

## **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 9 March 2022 at 4.00 pm as a virtual meeting.**

### **Present**

#### **Group A - Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area**

Elizabeth Jenkerson, Baha'i Faith  
Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union  
Sarah Coote, The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo, Shia Muslim  
Christine McMillan, United Reformed Church  
Barbara Spiegelhalter, Humanist UK (part of meeting)  
Samuel Hilsenrath, Jewish

#### **Group B - Church of England**

Revd Sam Duddles (Chair)  
Jane Kelly

#### **Group C - Teachers representing the various key stages and associations recognised by the Local Authority**

Kari Laing, Portsmouth College (Post 16)  
Debbie Lucas, Admiral Lord Nelson School (secondary)

#### **Group D - representatives of the Local Authority**

Taki Jaffer

#### **Co-opted Representatives**

Jessi Wilson, UnLoc and Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS)

#### **Also present:**

Pat Hannam, SACRE Advisor  
Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement  
Karen Martin, SACRE Clerk

### **1. Welcome (AI 1)**

The Chair, Revd Duddles, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited introductions. She offered a particular welcome to Samuel Hilsenrath, Jewish representative, as it was his first SACRE meeting. Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor) confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

### **2. Apologies for absence (AI 2)**

Apologies had been received from:

Pastor Chris Thomas, Evangelical Church (Group A)

Sam Bowen, Church of England (Group B)  
Councillors Tom Coles and Ryan Brent (Group D)  
Hayden Wade, CoPS (Co-opted)

Barbara Spiegelhalter, Humanist UK (Group A), joined the meeting but suffered technical issues and was not able to stay connected.

### **3. Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 3)**

The Chair, Revd Duddles (Group B), led the moment for quiet reflection and asked all those present to take a few minutes to reflect on events in the Ukraine and across Europe.

### **4. Declaration of members' interests (AI 4)**

Elizabeth Jenkerson (Group A) made her standard declaration in that she is a member of the West Hill Panel that judges applications for grants from SACRE's nationally.

### **5. Minutes of the previous meeting - 3 November 2021 (AI 5)**

The Chair noted that there were some typing errors in the draft minutes and said they will be corrected.

**RESOLVED that, subject to the minor typing error corrections being made, the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2021 be approved as a correct record.**

Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato (Group A), enquired when the minutes of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) held on Wednesday, 3 November 2021 meeting would be discussed as there was an action arising from the meeting. It was noted that the minutes would come forward at the next ASC meeting and it agreed to discuss the action as part of Agenda item 6, Actions Arising.

### **6. Matters Arising (AI 6)**

**Agreed Syllabus Conference held on Wednesday, 3 November 2021 - Minute 6 - Adoption of the reviewed and revised agreed syllabus for religious education in Portsmouth: Living Difference IV**

Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato (Group A), reminded SACRE representatives that he had asked if the timing of the next review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus could be brought forward so that it is ready for schools to use when they return in September. Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor) commented that this would need to be co-ordinated with the other SACRE's using Living Difference and agreed that it would allow schools to be ready to start implementing the new syllabus in a timely way. She suggested that a timetable for the review be brought forward to the Autumn 2024 meeting for discussion and agreement.

**RESOLVED to agree that the timetable for the next Agreed Syllabus Conference and review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus will be considered at the SACRE meeting held in the Autumn of 2024.**

**SACRE meeting, 3 November 2021 - Minute 26 - Election of Vice Chair.** Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor) informed the SACRE that she had received a serious expression of interest from Kari Laing, Group C representative. She added that Ms Laing had considered the commitment required carefully and had had a conversation with the Chair, Revd Duddles.

Following nomination for the role of Vice Chair by Revd Duddles, Kari Laing provided a brief synopsis of her experience and interests explaining that she was a 6<sup>th</sup> form teacher of religion and philosophy at Portsmouth College and has been the post-16 representative on SACRE for several years. She also explained that she has considerable experience of working with local schools in Gosport and was increasingly doing so in the city of Portsmouth.

**RESOLVED to formally confirm Kari Laing as Vice Chair of Portsmouth SACRE.**

#### **7. Membership Update (AI 7)**

Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor), introduced the report and noted that further work by the Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair on recruiting to fill vacancies was continuing. Current vacancies include Catholic, Buddhist and Hindu representatives (Group A) and at least one further teacher representative (Group C).

Ms Hannam informed the SACRE that training for members will be arranged for the summer term in conjunction with Hampshire SACRE and that this would be open to new and existing members of Portsmouth SACRE.

**RESOLVED to:**

- i) Formally appoint Samuel Hilsenrath as Jewish representative and Rev Ray Goddess, Portchester Methodist Church as Methodist representative to Group A.**
- ii) Reappoint Kari Laing, Portsmouth College, to Group C.**
- iii) Co-opt Hayden Wade, Education officer of Council of Portsmouth Students.**
- iv) Note the report.**

#### **8. Brief updates or notifications of items to be brought to a future meeting (AI 8)**

No items were presented for consideration at a future meeting.

#### **9. Monitoring Group Report (AI 9)**

Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor), introduced the report. She reminded SACRE

representatives that the role of the Monitoring Group is monitor the effectiveness of RE in Portsmouth schools and that at least one representative from each Group attends these meeting. Ms Hannam issued an invitation to all SACRE representatives to contact the Clerk if they wished to attend future meetings of the Monitoring Group.

Ms Hannam informed the SACRE that:

- a) The GCSE examination series will take place this year and that data will therefore be available in the Autumn term. She noted that while young people in Portsmouth generally perform well in public examinations, the number of entries in comparison to the number eligible to enter is low, and that raises concerns about access to high quality RE.
- b) Over 350 schools from across the region had attended two successful conferences to launch Living Difference IV and Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement, had also introduced the syllabus at events for Headteachers and Governors. There will be another half day conference in June for any other teachers wishing to attend.
- c) It was necessary to make a minor amendment to Living Difference IV (set out in the report) to take account of the Ofsted Handbook and the updated version will be circulated once this has been made.
- d) Volunteers to help with monitoring the effectiveness of RE, including by reviewing school websites, will be sought at the June SACRE meeting.
- e) Justine Ball (Hampshire Inspector and Advisor for Religious Education in Primary Schools) will be doing survey relating to the monitoring of Collective Worship in the summer term which will dovetail with previous initiatives by Portsmouth SACRE to monitor numbers of requests to withdraw from Collective Worship or RE.
- f) Revd Duddles had been working on the Directory of Places of Worship and had developed a questionnaire including the name of person as faith leader, contact details, greetings and name preferences, rooms available, parking and so on.

In relation to the Directory, Revd Duddles explained that the questionnaire will be circulated to SACRE representatives, the deanery, members attending inter-faith events and so on. Ms Hannam sought support from Debbie Anderson and the Local Authority for help with adding clickable links and formatting. Taki Jaffer (Group D), offered his support with this aspect and it was suggested that Hayden Wade (Co-opted) could provide a useful perspective from a young person.

In relation to Ofsted inspections and monitoring of RE, Debbie Anderson, Head of School Improvement, explained that not all the information discussed between the school and inspectors is included in the published report. She acknowledged that she would have greater oversight of information relating to RE and spiritual work in LA maintained schools than academies.

**Actions:**

- **Clerk to forward the Directory questionnaire to all SACRE representatives for completion (if relevant).**

- **Revd Duddles to circulate via the Deanery and at an Inter Faith event she is attending.**

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

## **10. Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS) and SACRE (AI 10)**

Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor) introduced the item saying that going forward there would be a standing agenda item for CoPS and that the appointment of Hayden Wade, Education Officer on CoPS presented a very exciting opportunity for the SACRE. She invited Jessi Wilson, Programme Facilitator - Leadership Skills & Student Voice UnLoc, to provide information about CoPS.

Ms Wilson had prepared a PowerPoint presentation which provided an introduction to Unloc and CoPS which together aim to empower young people to be innovator change mentors and develop their skills. The SACRE noted that:

- a) Student Forums enable young people to work collaboratively to improve schools.
- b) Some 11 institutions are directly involved, and 59 students actively participate - the youngest in Year 7 and the oldest in Year 11 although previously participants have included students in Years 12 and 13.
- c) CoPS members work with Link Teachers either online or in school.
- d) Action group meetings also take place, are led by students and there are four action group themes this year - climate change/ diversity/ life skills and careers/ mental health and wellbeing.
- e) The CoPs Executive Group have regular in person meetings and Hayden Wade is a member of the Executive as Education Officer. Executive member roles are gained by election.
- f) The Education Officer is a new role which was developed with SACRE in mind. Hayden will attend SACRE meetings and report back to the Executive.

The Chair noted that Hayden had been unable to attend this meeting as he was unwell and sent SACRE's best wishes to him. She thanked Ms Wilson for her presentation which gave the SACRE some background into the inspiring work being achieved and offered to meet with Hayden before the next meeting.

Taki Jaffer (Group D) welcomed the opportunities being given to young people through the initiative, adding that the opportunity to take part in meetings would stand them in good stead for their future lives.

Following a question from Jane Kelly (Group B), Ms Wilson informed the SACRE that there are Student Forums at primary and secondary level in schools and that the primary version is a slimmed down version of CoPS. It meets twice a year and three primary schools sent student participants to the meeting in November 2021. The objective is to support schools bring about change through the student voice with the long term vision is to see primary CoPS members grow up into secondary CoPS.

Pat Hannam noted that the SACRE would welcome Hayden's ideas how his role with SACRE could develop.

## 11. National and local updates on RE

Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor) introduced the item which covered:

- a) The Religious Education Council is an umbrella organisation with a membership drawn from many faiths and organisations including the Association of RE Advisors (see [here](#) for more information). The Council initiated the 2019 report which was considered when developing Living Difference IV and it is now developing an optional framework for future local syllabus's though this will not be ready until 2024.

**Action: SACRE Group A representatives could check that their faith has representation on REC.**

- b) Portsmouth SACRE is seeking representatives to attend the NASACRE AGM on Monday 23 May, at the Burlington Hotel (was the Midland Hotel) across road from New Street Station in Birmingham.

Elizabeth Jenkerson (Group A) informed the SACRE that it was expected that the keynote speakers will include Dr Richard Kueh (Ofsted's subject lead for Religious Education), Ed Pawson and David Hampshire, that there will be grouped table discussions rather than workshops and that workshops will instead take place during the evening in the two weeks following the conference.

**Action: Clerk to send further details when available. SACRE representatives to indicate their interest in attending to the Clerk at [karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) .**

- c) Elizabeth Jenkerson noted that NASACRE has online training courses available free to all members of the Portsmouth SACRE. There is one for new SACRE members, though she commented that existing members of SACREs have also found it helpful (see details below):

*29 June 2022, 7:00-8:30pm: **So, you've joined your local SACRE...** This online session will help new SACRE members understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to this work. Free online session.*

**Action: SACRE representatives to contact the Clerk if they would like to attend at [karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) .**

- d) South Central SACRE Hub Meeting Update - Elizabeth Jenkerson commented that it is interesting see how differently SACREs operate. Revd Duddles agreed and noted that inclusion and diversity was discussed at the last meeting. Jane Kelly (Group B) added that this work built on the 'Angel Just Like Me' project at Christmas to help decolonise the curriculum in

primary schools, that its resources link to the Living Difference IV work on angels and that it encourages children to think about inclusion and diversity.

**RESOLVED that SACRE noted the information shared during the meeting.**

## **12. Date of next meeting**

The Chair informed the SACRE that the next scheduled meeting will be on 7 June 2022 at 4.30pm and that whether it will be held in person or virtual will be decided nearer the time. She then sought feedback from those present about their preferences for the meeting.

Christine McMillan (Group A) sought clarification about the start time. It was noted that the meeting will start at 4.30pm allowing an opportunity for a tour of the venue at 4.00pm if appropriate.

Geoff Wheeler (Group A) commented that meetings in places of worship or schools were preferable to in person meetings at the Guildhall and this was agreed by other representatives.

Pat Hannam (SACRE Advisor) sought suggestions for a venue for the meeting and Revd Duddles offered St Nicholas Church; Kari Laing (Group C) offered Portsmouth College.

**Action: SACRE representatives to suggest venues for the next meeting (or future meetings) by contacting the Clerk at [karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)**

**RESOLVED to note the date of the next meeting which will take place 4.30pm on Tuesday 7 June 2022, venue to be advised.**

## **13. Congratulations**

The Chair informed the SACRE that Lisa Gallacher who has been the Clerk for the Portsmouth SACRE for the past couple of years is away on maternity leave having recently had a baby boy. SACRE representatives sent their congratulations to Lisa and her family.

**Action: SACRE representatives wishing to send a message to Lisa Gallacher to forward these to the Clerk at [karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.martin2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)**

The meeting concluded at 5.25pm.

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Revd Sam Duddles  
Chair of SACRE