

AT A MEETING of the  
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)  
held in the Mitchell Room, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester on 13 November 2012

**PRESENT**

**Chairman**

p Councillor Anna McNair Scott ( Hampshire County Council)

**Vice-Chairman**

p Councillor Roz Chadd (Hampshire County Council)

p Mr. Mohammed Ansar	-	Muslim
Councillor Mrs C. Bailey	-	Hampshire County Council
p Mrs. Maureen Barnes	-	Teachers' Association
p Mrs. Elaine Bellchambers	-	Higher Education – Co-opted
p Mr. Tony Blackshaw	-	Church of England
p Mrs J. Chong	-	Roman Catholic
a Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato	-	Muslim
a Councillor Sam Darragh	-	Hampshire County Council
p Councillor Mrs Liz Fairhurst	-	Hampshire County Council
p Mrs. Pat Fry	-	United Reformed Church
p Mrs Maeve Gordon-James	-	Buddhist
p Ms Patricia Hannam	-	Support Officer
a Mr Colin How	-	Methodist
p Mr Chris Hughes	-	Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
p Mrs Elizabeth Jenkerson	-	Baha'i
a Mrs Joyce Johnson	-	Church of England
p Mrs Judith Lowndes	-	Support Officer
Ms Jackie McGregor	-	Salvation Army
p Miss Margaret Matthews	-	Society of Friends
a Mrs Linda Miatt	-	Teachers' Association
p Mrs Jean O'Reilly	-	Humanist – Co-opted
p Mrs Jane Pridmore	-	Teachers' Association
p Mr. Ganshin Rock	-	Budhhist
Mr Harjap Singh	-	Sikh
p Mrs Patricia Timms Blanch	-	Teachers' association
p Major Suryaparsad Upadhya	-	Hindu
p Mrs Jane Warren	-	Higher Education – co-opted
p Ms Caroline Welch	-	Church of England
p Rev. Howard Wright	-	Church of England
p Mr. Michael Zeffertt	-	Jewish

Also present – Mrs Lisa Gilmour - Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints;  
Ms Gill Heron – Head of RE, Thornden School); Miss Ceri Taylor, Maple Ridge  
School

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman explained that Major Suryaparsad Upadhya was unable to attend this meeting to give his talk and thanked the Reverend Ganshin Rock for stepping in at very late notice. He gave a short talk recounting an extraordinary incident which had occurred during a pilgrimage to Japan earlier in his career which illustrated some of the elements of the Buddhist Faith.

#### **119. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Major S Upadhya, Mrs Joyce Johnson, Councillor Sam Darragh, Sheikh Fazle Abbas, Colin How, and Linda Miatt.

#### **120. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

No declarations of interest were made.

#### **121. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2012 were approved and signed by Councillor Liz Fairhurst as she had been acting Chairman for the meeting.

#### **122. MATTERS ARISING**

Item 112 – Members were informed that the questionnaire had been sent to schools.

Item 116 – It was explained that a report on the 'Road Map' teaching of RE across Europe would be deferred until the summer as a draft document should be available following a key meeting in May 2013.

Item 116 – It was noted that a local MP, Damien Hinds, had joined the All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education.

Item 117 – Mohammad Ansar told the Council that he had unfortunately not been able to attend the joint APPG group, but would keep SACRE informed of any reports he received.

## **123. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Lisa Gilmour to the meeting and introduced Mrs Patricia Timms Blanch, Ms Gill Heron and Miss Ceri Taylor who were attending their first meeting.

Members were informed that she had attended the Annual County Secondary RE Conference for teachers on 19 October, which had been very well attended by over 40 Hampshire Secondary schools, and would be taking part in National Takeover Day on 23 November 2012. Tony Blackshaw explained that as part of their day taking over his job, he would be bringing the Head Boy and Girl from the Bishop of Winchester Academy in Bournemouth to speak to the Chairman and Councillor Roy Perry about children's involvement in Religious Education and the work of SACRE.

It was noted that National Interfaith Week was from 18 to 27 November 2012; as part of this there was to be a lecture organised by the Hampshire Interfaith Network on 22 November being given by Akhandadhi das; also that the Interfaith Calendar for 2013 was available.

She informed Members that the Interview panel for the appointment of a representative of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints onto Group A of SACRE had taken place and a recommendation would be brought to SACRE at the March 2013 meeting.

A joint circular from NASACRE and AREIAC (Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) on Circular 1/94 and collective worship was distributed. Patricia Hannam explained that the salient point from this circular was a recommendation that schools should primarily refer to the 1988 Education Reform Act requirements; it was agreed that collective worship would be included as an agenda item at a future meeting.

Members were informed that a letter had been sent to primary schools on behalf of SACRE indicating concern that there was a trend for RE to be taught in teachers' ppa time by teaching assistants not trained to deliver Living Difference Revised.

Finally the Chairman mentioned the South-West SACRE members' conference which would take place on Thursday 14 March 2013 Dillington House in Ilminster; Tony Blackshaw indicated his wish to attend.

## **124. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations.

The Chairman, with the agreement of the Council, brought forward Item 14, the Review of Religious Education by the RE Council, due to the importance of the issue.

## **125. RE COUNCIL REVIEW OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The Council received a verbal report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE about the on-going review of RE (item 14 in the Minute Book). Copies of the RE Council's draft report of their review were circulated to Members.

Patricia Hannam explained that RE was being reviewed by the RE Council because the current National Curriculum review did not include RE.

She continued by giving a short presentation reminding SACRE of some of the important and distinctive elements of Hampshire's Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference revised 2011, which she felt were of relevance to the Council's discussion and response to the report. She explained that Living Difference revised 2011 was distinctive with its cycle of enquiry approach to the study of religions. The emphasis is on a process to enable enquiry into concepts well contextualised, rather than prescribing content or core knowledge that must be taught. She drew Members' attention to the executive summary of the report (page 7), particularly points 2 and 3, which were discussed in the light of Hampshire's Agreed Syllabus. It was suggested that SACRE's response should include mention of the breadth of faiths and belief systems included in Living Difference revised 2011, the single attainment target of 'interpreting religion in relation to human experience', and that the County's above national average GCSE results vindicate the concept and enquiry approach of Hampshire's Syllabus.

Patricia Hannam agreed to contact the questionnaire compilers to answer a query about question 2 on the questionnaire - it was asked 'how are they going to use that information (religion/belief affiliation) to calculate what the actual responses mean?'

She stressed that the RE Council wanted as large a response as possible to the report through its questionnaire and urged all SACRE members to complete it individually, pass it on to other interested parties and to send in comments for a group response on behalf of Hampshire SACRE.

### **RESOLVED:**

- That SACRE noted the report.
- That Members would respond individually to the questionnaire in the report and would provide any comments for inclusion in a Hampshire SACRE response.

## **126. MONITORING SUB-GROUP**

The Council received the report of the Monitoring Sub-group about their findings and discussions in relation to GCSE RE results, OFSTED reports under the new Framework, and current issues and concerns in Secondary and Primary RE. (item 7 in the Minute Book).

Patricia Hannam introduced her report by drawing Members' attention to the unverified GCSE figures for 2012 which she described as very pleasing. She explained that Full Course RE numbers were holding ground, but the impact of the EBacc would not be felt until 2013. The trend in performance was still upwards and there had been a narrowing of the performance gap between boys and girls. The number of students taking Short Course RE had declined, but not to the extent predicted, and performance in Hampshire schools was strong against national figures. Patricia Hannam agreed to a request from Members to bring data, if available, comparing the numbers of students in Hampshire taking RE with those in other authorities to the next meeting.

It was highlighted to Members that one school's non-compliance at key Stage 4 in respect of the teaching of RE, and which had been noted to the school and school's governors by the Inspector several times in formal reports, had led to an unsatisfactory judgement in an Ofsted subject inspection. This was now being addressed. The Inspector/Adviser is now supporting the school develop a GCSE Short Course in Religious Studies for all KS4 students, although this is largely being taught by non-specialists.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report

## **127. CO-OPTIONS TO SACRE**

The Council received the report of the Director of Children's Services on the co-option of two new members onto SACRE (item 8 in the Minute Book).

Miss Ceri Taylor of Maple Ridge School was put forward as the new Special Schools' representative and Ms Gill Heron from Thornden School in Chandlers Ford as a representative from an academy school.

Members were informed that Ms Rebecca Costambeys, who was the co-opted representative for secondary schools, had resigned due to work commitments.

RESOLVED:

- That Miss Ceri Taylor be co-opted onto SACRE as the Special Schools' representative and Ms Gill Heron as an academy representative.
- That a new secondary schools co-opted representative be sought.

## **128. SCHOOLS WITH ACADEMY STATUS IN HAMPSHIRE**

The Council received a verbal update from the County Inspector for RE on academy schools in Hampshire and the implications for RE. (item 9 in the Minute Book).

Patricia Hannam informed Members that currently there was good news for RE from academy schools. Those schools that used Living Difference Revised were continuing to do so.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

## **129. YOUTH VOICE**

The Council received the report of the Director of Children's Services on the two meetings of Hampshire SACRE's Youth Voice (item 10 in the Minute Book).

Patricia Hannam, supported by Maureen Barnes and Gill Heron, told members that the two meetings had been very successful; the students had enjoyed the opportunity to meet and discuss with other students, had appreciated the responsibility and that their views were being sought. The group from Thornden had set up a focus group in the school to gather ideas, thus making their presence at the Youth Voice more representative and the other schools were intending to do the same. It was agreed that more schools should be invited to participate. There was discussion about what SACRE's vision for Youth Voice was and how and where it should report - to SACRE or to the Hampshire Youth Parliament. It was brought to the Council's attention that there was a new initiative to have youth ambassadors on the RE Council and Patricia Hannam agreed to find out more about this.

The student members of Youth Voice were keen for the meetings to continue and Members agreed that three further meetings, one per term, be arranged.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report and endorsed the recommendation in 3.5.

## **130. ANNUAL REPORT**

The Council received the Annual Report about the activities of Hampshire SACRE during the last academic year (September 2011 – July 2012) (item 11 in the Minute Book).

Members expressed a vote of thanks to the officers who had written a most comprehensive report.

It was commented that Hampshire SACRE was fortunate in being provided with 20 days of inspector support and five additional days for monitoring visits (page 16 of the report). It was unanimously agreed that the strength of RE in the County was due to this support and hoped that it would continue. Members agreed that an amendment should be made on page 2 of the report to include a comment about the importance of inspector support to the work of both schools and SACRE. It was commented that other SACREs were not as well-supported by their local authorities and that this was undermining the influence that a SACRE could have.

Members discussed the continuing gender imbalance among students taking RE (page 4 of the report). It was remarked that an important question that needed to be considered was how RE could and should be marketed to improve uptake of the subject in general.

#### RESOLVED:

- That SACRE approved the report, subject to the agreed amendment being made.
- That copies of the report be sent to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services, the Assistant Executive Member for Education, the Director of Children's Services, the Leader of the County Council, the Chairman of the Young People's Select Committee, NASACRE and Ofsted, and that it be made available for public inspection on appropriate websites.

### **131. JOINT SACRE MEETING**

The Council received the report of the Director of Children's Services on the Joint SACRE meeting that had taken place on 5 October 2012. (Item 12 in the Minute Book)

The Chairman informed Members that the general feeling of those who had attended was that it had been a useful and productive meeting. Common concerns included the lack of officer support and involvement, the difficulty of monitoring RE in academies, and what was happening to RE in the curriculum.

Tony Blackshaw, one of the Church of England representatives, indicated that the three local Church of England and Roman Catholic bishops were keen to discuss the place of RE in the curriculum and suggested that the Chairman and County RE Inspector should meet with the Bishop of Winchester to discuss this.

Councillor Roz Chadd noted that she had been approached by representatives from other authorities who would be interested in being included in future joint SACRE meetings.

It was noted that a second meeting had been arranged for 11 March 2013.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

### **132. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR LONDON AND SOUTH EAST SACRES**

The Council received a verbal report from Councillor Roz Chadd and Elizabeth Jenkerson about the Annual Conference which they had attended on 6 November 2012 (item 13 in the minute book).

Copies of the conference report were circulated to Members. They highlighted the depressing report on the state of RE given by John Keast, Chairman of the RE Council, and his conclusion that RE was 'being dismantled of national support structures' and that there was an 'increasing collapse of local support'; he believed that the 'RE Council, local SACREs and other key stakeholders need to take responsibility for the subject'.

Members' attention was also drawn to the Religious Education Quality Mark, an accreditation system which 'seeks to recognise good practice in RE and was designed to be a mechanism for whole school improvement beyond RE'. It had been commented by some delegates at the Conference that Living Difference Revised was a highly respected syllabus with its enquiry-based approach, but that it was very different to others; and it was felt that to implement it effectively meant complete retraining; it was noted that a training package was available to those who bought the syllabus, but it was agreed that this aspect needed to be marketed more widely.

The general feeling from the Conference was that there would be no changes in the current trends for RE in the curriculum, even if there was a change of education minister. In relation to academies, the Conference felt that there was still a relationship, but whether they would adopt the new Agreed Syllabuses, when they were reviewed, or continue with the old, was uncertain.

Members were informed that they had received a number of compliments for Hampshire's SACRE, with requests to attend a meeting, find out more about our Youth Voice and join the Joint SACRE network group.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

### **133. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

Thanks were expressed to the Reverend Ganshin Rock for his talk at the beginning of the meeting.

#### **134. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 4 March 2013 at 1.30pm at Elizabeth II Court, Winchester.

Prior to the main meeting there would be a short talk by Mrs Jacky Chong, the Roman Catholic Representative on SACRE.