

**PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 5 July 2016 at 4:30pm in
Conference Room B, 2nd Floor, Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

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)
Ruth Guyer, Judaism (Vice Chair)
Jane Lewis, Quakers
Syed Aminul Haque, Islam
Tom Blair, Roman Catholic
Renuka Vyas, Hinduism

**Representatives of the Church of England
(Group B Representatives)**

Reverend Alice Wood, Anglican Diocese
Abigail Eales, 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)**

Sarah Hanley, Post 16 Representative

**Representatives of the Authority, at least two of whom shall be elected
members of the Authority
(Group D Representatives)**

Councillor Neill Young
Councillor Ryan Brent
Councillor David Tompkins

Also in Attendance

Linda Jacobs, Professional Adviser, PCC
Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children's Services -
Education
Peter Smith-Parkyn, Democratic Services, PCC

14 Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

15 Moment for Quiet Reflection

Ruth Guyer led on the moment of reflection by explaining the three-week period of fasting and mourning of The Seventeenth of Tammuz, commemorating the breach of the walls of Jerusalem before the destruction of the Second Temple. Ruth further explained that during this time no weddings or celebrations will be taking place.

16 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Peter Davies, Marilyn Leggett, Brian Hay, Reverend Jane Ball, Beverley Millsom, Eleanor Assinder, Sandra Gibb, Siôn Reynolds and Councillor Suzy Horton.

17 Declaration of Interests

Elizabeth Jenkerson declared a non-prejudicial interest in that she is on the selection board for Westhill grants.

18 Minutes of the Previous Meetings held on 23 March 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2016 are a correct record.

19 Matters Arising

No matters were raised.

20 Updates from the Chair

Elizabeth Jenkerson attended and provided an update on the NASACRE AGM meeting which took place on 17 May 2016, where the guest speakers will include Charles Clarke; The Rt Hon Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss GBE and Professor Adam Dinham. It is recommended that members listen to the speeches available via the NASACRE website.

Elizabeth Jenkerson also informed members of the annual Young Ambassadors' Conference which took place on 6 June 2016 in London. The keynote speaker was Lord Robert Winston. Members are encouraged to visit the Religious Education Council's website to view their videos and read their articles.

21 Primary & Secondary RE News letter

Linda Jacobs advised SACRE that Portsmouth SACRE currently subscribes to the 2 annual publications of the primary & secondary RE News Letter. SACRE members were asked whether this is something to they wish to continue funding?

Members felt that the value of this is unknown however, it should continue for another year pending feedback back from teachers nearer the time for its next renewal to determine its continuation thereafter. Members also asked whether they could have sight of this, the professional adviser agreed to investigate this and will inform and to provide the publications to the clerk for circulation if

permissible.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the RE News Letter to continue to be funded for another year and;**
- (2) the teachers receiving the News Letter be contacted ahead of future subscription renewal to ascertain its continuation and;**
- (3) the professional adviser to advise the clerk on eligibility of circulation of the RE News letter to SACRE members.**

22 Extracts from recent Ofsted Inspection reports 2015-16 (relating to RE and SMSC development)

Linda Jacobs presented the extracts of recently published Ofsted reports of Portsmouth Schools, with emphasis on sections relating to RE and SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) development.

SACRE members thanked Linda for her report and requested that this be a regular item on future SACRE agendas, if the reports are available.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the update be noted and;**
- (2) Extracts from recent Ofsted Inspection reports become a regular item, if the reports are available.**

23 Report from the Professional Adviser

Linda Jacobs explained part of the remit of SACRE (as explained on the agenda) and highlighted a number possible areas of work that SACRE members could develop. These are being providing guidance on Collective Worship, the provision of RE in Academies and co-opting Academy representatives on to SACRE.

SACRE members discussed the various facets of the requirement of mandatory collective worship in schools. SACRE members had mixed views on whether to agree a SACRE official view or to issue guidance on the matter of collective worship.

Linda Jacobs cited Cornwall SACRE's Collective Worship Guidance as a good example, and suggested that members take time after the meeting to have a look on their website.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

24 Draft Annual Report 2015/16 and work programme

Linda Jacobs explained the layout and simplification of the Draft Annual Report and highlighted a number of areas for members to consider. SACRE were asked to provide any comments or suggestions in writing to either the Professional Adviser or the Clerk so the report can be finalised for formal approval.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the draft Annual Report be noted; and**

- (2) SACRE members provide in writing any comments to the Professional Adviser or the Clerk.**

25 New (revised) Religious Education Syllabus - sub-committee Steering Group

Linda Jacobs explained the importance of a cohesive and clear launch of the revised syllabus, if approved at the next ASC (Agreed Syllabus Conference). It was therefore suggested that a sub-committee be set up to oversee this, with the membership being no less than either the Chair or Vice Chair and one named member from each SACRE group. Linda further advised that the sub-committee's role must include visits to schools and may include a survey as part of gathering information.

Following a discussion, volunteers were sought with approval given to Abigale Eales (Group B) and Councillor Ryan Brent (Group D) for putting their names forward for their groups.

The clerk was asked to request via email a volunteer from Groups A and C to serve on the newly established sub-committee.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the New (revised) Religious Education Syllabus - sub-committee Steering Group be created and;**
- (2) Abigale Eales from Group B and Councillor Ryan Brent from Group D, both be appointed and;**
- (3) the clerk to seek one volunteer each from both Group A and Group C members to fill the two vacancies.**

26 Dates and venue of the next meeting

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Agreed Syllabus Conference take place on Thursday 6 October 2016 at 4:30pm in Portsmouth Civic Offices and;**
- (2) the ordinary SACRE meeting take place at the conclusion of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.**

The meeting concluded at 5:52pm.

Chair