

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, 3 November 2021 at 4.30 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Reverend Sam Duddles (in the Chair) - Group B

Councillors Taki Jaffer - Group D
Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo - Group A
Elizabeth Jenkerson - Group A
Christine McMillan - Group A
Chris Thomas - Group A
Barbara Spiegelhalter - Group A
Sue Bowen - Group B
Jane Kelly - Group B
Kari Laing - Group C
Jessi Wilson - Co-opted member

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Tom Coles, Maria Cole, Ryan Brent, sarah coote, Geoff Wheeler and Debbie Lucas

24. Welcome and Introductions (AI 1)

Revd Duddles, as Chair welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

25. Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 2)

Patricia Hannam led the moment of quiet reflection and said that on this occasion she thought it was an idea to have a moment of quiet to reflect on the work before us now that there is a new Agreed Syllabus.

26. Election of Vice Chair (AI 3)

Patricia Hannam, Professional Advisor explained that the position of Vice Chair was left vacant at the June meeting. Nominations were invited today to fill this role. Patricia then went on to outline the role of the Vice Chair and Revd Duddles explained some of the duties she had undertaken as Vice Chair prior to becoming Chair of SACRE.

There were no nominations or expressions of interest today so Patricia advised members to give it some thought and an expression of interest email would be sent out to SACRE members.

27. Apologies for Absence (AI 4)

Apologies for absence had been received from sarah coote, Maria Cole, Geoff Wheeler, Cllr Brent, Cllr Coles and Debbie Lucas

28. Declaration of Members' Interest (AI 5)

Elizabeth Jenkerson made her standard declaration that she is on the West Hill Panel that judges grants for SACRE's.

29. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 16 June 2021 (AI 6)

A typing error in minute 19 (page 3 of the minutes) was pointed out. The last sentence of paragraph 1 should read 'Patricia said this was very exciting for the SACRE as for a number of years the SACRE had been trying to have some direct contact with young people with a view to **establishing** a SACRE Youth Voice'.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2021 be approved as a correct record, subject to the above amendment.

30. Matters Arising from the minutes (AI 7)

Minute 22 - Patricia explained that she had followed up the conversation with Sandra Teacher regarding deep dives for RE. Debbie Anderson added that she works as an Ofsted inspector at times and was able to talk to Patricia about her experiences of deep dives.

31. Membership Update (AI 8)

Patricia Hannam presented the report and outlined the vacancies on SACRE. Work would take place before the next meeting to try and fill these vacancies. Councillor Brent had now been appointed to Group D. Patricia thought it would be sensible to review the members in Group C as several were unable to attend meetings. It was agreed that it would be good to get a headteacher/deputy representative as part of Group C on SACRE.

Christine McMillan said that John Mills the former Methodist SACRE representative had been replaced and it was agreed that she would talk to his successor to see if he was interested in joining SACRE.

Revd Duddles said that she would speak to Anna Potten who is a reformed Jew and involved with the Interfaith Network to see if she would be interested in filing the Jewish vacancy.

32. Brief updates or notifications of items to be brought to a future meeting (AI 9)

Patricia Hannam explained that this item was an opportunity for SACRE to raise any areas of work they would like to look at in the future.

Chris Thomas said it would be useful to have a short presentation from a primary/secondary school teacher to say how they are finding the new Agreed Syllabus. It was noted that pre covid SACRE used to visit schools but it was agreed it would be helpful to hear from the teachers. Patricia and Debbie would look to arrange this.

Taki Jaffer said that whilst having a youth SACRE is a good idea he saw challenges. He noted that there used to be the Portsmouth Interfusion Forum however without somebody to bring them together and to organise and facilitate the meetings it is very challenging. Revd said in her role as youth chaplain there was an appetite for this, but this needed to be carefully stewarded. It would be explored but specific boundaries would need to be put in place about respect and care. It was agreed having a youth voice would be great for SACRE.

Christine McMillan said that nationally there was talk about the ways in which council's fund SACREs and it was recommended that this should be looked at. It was agreed this would come to a future meeting.

33. Monitoring Group Report (AI 10)

Patricia Hannam introduced the report summarising the discussion of the Monitoring Sub Group which had been held on 20 October 2021. She added that the Sub Group had agreed to look at information on school websites regarding the RE curriculum. This would be undertaken before the next meeting and an advisory document for schools would come to the next meeting, which would advise schools what should be on their website. They will give them some time to complete that and then scrutinise their websites.

Debbie Anderson added that schools are very wary about what they should say so if they receive some text on what they should say the schools can embellish on that. This would only be for Local Authority maintained schools. The same advice however could be sent to academy/private schools as it would be good for all schools to use Living Difference IV. Debbie Anderson advised that the authority work with all schools across the Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP). There is a PEP strategic board where all the academy boards are invited as well as the independent sector and it is up to them whether they attend. Revd Duddles said that Living Difference IV could be offered to private schools and Taki Jaffer said he was happy to take this up for one private school and he would update the Chair on how these conversations are received.

RESOLVED that the Monitoring Group report be noted.

34. Update on the Locally Agreed Syllabus and significant National RE matters (AI 11)

Patricia Hannam introduced the report and said she strongly recommended members engaging with the NASACRE content on their website. PCC has subscribed to NASACRE and the log in details would be recirculated to all. Over the last few years NASACRE has done a great deal of work with the

Department for Education (DfE) to highlight RE on behalf of SACREs. NASACRE have also prompted the DfE to take a greater interest in the SACRE annual reports.

The date of the NASACRE Conference in 2022 was 23 May and would be held in Birmingham. The Chair added that at these meetings members find out how the Westhill money is spent and the initiatives and projects that have been invested in. This might inspire the Portsmouth SACRE to think of an initiative in Portsmouth and look for funding through the Westhill project.

Elizabeth Jenkerson advised that NASACRE have a national training programme which local authorities can pay a small fee to access all sessions for the year and there is no limit to the number of SACRE attendees. She drew attention to the one on Worldviews on 10 November starting at 7pm. The SACRE clerk said she had received details of this earlier today and would forward the details to SACRE in case any members were interested attending.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

35. SACRE Annual Report 2020/2021 (AI 12)

Patricia Hannam introduced the report and explained that the annual report details the work of the SACRE for the period September 2020-September 2021. This will then go to the Department for Education and to NASACRE be published on the PCC website.

Members of SACRE were very content with the report and thanked Patricia for taking the time to write this.

RESOLVED that the SACRE Annual report be approved and forwarded to the relevant national and local bodies.

36. Date and venue of the next meeting (AI 13)

SACRE noted that the date of the next meeting was Wednesday 9 March at 4pm and the Summer meeting will be on Tuesday 7 June at 4pm, both meetings would take place in the Council Chamber.

The meeting concluded at 5.40 pm.

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Reverend Sam Duddles
Chair of SACRE