

AT A MEETING of the  
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)  
held in the Ashburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester  
on 8 March 2016

**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
p Mr Mohammed Ansar	-	Muslim
Mr Harmeet Singh Brar	-	Sikh
p Miss Margaret Boyne	-	United Reformed Church
a Rev Seishin Darren Clark	-	Buddhist
p Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato	-	Muslim
a 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
p Mrs Jo May	-	Baptist Union
a Mr Richard Moss	-	Buddhist
p Mrs Sushma Sahajpal	-	Hindu
a Heather Thorpe-Tracey	-	Society of Friends
p Mr. Michael Zeffertt	-	Jewish
p Rev Jeff Williams	-	Church of England
p Mrs Joyce Johnson	-	Church of England
a Ms Caroline Welch	-	Church of England
p Rev Howard Wright	-	Church of England
p Mr Richard Wharton	-	Church of England
p Mrs Maureen Barnes	-	Teachers' Association
a Mr James Dye	-	Teachers' Association
p Mrs Jane Pridmore	-	Teachers' Association
p Mrs Patrizia Timms Blanch	-	Teachers' association
a Mrs Pam Brown	-	Special School – Co-opted
p Mrs Gill Heron	-	Academy – Co-opted
p Miss Chris Robinson	-	Humanist – Co-opted

- |                          |   |                                 |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| a Mrs Rhiannon Love      | - | Higher Education Rep – Co-opted |
| a 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 Mrs Lisa Taylor (Buddhist deputy) and Caleb Maddox, a member of Youth Voice.

## **116. 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.

## **117. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Darren Clarke, Caroline Welch, Colin How, Lisa Gilmour, Pam Brown, Heather Thorpe-Tracey, Su Banwell, Rhiannon Love, Alasdair Richardson, Antigone Storey, James Dye and Richard Moss.

## **118. 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.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendment: Mrs Jo May indicated that she had been present at the meeting.

- Item 105 – no response had been received to the email about Ofsted reports containing references to ‘Christian values’ and it was indicated that it was now unlikely due to changes at Ofsted.

- Item 113 – Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Advisor for RE, indicated that enquiries had been made regarding the impact of Prevent in Hampshire schools, but that it was too early to judge.
- Item 114 – Justine Ball, the Primary Inspector/Advisor for RE, informed Members that the advice sheet for schools on issues of religious sensitivities had been sent to Southampton Schools. The main conclusions of the working group were that parents should always be consulted before a decision is taken about an issue and that they should be considered as individuals not as members of a group. Members requested that this guidance be circulated to SACRE Members and suggested that something similar should be put together for Hampshire schools. It was noted that the document was a working document and would be updated as required.

## **121. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman welcomed the new Members to SACRE and Caleb Maddox, a member from SACRE's Youth Voice.

Members were informed that this was the last meeting for Joyce Johnson and Jane Pridmore and she expressed her gratitude and appreciation to them both for their work on SACRE.

The Chairman told Members about the South West SACRE Conference that she had attended on 7 March 2016. She indicated that the keynote speech by the Chief Executive of the RE Council, Rudi Lockhart, had suggested that RE and SACREs were in a difficult position, and that she felt privileged to belong to Hampshire which had such a robust SACRE. She had attended a workshop on the Prevent duty which had little to do with RE; her belief was that we should ensure that teachers can deliver good lessons that encourage students to be able to discuss and question in a safe environment. A workshop run by Hampshire's adviser, Justine Ball, on assessment had shown that Hampshire was clear about how its assessment linked to the Living Difference Syllabus. Elizabeth Jenkerson, who had also attended the Conference on SACRE's behalf, fed back that currently only one GCSE examining board's RE syllabus had been approved, and also that visits and visitors were considered the best way of engaging students. Sushmal Sahajpal told Members that the Conference had been a good opportunity for SACREs to get a sense of RE nationally and how SACREs are viewed; she stressed the importance of good liaison between SACREs to support areas which are having problems. The Chairman indicated that she intended to invite the Chief Executive of the RE Council to Hampshire to observe religious education at work in Hampshire schools supported by SACRE and HIAS.

Members were informed that the NASACRE AGM was being held on 17 May 2016 at Central Hall, Westminster, and asked to indicate if they would like to be considered for one of the two places. Mohammed Ansar indicated that he would like to go.

## **122. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations.

### **123. MEMBERSHIP**

The Council welcomed the appointments of Mrs Margaret Boyne as the new United Reformed Church representative and Mrs Sushma Sahajpal as the new Hindu representative. Members commented on the continued lack of a representative from the Roman Catholic faith and were informed that the Diocese was seeking an appointment. (Item 7 in the Minute Book)

### **124. MONITORING GROUP**

The Council received the report of the Monitoring Group on its discussions at their meeting on 19 January 2016. (Item 8 in the Minute Book)

Two corrections were made to the report: that Charles Choudhary had sent apologies for this meeting and the third sentence of 3.1 was corrected to read as follows: ' the limited short course data now available was also discussed.'

The Inspector/Adviser indicated that although the verified GCSE data had now been received in the county, it was still not available to her.

Concerns were raised over a report that schools had been advised by Ofsted that if students were not taking RE as a GCSE at Key Stage 4 then there was no need for RE to be taught, as long as they were doing something relating to citizenship. This would be investigated.

The group had also discussed terms of reference for the Monitoring Group, which were circulated at the meeting for SACRE to approve.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.
- That SACRE adopted the Terms of Reference for the Monitoring Group.

### **125. INTERIM REPORT OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW**

The Council received a verbal interim report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser on the Agreed Syllabus review. (item 9 in the Minute Book)

It was reported that meetings had been held with representatives of SACREs, teacher and other experts to examine the current Syllabus and subsequently the writing group had met twice. A draft version was out for consultation, including Alan Brine, former HMI for RE, the SACRE Adviser to the London Boroughs who use the Agreed Syllabus, Professor of Education at Brunel University, and Diocesan representatives. It was noted that the Isle of Wight was involved with the process with a view to Living Difference becoming the Agreed Syllabus for the Isle of Wight. Members were informed that although the methodology of the Syllabus was not changing, progression and assessment were in line with national developments. The revised Agreed Syllabus would be presented to the Agreed Syllabus Conference in November 2016 for approval.

It was expected that the revised Agreed Syllabus would be titled 'Living Difference 2016' in order to continue the brand name. It would only be available online and via a pen stick. There would be marketing aimed at schools to buy into a package which would include teaching packs, long and medium term teaching plans, and CPD for teachers.

A query regarding a possible conflict between selling nationally and schools having to follow their own Locally Agreed Syllabus was answered with the observation that although Local Authority schools have to do this, academy schools can use any syllabus.

It was acknowledged that getting senior managers on board was very effective for the quality of RE in schools, and a Senior Leadership Team briefing for the new syllabus would be held on 21 November 2016. There would be an official launch in December in the Ashburton Hall.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report

## **126. SACRE THREE YEAR ACTION PLAN**

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser for RE outlining the 3 Year Action Plan. (Item 10 in the Minute Book)

This new Action Plan would form part of the revised Annual Report. It would not change each year, but progress would be evaluated.

It was agreed that number 1 should be Agreed Syllabus review, not revision.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report and accepted the Action Plan.

## **127. SMSC (SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL) GROUP**

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser on the outcome of the two meetings of the SMSC Group which had met to discuss issues relating to SMSC, and in particular RE. (Item 11 in the Minute Book)

She drew attention to the five actions that had been highlighted by the group. Members were asked if any would be willing to talk for a few minutes on camera about 'what life was like as a .... in Hampshire' as part of the 'on-line' space for RE.

It was reported that a survey had been sent to all Hampshire schools about the numbers withdrawing from RE and Collective Worship in order to discover whether it was a big problem or related to a particular area. It was stressed that this was still a

live survey; so far there had been 154 responses, from a variety of schools, but mainly Primary. A full report would be presented to SACRE at a later date.

Schools had been asked for the number of children who had been withdrawn from Collective Worship and from RE in the last two years. Currently responses suggested that there were a variety of reasons that children, either individually or as a religious group were withdrawn, for all or just a partial withdrawal - these included reasons such as just the prayer, a visitor, a religious festival or to teach children their own faith. Findings so far indicated that there was no one particular area of the syllabus or visits that stood out.

Comment was raised about the understanding of the difference between Collective Worship and assembly. It was noted that Collective Worship is detailed in legislation. The government circular 1/94 on collective worship in schools is the most accurate place to find the requirements for maintained schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools> This has come more to the fore most recently following recent government documents in relation to British Values. It was indicated that without previous data to compare with, it was impossible to determine whether there has been an increase in the numbers withdrawing from either RE or Collective Worship.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report
- That SACRE endorses the writing of letters by the SACRE Chairman to all schools sharing the plan and vision Hampshire SACRE in terms of supporting schools to promote children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

## **128. SOUTH CENTRAL SACRE HUB**

The Council received and approved a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser on the meeting of the South Central SACRE RE hub that had met on 26 February 2016 (Item 12 in the Minute Book).

The Reading and Research group was highlighted, noting the flyer attached to the report giving future dates, and it was indicated that all Members were welcome to attend.

## **129. YOUTH VOICE**

The Council received and noted the report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser on the meeting on 25 February 2016 (item 13 in the Minute Book). She introduced Caleb Maddox, one of the Youth Voice members, who had expressed an interest to attend SACRE.

Following David Knowles, Hampshire Constabulary Prevent Officer's, visit to Youth Voice in Autumn 2015, the students had developed ideas for 4 concepts – media, safety – refuge and refugee, family, and ethics. Materials for these to be sold to schools were being devised.

Caleb answered questions from Members and expressed the views, supported by members, that social media encouraged following the crowd rather than independent thinking, and that young people often hold up the media and politicians as influences. Members felt that religious literacy was being addressed, but perhaps political and media literacy also required attention.

The Youth Voice Conference was being held on 15 July 2016 and the topic would be "Is all extremism related to religion?" Members were encouraged to be involved and to let Patricia Hannam know if they would run a workshop.

The Chairman thanked Caleb for coming and hoped he had found it a useful experience and Maureen Barnes for bringing him.

### **130. NATIONAL RE MATTERS**

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser, on national RE developments and began by drawing Members' attention to the summaries of three recent reports which were included as appendices to the report. (item 14 in the Minute Book)

It was highlighted that these reports were significant and it was a matter for concern that they were heading in different directions. It was also worrying that both the RE reports (Clarke/Woodhead and RE for Real Reports) were suggesting a move to a national RE syllabus. It was indicated that when SACREs were established it was intended that a locally Agreed Syllabus would reflect the needs and aspirations of each local area and would be independent of political control. It was suggested that Members should be mindful when reading the reports about who had sponsored them, the sample sizes used and the rigorousness of the questioning.

Patricia Hannam indicated that she intended to have meetings with the report writers before the next SACRE meeting and was inviting Charles Clarke to be the key speaker at the Secondary RE Conference on October 14<sup>th</sup> 2016. Members' attention was drawn to change in the organisation of the All Party Parliamentary Group for RE, to which it was hoped to bring the work of Hampshire RE.

All agreed that further discussion of the implications of these reports was needed at the next SACRE meeting.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- That SACRE noted the report.

### **131. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Having asked Members for an offer to host the next SACRE meeting at a place of worship Mohammed Ansar offered the Medina Mosque in Southampton.

Members were given advance notice that the November 2016 meeting would be two meetings as the Agreed Syllabus Conference would be convened. It was stressed that the meeting needed to be quorate for a vote to take place on the new syllabus.

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

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 28 June 2016 at 13:30 at the Medina Mosque in Southampton.

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