

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