

AT A MEETING of the
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
held at the Bashir Ahmed Masjid, Southampton
on 28 June 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
a Councillor David Simpson	-	Hampshire County Council
p Mr Mohammed Ansar	-	Muslim
p Mr Harmeet Singh Brar	-	Sikh
a Miss Margaret Boyne	-	United Reformed Church
Rev Seishin Darren Clark	-	Buddhist
a Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo	-	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
a Mrs Elizabeth Jenkerson	-	Baha'i
a Mrs Jo May	-	Baptist Union
p Mr Richard Moss	-	Buddhist
p Mrs Sushma Sahajpal	-	Hindu
Heather Thorpe-Tracey	-	Society of Friends
p Mr. Michael Zeffertt	-	Jewish
a Rev Jeff Williams	-	Church of England
a Ms Caroline Welch	-	Church of England
a Rev Howard Wright	-	Church of England
p Mr Richard Wharton	-	Church of England
p Mrs Maureen Barnes	-	Teachers' Association
p Mr James Dye	-	Teachers' Association
a Mr Paul Bristow	-	Teachers' Association
p Mrs Patrizia Timms Blanch	-	Teachers' Association
p Mrs Pam Brown	-	Special School – Co-opted
a 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
a Ms Kate Smart	-	Primary - Co-opted
a Miss Antigone Storey	-	Private School – Co-opted

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| a Ms Su Banwell | - | Secondary – Co-opted |
| p Mrs Patricia Hannam | - | Support Officer |
| p Mrs Justine Ball | - | Support Officer |

Also present were Mrs Lisa Taylor (Buddhist deputy), Julia Welford (Church of England substitute), Sophie Francis, a teacher accompanying one of the teacher representatives, 3 members of Youth Voice from Cove School (Caleb Maddox, Olivia Dean and Naeem Wadud), Imam Imran and Sheikh Rizwan Hussein Al Azhari from the mosque.

Prior to the start of the meeting there was a tour of the Bashid Ahmed Masjid mosque, during which members were able to attend afternoon prayers and to ask questions of the Imam. The Chairman thanked the Imam for hosting the meeting of SACRE and invited him and a colleague to stay for the meeting.

133. 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.

134. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor David Simpson, Colin How, Su Banwell, Rhiannon Love, Alasdair Richardson, Antigone Storey, Paul Bristow, Jeff Williams, Howard Wright, Gill Heron, Kate Smart, Elizabeth Jenkerson, Jo May, Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato, Margaret Boyne, Caroline Welch and Lisa Gilmour.

135. 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.

136. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2016 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendment:

Item 131 - Any Other Business – Mohammed Ansar wanted it made clear that he had offered to find a mosque in Southampton to host the meeting, not the specified mosque.

137. MATTERS ARISING

- Item 119 – Justine Ball, the Primary Inspector/Advisor for RE, informed Members that they should have received by email a copy of the Southampton advice sheet for schools on issues of religious sensitivities. Schools had indicated that the document was very useful and had made them aware of issues that had not been thought of. Hampshire schools had also requested guidance on similar issues and it was agreed that the convening of a group to put together a similar document with particular relevance to Hampshire should be included in the agenda for the November 2016 meeting. Two members offered to provide similar documents from the NHS and the military that have been produced to promote awareness.
- Item 127 – the letters to schools are still to be sent.

138. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman welcomed Julia Welford, Sophie Francis and 3 members of Youth Voice from Cove School (Caleb Maddox, Olivia Dean and Naeem Wadud).

Members were given a short update on the NASACRE AGM which the Chairman had attended in May, along with Pat Hannam, who represented the Isle of Wight, and Elizabeth Jenkerson and Sushma Sahajpal, who were both on the NASACRE executive. Sushma Sahajpal informed Members that it had made her feel privileged to be a part of Hampshire SACRE, because it was in a much more robust position than many SACREs. It had been commented at the meeting that the reason why England probably had the best RE in Europe was due to the local determination of the Syllabus and the work of SACREs. It was commented that the SACRE system is under strain in some places and it was, therefore, imperative that areas with thriving SACREs should help spread the good work.

The Chairman felt it had been worthwhile conference and encouraged others to put their names forward next year.

The Chairman stressed the importance of attending the SACRE meeting on 15 November 2016, which would be a double meeting to include the Agreed Syllabus Conference. The revised syllabus would be presented to this meeting and group votes would need to be taken before it could be adopted. It was, therefore, imperative that members should attend or send a substitute to ensure that the meeting was quorate.

Offers to give a pre-meeting presentation at the February 2017 meeting were sought and Sushma Sahajpal agreed to give one on Hinduism.

139. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

140. MEMBERSHIP

The Council welcomed the appointment of Paul Bristow who was replacing Jane Pridmore as a Teachers' Association representative.

Members, both new and experienced, were encouraged to attend a training session focussing on the Approach to Enquiry in the Agreed Syllabus which would be held on the morning of 14 September 2016.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.
- That SACRE members were to be encouraged to attend the training session in September

141. MONITORING GROUP

The Council received the report of the Monitoring Group on its discussions at their meeting on 23 May 2016. (Item 8 in the Minute Book)

Pat Hannam indicated that one of the most important and successful elements of SACRE was the way in which it was able to monitor the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus through the Monitoring Group.

In addition to looking at GCSE results when they became available, ten half day visits by an officer and SACRE Member were made each year to schools. Justine Ball indicated that for primary schools they were picked at random by area and type. The visits were felt to be important to help keep up-to-date with what was happening in schools. From 2017 it would be a requirement of the visits to follow up how the new syllabus was working. Members who wished to take part in a monitoring visit were asked to put their names forward.

Ofsted reports were monitored by the group for mention of RE. Members were informed that for the period December to April 2016 there had been 35 primary Ofsted reports – 12 gave positive mentions around RE with SMSC and British Values, with 5 specifically for RE. It was agreed that the numbers of those not mentioning RE should also be monitored. Following the incidence last year of three Ofsted reports making reference to Christian values, about which there had still been no response to SACRE's complaint, it was suggested that it should be something that NASACRE should monitor.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

142. 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)

Members were informed that the revised Agreed Syllabus was much leaner and easier to find one's way around, but the five-stepped cycle of enquiry into concepts had not changed. The final meeting of the revises would take place on 12 July 2016. The officers asked that anyone who wished to discuss the new syllabus prior to the Agreed Syllabus Conference in November should contact them.

Members were invited to the celebration launch on Thursday 8 December in the Ashburton Hall, Winchester from 5.00pm. The speaker had yet to be confirmed.

A training session for SACRE members had been arranged for 14 September 2016 in Winchester. Interested SACRE members, either those new to SACRE or others interested in accessing an update on the Living Difference Approach to RE in light of the revisions being made, should contact the Clerk or the officers directly.

The Chairman gave her thanks to Pat Hannam, Justine Ball, the writing group and Youth Voice for the work on the Agreed Syllabus.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report

143. THE NATIONAL PICTURE FOR RE

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser on the national picture for RE (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

Attention was drawn to the significance of the three reports that Members had been informed of at the meeting in March 2016 - A New Settlement for Religion and Belief in Schools, RE for Real, and the Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life: Living with Difference. These had led to the Religious Education Council proposing a national commission on Religious Education. Details of this were still to be released.

It was explained that both Pat Hannam and Justine Ball were trying to involve themselves in national matters in order to keep up-to-date and to promote Hampshire's syllabus. In particular, Pat Hannam had been appointed to the Executive of AREIAC (Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants), both of them were presenting at the joint AREIAC/AULRE (Association of University Lecturers in RE)/NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE) national conference in October and were taking steps to get involved with EFTRE (The European Forum for Teachers of RE).

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

144. THE ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP (APPG) ON RE

The Council received a verbal report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser on the activities of the APPG on RE. (Item 11 in the Minute Book)

Members were informed that there were concerns about the body had been expressed nationally amongst some RE Advisers since membership of the APPG had changed. It was hoped that concerns would be allayed over time.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report

145. SOUTH CENTRAL SACRE HUB

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser on the meeting of the South Central SACRE RE hub (Item 12 in the Minute Book).

It was emphasized that the whole essence of the Hub was to promote the professional development of teachers and attention was drawn to paragraph 2.3 in the report which listed the three key areas of work.

The Reading and Research group was highlighted, noting the flyer giving future dates which had been circulated at the meeting. The aim was to widen the group and SACRE Members were encouraged to attend.

The inclusion of diocesan representatives on the Hub steering group was questioned. It was indicated that they are not faith representatives, but are included to continue the strong education connection that exists within Hampshire with the dioceses; one fifth of children attend a Church of England primary school. It was important to include consideration of the work of the dioceses, as they are also involved with RE training.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

146. YOUTH VOICE

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector/Adviser on the Youth Voice meeting on 27 April 2016 (Item 13 in the Minute Book).

Members were informed that Youth Voice had completed the development of four cycles of enquiry into the concepts of **refuge, ethics, family** and **media** - for a resource pack. Funding was now being sought to be able to produce the materials for schools. Members asked questions concerning the topic packs. It was commented that these could be of use for PHSE in schools to influence positive attitudes and enable open-minded exploration of contentious issues. However, it was pointed out the PSHE should never replace RE in schools.

Youth Voice members were to facilitate the Youth Voice conference on 15 July 2016, the theme of which would be 'Preventing Misjudgement: does religion play the biggest part in extremism?' About 60 students would be taking part. Workshops were planned, including, for example, from Dr Tina Welch from Winchester University and SACRE members. Further offers of involvement were sought.

The Chairman thanked the three members of Youth Voice from Cove School for coming and hoped they had found it a useful experience. Maureen Barnes was also thanked for bringing the students to the SACRE meeting from Cove School.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

147. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE WIDER CURRICULUM

The Council received a report from Justine Ball, the County Inspector/Adviser, updating SACRE about the outcome of a recent survey on withdrawal (item 14 in the Minute Book).

The survey sought to establish the current situation with regard to withdrawals from Collective Worship and Religious Education in schools. Members were taken through the figures given in the report. The number of schools that replied to the survey was highlighted, as well as the overall number of children on roll in the schools that replied and the number of schools that had received a request for withdrawal from either RE or Collective worship. It was stressed that the reply rate from responding schools was less than 30%. The number of children that have been withdrawn was also low and was not an issue for concern. It was noted that parents do not have to give a reason for withdrawal. No theme for withdrawal, either from Collective Worship or Religious Education, had become apparent from the responses. It was recommended that this should become an annual survey. A number of suggestions were made for the inclusion of additional questions that would provide valuable data in the future - such as particular information on the religious that withdrawal requests were being made about, whether children were withdrawn for the whole or part of a day, from all RE or particular areas of the syllabus, and whether any complaints had been made about Collective Worship or Religious Education.

Members were informed of a new survey that was being undertaken on SMSC and RE; this had been issued to schools involved in the development network group meetings and completed at the meetings. Results would be presented to SACRE at the November 2016 meeting.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.
- That the survey on withdrawal from Collective Worship and Religious Education should be carried out annually.

148. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members were provided with a copy of NASACRE's guidance on Dr Juss's advice concerning the High Court ruling on Humanism and Religious Education. The Department for Education's response to this was discussed by SACRE.

James Dye thanked Mohammed Ansar and Michael Zeffertt for speaking to his student at the last meeting. He sought contact with a Buddhist representative to further a course he and a colleague were teaching. He also informed Members of an event being held at Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke, on September 16 2016 by their debating society and the British Humanist Society; the topic would be on the theme, 'state schools should not be faith schools'. Further information would be circulated later when more details were available.

It was brought to Members' attention that there had been a significant increase in hate crime across the country, including Hampshire, following the recent EU referendum. Members discussed what SACRE was in a position to do. It was agreed that it was important for schools to be pro-active in discouraging this and to encourage the reporting of any incidents. It was noted that schools have a duty to report on such incidents in line with legal obligations laid upon schools. Patricia Hannam and the Chairman would consult with the Director of Children's Services about any input that SACRE could make.

Thanks were given to Mohammed Ansar for organising the venue and to the Imam for his hospitality.

149. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 15 November 2016 in the Ashburton Hall, Hampshire County Council, Winchester.
1.30pm for the Agreed Syllabus Conference and 2.15pm or on the rising of the Conference for the main SACRE meeting.