

Public Document Pack

MEETING	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
DATE	Monday, 21st September, 2020 4.00 pm
VENUE	MICROSOFT TEAMS, LINK HTTPS://BIT.LY/32L1J3T
ENQUIRIES	ALISON PHILPOTT Email: alison.philpott@southampton.gov.uk
MEMBERS	SEE ATTACHED LIST



A G E N D A

1. **ELECTION OF THE CHAIR**

Any member wishing to stand for election please notify Alison Philpott prior to the meeting if possible to aid an online election process

2. **WELCOME, THANKS, AND APOLOGIES**

Welcome by chair, thanks and apologies noted

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (JANUARY 2020) AND MATTERS ARISING** (Pages 1 - 8)

To agree the minutes from January 2020 meeting and review any matters arising

4. **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE OR CHANGES**

Discuss any potential new members/changes

5. **REVIEW OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP GUIDANCE**

Discussion to consider timeframe and guidance regarding Determination

6. **MONITORING OF RE MOVING FORWARD FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR**

Discussion and agreement on proposed way forward for monitoring this academic year

7. **DISCUSSION OF HOW SACRE AND ITS MEMBERS CAN SUPPORT SCHOOLS POST-COVID CLOSURE THROUGH ITS REMIT**

8. **MEMBERS LOCAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES**

9. **AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE**

What is an Agreed Syllabus Conference (AP) and vote to convene

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND NOTIFIED AOB**

Date: 30th November 2020 **Time:** 16:00 TBC, **Venue:** TBC

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MEMBERSHIP

GROUP A

Christian Denominations*

(Religions and other bodies listed in the SACRE Constitution)*

The Roman Catholic Church	VACANCY
The Baptists	Chris Davis (Southampton City Mission)
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	VACANCY
The Greek Orthodox Church	VACANCY
The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches	Margaret Blake
The Methodist Church	VACANCY
The United Reformed Church	Susanne Dawson
The Assemblies of God	Neil Maddock
The Salvation Army	VACANCY

Other Religions

Religions other than Christianity (as listed in the SACRE Constitution) – Baha'i, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism = 6

Baha'i	Elizabeth Jenkerson
Buddhist	David Vane
Hindu	Priti Dave
Jewish	Dr Gil Dekel
Muslim	Anas Al-Korj
Sikh	Harmeet Singh Brar

GROUP B

(Four representatives of the Church of England)

The Church of England

Rev Duncan Jennings
Allan King
Sam Jordan

From diocesan education team:

Richard Wharton

GROUP C

(Six teachers representing associations recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and negotiation)

National Union of Teachers (NUT)	Jackie Meering
The National Association of Schoolmasters/ Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)	
Voice	Dr R Palmer
The Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)	VACANCY
Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)	VACANCY
National Association of Headteachers (NAHT)	VACANCY

GROUP D

(4+substitute) - Four representatives of Southampton City Council, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the City Council)

Councillor James Baillie
Councillor John Jordan
Councillor Valerie Laurent
Councillor Warwick Payne

GROUP D SUBSTITUTE

Mrs. Kate Martin

OTHERS (Non-voting)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

South Hampshire Humanists Mary Wallbank

OBSERVER

ASC Group

Claire Belli (Springwell Special School)
Suzanne Underwood (Bitterne Park Secondary School)
Susanna Woodman (Sholing Infants School)

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th JANUARY 2020

Present:

GROUP A

Christian Denominations

The fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches

Ruth Gill

Other Religions

Baha'i

Elizabeth Jenkerson

Muslim

Anas Al-Korj

GROUP B

The Church of England

Rev Duncan Jennings

Church of England

Allan King

Diocesan Education Team

Richard J. Wharton

GROUP C

National Association of Headteachers (NAHT)

Sian Carr

GROUP D

Southampton City Council (Harefield Ward)

Councillor Valerie Laurent

Southampton City Council (Bevois Ward)

Councillor Toqeer Kataria

OTHERS (Non-voting)

Co-opted Members:

South Hampshire Humanists

Mary Wallbank

Professional Adviser – Southampton City Council

Alison Philpott

In attendance

Meeting Support Officer

Martin Ball

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

In the absence of Jackie Meering EJ greeted all in attendance and listed the apologies as stated below:

Apologies:

National Education Union
Bitterne Park Secondary School
The United Reformed Church
The Assemblies of God
Group D Substitute

Jackie Meering
Suzanne Underwood
Susanne Dawson
Neil Maddock
Kate Martin

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

EJ announced that due to the minutes not being read thoroughly, they cannot be approved.

Regarding SACRE ID cards, AP confirmed that SACRE ID is only required for members who are attending monitoring visits.

In regards to MW's application for Group A, AP stated that a formal request had been sent from the Chair of South Hampshire Humanists to appoint MW as a full member of Group A of the local SACRE. AP supplied hard copies of the request and mentioned that she would circulate it to members that were not present at the conference.

MW reported that the letter is ambiguous in regards to the legal aspect of the appointment, but the letter suggests that the decision would not be overruled by Southampton City Council.

EJ stated that all faiths listed in Group A need to make a decision that could not be overturned.

AP explained that she would contact the legal team and gather feedback.

Actions:

AP to circulate MW's application letter to Southampton SACRE members not present

AP to contact the legal team to gather feedback

3. MEMBERSHIP UPDATES OR CHANGES

Removal of Voice:

AP explained that the Voice is a standing member of Group C, however it has been highlighted that the Voice is not consulted as a representative on the decision making process. AP added that the Voice has not been an active member for five years and the Local Authority no longer use them as a consultative group.

The decision of the committee is to remove the Voice.

AP also highlighted that ATL is a union that merged with NEU, in which Susanne Woodman does the syllabus, but it not a current member. AP suggests removing ATL as it is not a teaching unit, however Susanne Woodman can still contribute.

Discuss any potential new member/changes:

AP announced that there are no new updates in regards to new members but there is a potential for a new Jewish representative being named.

4. ADVICE DOCUMENT – FINAL APPROVAL

AP stated that the Advice Document has been amended through the contribution of workshop groups, parent's questions, and questions from teachers. AP noted that electronic distribution would be quicker and easier for any amendments that need to be made. AP confirmed that the document has been through a legal team who are happy. AP mentioned that the document is published every spring and is reviewed before every release.

AP highlighted that the only issue with distributing it to schools is that AA does not feel as though he can approve it on behalf of the Muslim community and would need confirmation from Parvin, who unfortunately is on annual leave until February. AP stated that AA wants to ensure that the document will be endorsed by the Muslim council and has communicated and shared the document with Iman's, some of which have questioned some items.

AP explained that without the Muslim Council approving the document and with Parvin away until February, it is possible that the launch may have to be delayed until March.

EJ suggested that the document can be communicated to head teachers as a draft pending approval. AP noted that if there were changes needed, the document would have to go back to the legal team but it should not take as long because it would only be amendments.

AA highlighted that the sensitive issues surrounding the document are:

If the schools do not consult the parents leading to misunderstandings. AA mentioned that if the rules and policies are followed then there should not be any issues, however if the policies are applied incorrectly there would be a concern.

Also, the schools have lobbies and governing bodies and sometimes groups and specialists can be brought in to explain about beliefs, which can add huge value, however sometimes these groups can be quite militant in views.

There is discussion of a draft document being sent out to schools to but RW highlighted that if the document needed to be amended, there is risk of two copies being released causing confusion.

AA stated that he has circulated it to a small number of authoritative members in the Muslim community. AA noted that he only circulated it ten days ago and the Muslim community is large with a lot of interest in these issues so it will take time to get feedback. AA highlighted that he does not anticipate many changes to the document but is not prepared to authorise and recommends waiting.

The committee voted in favour of approval of the document, pending agreement from the Muslim community.

Actions:

AP to email Parvin updating her on the need of her approval

AP to email school heads to inform that the document is completed and advise for schools to not complete their own policies.

Any updates on the Advice Document be communicated through email for speed and convenience.

5. ACTION PLAN UPDATE (ATTACHED)

Regarding the items in amber or red on the action plan:

Plan for Film Project 2019-20

AP stated that Solent University have confirmed that all their film students will be working on an NHS film so cannot be involved in making more films for the SACRE film project. AK mentioned that the schools can still be encouraged to look and use these videos and it would be useful to get feedback on them. AP mentioned that she will mention the films to the school heads when she communicates regarding the Advice Document.

AK mentioned that if we want the schools to engage with the films, it is important to show them that the films are being used. AP suggested that it can be discussed through monitoring visits. EJ also mentioned that NASACRE may be interested in seeing the films, although it would be too late to propose it for this year's conference.

SACRE Advice Regarding Relationships and Sex Education from Faith Perspective

AP stated that this was discussed earlier in the conference.

Monitoring Group Visits

Regarding the monitoring group visits, AP announced that the target of 54% of schools receiving a visit by the end of July 2020 has been achieved and it should be to over 70% by the end of 2020. AP added that at the next SACRE meeting, the agreed syllabus will be looked at by attendees.

Review and Re-Issue Audit of RE/Collective Worship

AP proposed that this should be a main agenda item in the summer conference.

Try to Reach a Decision around Application for Full Membership – Humanist Rep

AP stated that this was discussed earlier in the conference.

EJ wanted to emphasise the importance of being quorate for the Summer SACRE meeting as there will be some important items discussed and voted on.

6. SELF-EVALUATION TOOL UPDATE FOR NEXT MEETING

AP explained that the Self-Evaluation Tool was issued in 2015 and needs to be reviewed and refreshed to make it current, particularly surrounding the OFSTED framework. AP stated that she can send a copy to each of the SACRE members.

Regarding the 'Deep Dive' method that OFSTED have adopted for their framework, EJ stated that no schools in Southampton have been reviewed on their Religious Education, however there have been schools in the UK that have. EJ added that there are reports of OFSTED not aiming their Deep Dive method to RE lessons in Southampton, but they have asked questions related to RE issues.

7. FEEDBACK FROM ONE CITY NO BOUNDARIES EVENT

RG and MW attended One City No Boundaries and fed back that it was similar to previous events but with an improved structure. RG mentioned that the date was changed with short notice, which led to a drop in attendees.

8. NASACRE CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE REQUEST

AP confirmed that Southampton SACRE have approval and funding for a member to attend this year's NASACRE and a workshop can be picked for whoever attends.

RG stated that she would interested in going.

AA mentioned that he attended NASACRE in 2008 and 2010 and the members running it have a lot of expertise. AA added that the workshops are valuable, however there is too much to get an opportunity to be involved in everything.

EJ confirmed that it is in London on Monday the 18th of May.

9. OFSTED INSPECTIONS UPDATE

It is announced that there is no update as the schools have not been specifically assessed for RE under the new OFSTED framework.

10. RE PUBLISH ATTAINMENT AND PROGRESS DATA 2019 EXAMINATIONS

AP stated that there is not a complete set of data but there has been a slight increase in the number of students taking RE in GCSE, which is reflecting the way in which schools are teaching RE.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND AOB

Next Meeting

Date: Monday 1st June 2020

Time: 16:00-18:00

Venue: Committee Room 1 – Civic Centre

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From diocesan education team:

Richard Wharton	
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Councillor James Baillie	
Councillor Valerie Laurent	
Councillor Toqeer Kataria	

GROUP D SUBSTITUTE	Kate Martin
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OTHERS (Non-voting)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Representative	Mary Wallbank	South Hampshire Humanists
Professional Advisor	Alison Philpott	Southampton City Council
Secondary RE Lead Rep	Suzanne Underwood	Bitterne Park Secondary School

OBSERVER

None at present

ASC Group (2016 – 2017)

Claire Belli (Springwell Special School)	
Susanne Woodman (Hope Free School)	