

AT A MEETING of the
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
held in the Ashburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester
on 18 November 2014

PRESENT

Chairman

p Councillor Roz Chadd (Hampshire County Council)

Vice-Chairman

p Councillor Charles Choudhary (Hampshire County Council)

p Councillor Mrs Fiona Mather	-	Hampshire County Council
p Councillor David Simpson	-	Hampshire County Council
Mr Mohammed Ansar	-	Muslim
a Mrs Jackie Chong	-	Roman Catholic
a Rev Seishin Darren Clark	-	Buddhist
a Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato	-	Muslim
p Mrs Pat Fry	-	United Reformed Church
p Mrs Lisa Gilmour	-	Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints
p Mr Colin How	-	Methodist
p Mr Chris Hughes	-	Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
p Mrs Elizabeth Jenkerson	-	Baha'i
Ms Jackie McGregor	-	Salvation Army
p Mrs Jo May	-	Baptist Union
p Mr Richard Moss	-	Buddhist
a Mr Harjap Singh	-	Sikh
p Mrs Heather Thorpe-Tracey	-	Society of Friends
Major Suryaparsad Upadhya	-	Hindu
p Mr. Michael Zeffertt	-	Jewish
a Rev Jeff Williams	-	Church of England
p Mrs Joyce Johnson	-	Church of England
p Ms Caroline Welch	-	Church of England
p Rev Howard Wright	-	Church of England
p Mrs Maureen Barnes	-	Teachers' Association
p Mr James Dye	-	Teachers' Association
p Mrs Jane Pridmore	-	Teachers' Association
a Mrs Patrizia Timms Blanch	-	Teachers' association
p Mrs Pam Brown	-	Special School – Co-opted
p Mrs Gill Heron	-	Academy – Co-opted
p Miss Chris Robinson	-	Humanist – Co-opted

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| p Mrs Rhiannon Love | - | Higher Education Rep – Co-opted |
| p Mr Alasdair Richardson | - | Higher Education Rep – Co-opted |
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| p Ms Patricia Hannam | - | Support Officer |
| p Mrs Judith Lowndes | - | Support Officer |

Also present were Clare Marren, substituting for Patrizia Timms Blanch, Kate Smart, the prospective co-opted member for primary schools, Richard Wharton substituting for Rev Jeff Williams and Harmeet Singh Brar, substituting for Harjap Singh.

Prior to the start of the meeting Patricia Hannam and Judith Lowndes gave a talk on the Agreed Syllabus. Judith Lowndes explained how the Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference Revised 2011, had come into being and how the cycle of learning works in primary schools. Patricia Hannam explained the unique history of the place of RE in schools and how the cycle of learning is applied in secondary schools.

Councillor Chadd welcomed everyone to the meeting, and gave particular mention to Clare Marren, Kate Smart and Harmeet Singh Brar.

59. BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:
 Patrizia Timms Blanch
 Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo
 Jacky Chong
 Harjap Singh
 Rev Seishin Darren Clark
 Rev Jeff Williams

61. 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.

62. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

63. MATTERS ARISING

Item 57 – Members discussed a draft protocol for presentations at SACRE meetings which had been handed out. (attached as an appendix to these minutes)

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE would adopt the presentation protocol.

64. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman informed Members that Judith Lowndes, the primary adviser for RE, was retiring and wished to pass on her and fellow SACRE members' appreciation and gratitude for the endless hard work that she had done on SACRE's behalf. Councillor Choudhary commented on her dedication and commitment and Councillor McNair Scott reiterated this and wished her a wonderful retirement.

The Chairman brought to Members' attention the forthcoming South West Conference for SACREs on 16 March 2015 at Dillington House and indicated that there would be two places available should anyone wish to go.

65. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

66. MEMBERSHIP

The Council received a brief report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE (Item 7 in the Minute Book), which proposed the co-option of Ms Kate Smart as a representative for primary schools onto SACRE.

It was noted that there was an error in appendix B 1.1, which should have read: *As a consequence of the co-option of a representative for primary schools onto SACRE, impact on equality is implied in this report.*

RESOLVED:

- That Ms Kate Smart should be co-opted onto SACRE as a representative for primary schools.

67. ANNUAL REPORT

The Council received the Annual Report of SACRE from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE (Item 8 in the Minute Book). She indicated that the report was an opportunity for SACRE to look at its activities over the last twelve months and invited comments and questions.

A question was raised concerning the monitoring of Collective Worship (page 22). It was indicated that it was very difficult to monitor this and that the inspectors have to be invited in by the schools. As SACRE does have a responsibility with regard to collective worship, it was suggested that the monitoring sub-group should put it on their agenda. Members were informed that a Secondary Schools' Collective Worship course had failed to run as there had been no applicants. It was noted that the RE Council had not included Collective Worship on their plans as it was felt to be too complex and not urgent enough. Members were informed that, to the advisers' knowledge, there had never been a complaint from a parent regarding non-compliance. Following a question about the number of pupils who are exempt from RE or Collective Worship or both, it was suggested that the monitoring group should research this.

Commenting on the 'less than satisfactory provision for RE in special schools' (page 12) and whether SACRE could do anything to support them, it was noted that previously there had been a support group for special needs teachers, but it was no longer in existence. It was also indicated that each special school had its own particular needs, which made group support difficult.

Referring to the use of non-qualified classroom assistants to teach RE in primary schools (page 7) and whether they could be offered training, it was indicated that Ofsted agreed with Hampshire's Inspectors that these assistants should not be teaching RE and that training was inappropriate. It was also noted that changes in secondary teacher training in the last five years had led to fast-tracked training beginning with any degree, rather than a specialist subject degree.

An error was corrected on page 5 – boys' entries fell by 109 not 119. It was also agreed that page 6 needed to have the following added to make the status of the monitoring visits clearer – *'It must be acknowledged that the schools monitored are, in essence, self-selected. It has not been possible to ascertain standards and levels of achievement across all Hampshire primary schools'*.

Members were informed that the reports would be sent to NASACRE, Ofsted, the Director of Children's Services and the Executive Members for Children's Services and Education and would appear on Hantsweb. The report may also be subject to the scrutiny of the Children and Young People's Select Committee.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE approved the report, subject to the agreed changes, and its dissemination to the appropriate authorities and that it be made available to the public.

- That the SACRE Monitoring Sub-group should look at Collective Worship and the number of pupils who are exempt from RE or Collective Worship or both.

68. MONITORING SUB-GROUP

The Council received the report of the Monitoring sub-group on its activities and discussions from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

It was explained that GCSE data had not formally been released to local authorities yet, which was partly due to confusion over the results as a result of changing the benchmarks and the increased number of re-marks being requested. These would be discussed at the March meeting.

Monitoring visits to four primaries and one secondary school had all had positive reports.

It was noted that there were a number of Members who needed to do the SACRE training and that a date would be set, probably early in 2015.

Discussions on the new Ofsted framework handbook were left until the next item.

Members were pleased to hear that the bursary for initial teacher training for RE would be reinstated from September 2015. SACRE were concerned to hear that a number of RE jobs in Hampshire remain unfilled and that there were only 3NQTs this year.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.
- That the Chairman of SACRE would write to the head teachers of secondary schools in Hampshire regarding the offer that can be made to support RE and belief, in light of the new framework for SMSC and the clear links with RE.

69. CHANGES TO THE OFSTED INSPECTION FRAMEWORK HANDBOOK AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE (Item 10 in the Minute Book). Members were provided with the pages relating to RE and collective worship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural Development) from the new Ofsted Inspection Framework Handbook.

Patricia Hannam indicated that the new framework for Ofsted inspections gave a stronger emphasis to RE and that the words religion, faith and belief were to be found throughout the SMSC paragraphs. The Monitoring Sub-group had studied the relevant sections of the handbook and surmised that future Ofsted inspection reports would have more references to RE. Schools had been issued with a

communication regarding the changes, advising them to take them seriously (appendix 1).

SACRE members who were teachers highlighted the importance of specialist teachers to implement the religious aspects of SMSC, particularly with regard to point 131 on page 35 of the handbook. Concerns were raised about whether there would be a replacement to Alan Brine as the RE specialist on Ofsted and who would be training Ofsted inspectors into what to look for in RE. Members requested the Chairman to request clarification of this from the RE Council.

Members were informed that existing SMSC guidance was being revised in the light of the changes and agreed that the Inspector/Adviser should produce a document specifically related to RE and religion, belief and faith in SMSC.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report
- That SACRE agreed that the Inspector/Adviser for RE would produce a document specifically regarding RE and religion, belief and faith in relation to SMSC.
- That the Chairman of SACRE would write to the Chairman of the RE Council about the replacement for Alan Brine, subject lead for RE at Ofsted, following his retirement.
- That the Chairman of SACRE would write to the head teachers of secondary schools in Hampshire regarding the offer that can be made to support RE and belief in light of the new framework for SMSC and the clear links with RE.

70. YOUTH VOICE

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE on the meetings of Youth Voice which took place on 9 July and 2 October 2014 (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

Patricia Hannam gave her thanks to Councillor Roz Chadd, Elizabeth Jenkerson and Mohammed Ansar for their vision to start this venture with her. She stated that it was interesting to hear what the students have to say about the RE they are taught. It was felt that one of the reasons for Youth Voice's success was in not going too far, too fast.

As a result of the recent meetings Youth Voice had put forward three suggestions – that they would like SACRE's support to find some young faith speakers to go into schools; that they are keen for all primary pupils to have access to the best RE and made a number of recommendations for SACRE's consideration in this regard; and that there should be a Youth Voice to SACRE conference next year on 9 July 2015 investigating the concept of 'religion'. Their recommendations were for a variety of cross-phase strategies. Members were asked to inform Patricia Hannam of any possible speakers they knew of. It was noted by the Sikh representative that he had been shocked to find out that they had no speakers available, but this had been remedied and that the Gurdwarahs welcomed school visits. Members were told that

Portsmouth SACRE were keen to have a joint venture with Hampshire at their annual student enrichment day, but that this would not be possible until 2016 due to Hampshire's own Youth Conference.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report and endorsed its recommendations.

71. REGIONAL MATTERS

The Council received a verbal report on the meeting of the South Central Hub held on 7 November 2014 from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE (Item 12 in the Minute Book).

Patricia Hannam explained that the South Central Hub had received a grant from the Culham St Gabriel's Trust to hold two meetings to discuss the shared concerns regarding initial teacher training and continuing professional development.

The meeting on 7 November was attended by representatives from Southampton, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, West Sussex, Bournemouth, Poole, Dorset, Winchester University, the Dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth, and a number of schools and academies.

The meeting had agreed three collective areas of development. A research group, led by Rhiannon Love (Winchester University) and Patricia Hannam would be set up. David Scard (Horndean School) would investigate the possibilities of a webinar and online discussion forum. Derek Holloway (Dorset and Poole SACREs and Diocese of Salisbury), Alastair Richardson (Winchester University) and David Scard would lead on subject knowledge boosting, particularly in the primary sector. The sharing of outstanding primary practice across the regions would be developed.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

72. NATIONAL RE MATTERS

The Council received a verbal report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE, on National RE developments, including the recent Church of England report into Religious Education in Church of England Schools and updates from the RE Council (item 13 in the Minute Book).

Patricia Hannam highlighted two points from the Church of England report into Religious Education, namely that the report had stressed the importance of good enquiry leading to good RE and that there was an emphasis on theological enquiry. Members were informed that the report had shown that the teaching of RE was better in secondary schools than primary. There was also debate within the Church of England about theological enquiry, taught RE and Christian teachings. It was

agreed that the Church of England would update SACRE on developments at a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report

73. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GCSE & A Level Consultation for Religious Studies

Patricia Hannam informed Members that the consultation about the subject content for RS GCSE and A levels had started and was due to end on 29 December. She stressed that it was important for SACRE and individuals to respond to this. A paper was handed out with links to the relevant documentation and information about how to make a response. She drew attention to one important proposed change, whereby every school would be studying at least two religions. It was commented that the proposal for Christianity would be unteachable on one lesson a week. Patricia Hannam brought another consultation document to Member's attention; this one from OfQual, and queried whether the changes in the criteria for success would allow sufficient progression between key stages 3, 4 and 5. Members would be sent a link to this document.

It was agreed that Patricia Hannam and the Chairman would draft a response to the GCSE and A Level consultation which would be circulated to Members for comment, before submitting. She reiterated the importance for as many people as possible to send in their comments for both consultations.

Lisa Gilmour handed out invitations to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Christmas event, The Christmas Truce.

Patricia Hannam gave her thanks and appreciation to Judith Lowndes and informed Members that a replacement was being sought.

The next presentation would be by the Teachers Association.

74. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 9 March 2015 at 13:30 in the Ashburton Hall, Winchester, SO23 8UJ

Terms of reference for speakers/presenters at SACRE meetings

Members of SACRE are invited to share their beliefs/faith perspectives with others prior to each SACRE meeting. This has been very welcome and provides members with a broad perspective of the belief systems represented in the group. These talks provide an opportunity to inform SACRE and are not understood by members as an opportunity for any form of proselytising.

Those wishing to provide a presentation of their beliefs and practices should see the information below as support and guidance for their talk.

1. SACRE members should be responsible for the delivery of their presentations.
2. The presentation should include information about the background and history of their religion/group, the beliefs and practices and the impact of those on believers. Power Point presentations are well received and IT equipment can be made available for SACRE members to use for their presentations. Artefacts can also be useful to help illustrate the presentation.
3. If the presenter has any information, booklets, leaflets etc. it is helpful if they are made available on a side table for members to pick up if they wish.
4. SACRE is not a worshipping community and any explicit form of worship or singing may cause offence or feelings of compromise or embarrassment, so should be avoided. Similarly, if any food is to be offered to SACRE members presenters should be mindful of the variety of religious beliefs represented and different food laws (e.g. Halal, Kosher) which should be applied to food.