6:25pm.

Chair