

AT A MEETING of the  
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)  
held in the Ashburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester  
on 17 November 2015

**PRESENT**

**Chairman**

a 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
p Mr Mohammed Ansar	-	Muslim
Mr Harmeet Singh Brar	-	Sikh
a Rev Seishin Darren Clark	-	Buddhist
a Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo	-	Muslim
p Mrs Lisa Gilmour	-	Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints
a Mr Colin How	-	Methodist
p Mr Chris Hughes	-	Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
p Mrs Elizabeth Jenkerson	-	Baha'i
a Mrs Jo May	-	Baptist Union
a Mr Richard Moss	-	Buddhist
p Heather Thorpe-Tracey	-	Society of Friends
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
a Mrs Maureen Barnes	-	Teachers' Association
p Mr James Dye	-	Teachers' Association
p Mrs Jane Pridmore	-	Teachers' Association
a Mrs Patrizia Timms Blanch	-	Teachers' association
a Mrs Pam Brown	-	Special School – Co-opted
p Mrs Gill Heron	-	Academy – Co-opted
a Miss Chris Robinson	-	Humanist – Co-opted
p Mrs Rhiannon Love	-	Higher Education Rep – Co-opted
p Dr Alasdair Richardson	-	Higher Education Rep – Co-opted
p Ms Kate Smart	-	Primary - Co-opted

p Mrs Patricia Hannam - Support Officer  
p Mrs Justine Ball - Support Officer

Also present were Councillor Jackie Porter, Mrs Lisa Taylor (Buddhist deputy), Mr Gary Walker (co-opted member of the Children and Young People Select Committee, Mr Richard Wharton as substitute for Jeff Williams, Ms Su Banwell and Miss Antigone Storey, both prospective SACRE co-optees.

Prior to the start of the meeting Mohammed Ansar gave a talk on "Islam, the West and the Crisis Of Knowledge". He looked at Muslim communities today and how the tolerant and inclusive enlightenment based on critical thinking and reasoning from the Golden Age of Islam had become lost, leading to extremism, terrorism and the recent attacks in Paris. He gave examples of the Islamic contribution to the European and Western identity, including the revival of the Jewish identity, the Renaissance and Industrial Revolution, and John Locke and the thinking of the Founding Fathers in America. Mohammed made the case for the separation of church and state in Islam, the need for renewal and better teaching in education. He answered questions raised by SACRE members.

### **Councillor Choudhary was in the Chair**

#### **101. 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.

#### **102. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Roz Chadd for medical reasons, Darren Clarke, Fazle Abbas Dato, Colin How, Chris Robinson, Pam Brown, Maureen Barnes, Patrizia Timms Blanch, and Richard Moss.

#### **103. 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 Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 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.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments: Lisa Gilmour indicated that she had not been present at the meeting and Kate Smart requested that her name be corrected.

#### **105. MATTERS ARISING**

- Item 95 – an email with SACRE’s concerns about Ofsted reports containing references to ‘Christian values’ had been sent to our link HMI, which, it was explained, was the way HIAS raises concerns with Ofsted, and was the right way to proceed in this situation. No response had been received yet.
- Item 98 – Pat Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser for RE, explained that there was a continuing fast-moving debate nationally on British Values and SMCS (Spiritual, Moral, Cultural and Social) and now the additional Prevent duty in schools. A decision had, therefore, been made to postpone the convening of the sub-group to consider issues relating to the place of religion in public life until the publication of the ‘RE for Real report’ and the outcome of a conference being held about what is happening in Hampshire. Members had now been invited to a meeting that was scheduled for 8 December at the RE Centre. There would also be a follow-up meeting before its discussions were brought to SACRE.

#### **106. CHAIRMAN’S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Vice-Chairman welcomed the visitors to SACRE.

He drew Members’ attention to a Statement issued by the Muslim community in Portsmouth condemning the recent Paris attacks which had been circulated.

The Vice-Chairman displayed the Hampshire Interfaith Network calendar for 2016, which Members were able to purchase. This calendar is the result of a schools’ competition to produce a piece of art work to celebrate the religious festivals or events of the nine faiths that currently make up the Interfaith Network.

#### **107. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations.

#### **108. MEMBERSHIP**

The Council considered a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser for RE seeking SACRE’s approval for the co-option of Ms Su

Banwell to represent a local authority secondary school and Miss Antigone Storey to represent a Hampshire independent school. Members were also made aware of vacancies for Buddhist, Roman Catholic and United Reformed Church members, which were in the process of being addressed (item 7 in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE approved the co-options of Ms Su Banwell and Miss Antigone Storey and noted the vacancies.

## **109. MONITORING SUB-GROUP**

The Council received the report of the Monitoring Sub-group on its discussions and findings during the meeting on 12 October 2015 from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser for RE (Item 8 in the Minute Book). Members were invited to ask questions about the report.

The Inspector/Adviser expressed gratitude that the County Council was continuing to provide funding for SACRE members to visit schools with the inspectors. Members were asked to express an interest to the SACRE clerk if they would like to be part of a future monitoring visit. There was continuing concern about GCSE results as the unverified data was not yet available. The Group had noted that RE had been mentioned more frequently in Ofsted reports over the last few years. The group had also discussed the need for terms of reference for the Monitoring Group.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.
- That SACRE requested the officers to consult on terms of reference for the Monitoring Sub-group and to bring proposals to a future SACRE meeting.

## **110. ANNUAL REPORT**

The Council considered the report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser for RE on the Annual Report of SACRE for 2014/15 (item 9 in the Minute Book). Members were provided with a copy of Appendix 2 of the report which dealt with courses that had been run for and attended by RE teachers during 2014/15. Members were invited to ask questions about any concerns in the report.

It was explained to Members that the present format of the Annual Report had been used for many years, but was felt to be heavy and repetitive, and needed to be made more useful and interesting. Members were asked to agree that the Officers should produce a new format, which would be presented initially to the Monitoring Group for their comments, before bringing it to SACRE.

Questioned about the inclusion of Collective Worship in the report (page 17, 4b) when it was not part of SACRE's duty, it was indicated that Ofsted reports regularly commented on Collective Worship, particularly in relation to school values. It was

also noted that a number of Collective Worship courses have been run which have proved popular.

Attention was drawn to the lack of analysis of short-course GCSE RE data (page 6, 1c); this would no longer be available as short courses were no longer included in schools' accountability measures. It was highlighted that the numbers of students taking the short and full courses were the same. Girls were continuing to out-perform boys even though their results had improved, although the gap was slightly narrower. Despite investigation, no obvious explanation had been found to explain the discrepancy – male teachers and choice of units had been considered.

Commenting on the use of Learning Support Assistants to teach RE in some primary schools (page 6, 1d) teacher representatives suggested that SACRE should write to schools to express concern over this. Members were informed that SACRE did write every few years to emphasize the need for teachers to be used.

Answering a question on issues in special schools and small schools (page 9, 1f), the County Inspector/Adviser advised that small schools did not seem to have the same issues as special schools and regularly attended training and networking sessions. A special school teachers' network had ceased, partly due to the diverse nature of these schools.

Concerns were raised about teacher recruitment and training (page 9, 1f). It was noted that some secondary RE vacancies had not been filled at the end of the last academic year, but that this was not just an RE issue. Hampshire teacher recruitment fairs were being held to try and address the problem. Members were informed that recruitment had been improved by the teacher training bursary, but that the primary bursary had just been withdrawn. The University of Winchester had a steady stream of applicants for the secondary PGCE course, but not as many as they would like. Gill Heron, from Thornden School, which provides school-centred initial training, indicated that the school had places for six RE specialist trainees, but had as yet received no applications.

In regard to question 5a (page 18), Members asked that the word 'diversity' be replaced by 'plurality' in the first sentence – 'Hampshire SACRE seeks to ensure that membership reflects diversity by developing closer links with the faith communities represented on the Council'. The Inspector/Adviser explained the current lack of an active link with the Nepalese community in Aldershot.

The Inspector/Adviser made a comment that some SACREs were more pro-active in initiating work and wondered whether Hampshire SACRE should consider hosting something similar to Cornwall SACRE's or the joint London SACREs' annual lectures.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE approved the report subject to the requested amendment and agreed it should be made available on the appropriate websites.
  - Amendment – page 18, 5a – replace the word diversity with plurality.

- That SACRE supported the recommendation that a more concise format should be developed for the 2015/16 Annual Report.

### **111. SOUTH CENTRAL SACRE HUB**

The Council received a verbal report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser for RE on the activities of the South Central SACRE hub (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

The background to the South Central Hub was explained to Members. A grant from the Culham St Gabriel's fund was being used towards nurturing three areas of work – to establish more primary networks (there were now five groups); to improve primary subject knowledge; and to establish a Reading and Research Group. This group had met four times and involved teachers of all phases, including trainees, who discuss projects and research. Funding was now available from Winchester University for masters' level courses and teachers were being encouraged to apply for Farmington Scholarships. The next meeting of the group would be on 7 December 2015.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

### **112. YOUTH VOICE**

The Council received a verbal report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser on the first Youth SACRE Conference which took place on 9 July 2015 and the SACRE Youth Voice meeting on 29 September (item 11 in the Minute Book).

The inspector informed Members that Youth Voice to SACRE was now in its fourth year, with 7 schools each sending 3 or 4 year 9 students.

A presentation was shown of images from the Youth Voice Conference in July 2015 which had focussed on the topic – 'Is religion important even if you are not religious?' Workshops and discussions had been facilitated by SACRE members, the police and Winchester University. Those Members who had been involved agreed it had been a worthwhile and successful event.

David Knowles, Hampshire Constabulary Prevent Officer, had spoken at the Youth Voice meeting in September. The students were keen to devise a unit of work which included 4 themes – refuge, family, media and identity. The next steps were to find someone to write a script with them and to look for funding to disseminate it.

Patricia Hannam expressed her thanks to Councillor Roz Chadd, Elizabeth Jenkerson, and Mohammed Ansar for all their support with Youth Voice.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report

### **113. NATIONAL RE MATTERS**

The Council received a verbal report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser, on national RE developments (item 12 in the Minute Book).

Members were informed that the Clarke/Woodhead report on RE (<http://faithdebates.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/A-New-Settlement-for-Religion-and-Belief-in-schools.pdf>), which was published in June 2015, had made some interesting recommendations; these included a national curriculum for RE, that collective worship should not be compulsory, and a change in SACRE's role to one which would include participating in the consultations about the content of the national RE curriculum, helping the local implementation of the national RE syllabus, promoting community cohesion and educating for diversity, and advising on local availability of religious instruction.

The publications of the Wolfe Report into Religion in Public Life in Britain and the RE for Real Report are both still awaited. It was expected that these would provide a variety of topics for discussion by SACRE.

A brief update on the Prevent duty of schools was given, explaining that Prevent was part of schools' wider safeguarding remit. A group of five Hampshire inspectors, including Patricia Hannam and Justine Ball, had accessed the government's WRAP training and were now providing teacher and governor training on preventing violent extremism. Members agreed that schools needed to be an educationally safe space for children to be able to engage in conversations and enquiries on controversial issues. It was indicated to Members that Hampshire schools were beginning to keep data on 'religious' bullying. It was agreed that hate crimes relating to race and religion should no longer be treated as one, but separated, and should also be distinguished between religions.

Members discussed and raised concerns about the Prevent Strategy and how it was being implemented and used. Serious concerns were expressed by all about the possible use by schools of software designed to spy on children's internet searches and requested that its use in Hampshire schools was looked into.

Some Members suggested that Prevent was beyond the remit of SACRE, but it was advised that in light of Prevent, schools should look closely at the role RE can play in dispelling misunderstandings about religion. In addition to this the thinking skills developed in RE are precisely those required to live well in the modern world. It was further explained that SACRE had a duty to monitor the Agreed Syllabus in schools and this included sections on community cohesion and the 'every child matters' policy; these would be brought up to date during the current review of the Agreed Syllabus.

## RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.
- That SACRE asked the County Inspector/Adviser to make an enquiry of the Interim Director of Children's Services as to the impact of Prevent in Hampshire schools.

## **114. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Justine Ball, the Primary Inspector/Adviser brought to Members' attention that she was involved, together with 2 Hampshire members, Elizabeth Jenkerson and Harmeet Singh Brar, in a project with Southampton SACRE to put together an advice sheet for schools on issues that have been raised by them regarding religious sensitivities about such topics as dress, visits, PE, jewellery, and requests for absence. The intention was to send the document out to faith groups for them to give their input before sending out to schools. Members would be kept updated on this project.

James Dye asked whether some SACRE members would spare a few moments at the end of the meeting to talk to one of his students.

The Chairman thanked Mohammed Ansar for his interesting talk at the beginning of the meeting. Mohammed invited Members to a sermon he was giving at the University of Southampton.

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

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 13:30 in the Ashburton Hall, The Castle, Winchester. The pre-meeting presentation would be given by Heather Thorpe-Tracey, the representative for the Society of Friends.