

# **PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 12 March 2014 at  
4.30 pm at the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service, Craneswater Junior  
School site, Southsea.

## **Present**

### **Group A Representatives**

Peter Davies, The Fellowship of Independent  
Evangelical Churches (In the Chair)  
Marilyn Leggett, The Salvation Army  
Renuka Vyas, Hinduism  
Elizabeth Jenkerson, Baha'i Faith  
Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union  
Jane Lewis The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
Ruth Guyer, Judaism  
Mr Syed Aminul Haque, Islam

### **Group B Representatives**

Brian Hay, Church of England

### **Group C Representatives**

Beverley Millsom, Special School Representative  
Patrick Quirke, Secondary Teacher Representative

### **Group D Representatives**

Maria Cole, Portsmouth City Council  
Taki Jaffer, PCC & Portsmouth Interfaith Forum

### **Co-opted Representatives**

**Sue Ganter**

### **Officers in Attendance**

Sarah Long, Local Authority Representative  
Peter Smith-Parkyn, Democratic Services

## **1 Welcome and Introduction (AI 1)**

The chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

## **2 Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 2)**

Taki Jaffer led the moment of reflection with a quote from the Qur'an, after which the chair commented that there is more in common between religions.

## **3 Apologies for Absence (AI 3)**

Apologies were received from Councillor David Horne, Councillor Lynne Stagg and also Michael Dawes, Sarah Sadler, Juliette Shaw, John Spiegelhalter, Jane Lewis and Sarah Hanley.

## **4 Minutes of the Previous Meetings held on 13 November 2013 (AI 4)**

### **(TAKE IN MINUTES)**

The minutes of the SACRE meeting were reviewed, with minor amendments being made to include the attendance Patrick Quirke and Brian Hay and reason for apologies from Jane Lewis as she is unwell. In addition noted the correct spelling of Patricia Hannam.

## **5 Overview of Admiral Lord Nelson School (AI 5)**

Debbie Lucas the Religious Education and Social Responsibilities co-ordinator welcomed SACRE to Admiral Lord Nelson school.

Debbie Lucas explained that Admiral Lord Nelson school had received an Ofsted award for Respecting Rights and were working towards achieving level 2 award. This is being done by supporting local charities, including the Lord Mayor's charities.

Debbie Lucas expressed the opinion that RE is more relevant in today's society, with both local and world events, in understanding and awareness. It was further agreed by members of SACRE that RE as a subject is still fighting certain prejudices, with an apparent bias against teaching it, in favour of other subjects. This expanded further, with general discussion over E-Baccalaureate status & wider concerns over RE teacher training and funding.

Marilyn Leggett added that there is a concern of increased radicalisation in Portsmouth, particularly of Muslim youth. Debbie Lucas supported this concern with knowledge that the Police Special Branch are being proactive in combating this by trying to visit all schools, for year 9 and above.

Peter Davies on behalf of SACRE thanked Debbie Lucas and the school.

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

### **(a) Minute No 44 b - Website**

With the resignation from SACRA of Michael Dawes, Sarah Long suggested that her contact Ollie Hext might be interested in developing the SACRE website. Sarah agreed to enquire but, indicated that he would likely not be able to consider doing so until at least after the Summer term, due to current commitments. She will also look to Rubi at EMAS possibly being able to

open one up for SACRE.

It was proposed by Jane Lewis and seconded by Maria Cole that SACRE enquire further with an estimate of any costs to be brought back to a future meeting.

The presentation on the 2013 student conference by Peter Davies, with the absence of SACRE own website, it was agreed that this will be placed on the EMAS website

**ACTION: Sarah Long make enquires about alternative website development with estimate of costs to be brought back to a future meeting.**

**ACTION: Sarah Long include Peter Davies's 2013 conference presentation on the EMAS website.**

#### **(b) Minute No 44 c - RE twilights**

Beverly Millsom that the previous meeting had been good, with some SACRE members present and five teachers, it was also noted that letters of thanks had been received.

Beverly informed members of SACRE that the next RE twilight was to have taken place on 13 May 2014, but was postponed to the 10th June, and was focussed on Hinduism at Flying Bull Academy led by a teacher who works there.

**ACTION: Clerk to ask Michael Dawes to send the SACRE website link to the SACRE clerk for forwarding to SACRE members.**

#### **(c) Minute 45 - RE Boxes**

It was mentioned that availability and details about the RE boxes are not as widely known about by schools as they could be. EMAS already informs schools of the SACRE boxes available for hire at least one a month when EMAS' own 'Festival and Celebration' information is sent to all LA schools and Academies in Portsmouth

**ACTION Sarah Long agreed that she would again include an item about the RE Boxes in the email headteachers' bulletin**

#### **(d) Minute No 48 - Information Sharing**

SACRE discussed the issues of monitoring Portsmouth RE GCSE results, which were previously circulated. Further consideration was given to both historic and national comparisons. Patrick Quirke advised that if SACRE were to review previous GCSE results that this should not go back further than 3 years, due to the pass factors and numbers.

Beverly Millsom informed SACRE members that she is still liaising with Patricia Hannam with regard to reviewing the questionnaire from Hampshire

for use in Portsmouth.

**ACTION: Clerk to re-circulate GSCE results in addition request the results for the two previous years.**

## **7 Financial Report (AI 8)**

SACRE members reviewed the accounts, with concern being raised over underspend and detailing of apparent unspent monies of grants from the faith groups for the 2013 conference. It was explained that money had been spent from SACRE general funds and that the listed donations were only shown to identify source of funding which is being reimbursed into the general funds account.

It was however felt that the donations, as listed in the accounts were not used. After a lengthy discussion on the finances, it was apparent that SACRE members would benefit from the finance officer being invited to the next meeting to help explain.

It was noted by Sue Ganter that Portsmouth College had an outstanding payment of £30, for providing additional refreshments at the 2013 conference, Sarah Long agreed to investigate with finance the payment.

SACRE members were also informed that any unspent monies from the 2013/14 financial year, from the general fund would have to be repaid back to the local authority. It was therefore proposed and agreed that the balance in the SACRE funds would be paid to Sue Ganter as an advance payment of the total cost of running the 2014 Student Conference.

**RESOLVED that (1) the finance officer be invited to the next meeting of SACRE to explain the finances and;**

**(2) Sarah Long will investigate and ensure payment of any outstanding invoices reportedly, owed to Portsmouth College and;**

**(3) the balance of SACRE funds be paid to Sue Ganter, towards to the total cost for her work as 2014 Student Conference co-ordinator.**

## **8 Finance Sub-Committee - Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2013 and 5 February 2014 (TAKE IN MINUTES)**

As Finance meeting held before this meeting had over-run the minutes of the previous finance meetings could not be noted, until the finance sub-committee had approved them.

## **9 Student Enrichment Day, Thursday 27 June 2013 (AI 10)**

Sue Ganter reported to SACRE that overall feedback on the event had been very positive.

## **<TAKE IN PRESENTATION>**

Some key points mentioned with regard to the students were;

- There were no behavioural issues
- No questions were being asked, which indicated little if no preparation by the schools had taken place before the conference
- Concern that it seemed many students had very little knowledge of RE

Sue Ganter continued with an update on the preparations of the 2014 student conference.

At this time, Sue reported that seven schools had signed to take part this year. It was noted that all schools teach Christianity and along with at least one other faith.

Sue will be making a request of the schools for the students to submit their questions in advance, which it will hoped will the effect of encouraging greater engagement.

SACRE members are asked to help and come along on the day of the conference.

It was noted that the extra money to produce a film of the event may be too late to take advantage of this year. SACRE were advised that they may resubmit their bid for this at future time from St. Culham.

Ruth Guyer declared an interest in that she is serving and grants judge for Westhill, for which Portsmouth SACRE is receiving a grant from to deliver the 2014 Student conference.

Sue expressed her thanks to EMAS for the past and on-going assistance provided for the conference.

Finally, SACRE member offered their thanks to Sue Ganter for undertaking this work, a testament to her devotion to duty.

### **10 School Visits - with Patricia Hannam**

Marilyn Leggett advised SACRE that she had accompanied Patricia Hannam on a school and would report back to SACRE in the form a short report.

Please note: At the next Finance meeting it was agreed that Patricia Hannam be asked to report back to SACRE at the next meeting regarding the monitoring visits undertaken.

**ACTION: Sarah Long to contact Patricia Hannam to speak to SACRE about the monitoring visits undertaken.**

### **11 Any other business**

There was general discussion over Portsmouth SACRE joining the local area

SACRE HUB, which was widely considered to be a good idea.

## **12 Dates for the meeting**

SACRE members noted that the next meeting will be on Wednesday 25 June 2014 at 4:30pm, being held at Portsmouth City Council Civic Offices, in Ground Floor Meeting Room 3.