

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION (SACRE)**



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
13 November 2017**

Present:

GROUP A

Christian Denominations

United Reformed Church

Susanne Dawson

Other Religions

Baha'i

Elizabeth Jenkerson

Sikh

Harmeet Singh Brar

GROUP B

The Church of England

Rev. Duncan Jennings
Allan King
Sam Jordan

Diocesan Education Team

Richard Wharton

GROUP C

National Union of Teachers (NUT)

Jackie Meering (Chair)

GROUP D

Southampton City Council

Councillor John Jordan (for part)
Councillor Valerie Laurent
Mrs Kate Martin

OTHERS (Non-voting)

Co-opted Members

Mary Wallbank

In attendance

Professional Adviser – Southampton City Council

Alison Philpott

Meeting Support Officers:

Kaye Cantor
Stephanie Wickenkamp

Apologies:

Councillor Warwick Payne	Southampton City Council	Group D (SCC)
Suzanne Underwood	Bitterne Park Secondary School	ASC Group (Others)
David Vane	Buddhist	Group A (Other religions)
Chris Davis	The Baptists – Southampton City Mission	Group A (Christian)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES and CHANGES OF MEMBERSHIP

The Chair welcomed assembled delegates to the meeting and apologies were noted as above. The meeting is quorate.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 4 SEPTEMBER 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING

Item 3: Declaration of Interests – forms distributed for completion by the end of the meeting.

EJ declaration as Judge for Westhill NASCARE which gives grants to different SACRES. If there was a conflict of interests at their meeting regarding Southampton, EJ would leave the meeting room.

ACTION: Declaration of interests forms to be available at the start of each meeting.
(AP/Meeting Support)

There were no further matters arising.

2. HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS – UPDATE

Rev. DJ confirmed new Hospital Chaplains are in post but names are not known. EJ commented about her role as a Hospital Chaplain.

3. SOUTHAMPTON SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

AP circulated the draft annual report and reviewed the highlights for comment. The introduction focuses on SACRE's active and pro-active work with schools. The following was noted:

- Locally agreed syllabus and successful collaboration; more schools aware of what needs to be delivered.
- Monitoring visits continuing: 18 taken place and 9 last year. Potential for 16 more; AP stated there is a need to prioritise visits.
- Training for Primary RE Leaders; 19 attended and this is significant due to no prior Southampton specific training with previous syllabus.
- Training support for Secondary School Teachers is strong, most access HIAS training and some attending the reading and research group at Winchester University signposted by AP.
- Work with Solent University on 7 short films now on SACRE website.
- Website presence and advice document available.
- A member of SACRE south central hub; a collective meeting was held this morning and Surrey and East Sussex have now joined the group.

- In the second part of the report, emphasis on SACRE responsibilities and advice to the LA.
- Budget plan put forward.
- AP still has 19 days allocated as part of the work programme.
- Re-established clerking arrangements.
- Revised advice document last year.
- Other LAs and SACRES have used our advice document to inform their own; well received.
- Included on Diocesan Board.
- National SACRE membership retained.
- SACRE included in education newsletter to schools.
- Schools Audit took place in 2015 and films were a result of this.

Discussion

MW asked if acronyms could be removed.

MW has not seen the newsletter. AP stated there was one in June/July and will check circulation.

AP stated for monitoring visits the same protocol has been agreed for the next cycle. To focus on secondary sector and impact of training. More secondaries visited last year and whilst there is better awareness, more improvement needs to be made. Schools are sign-posted to other schools, drawing on local best practice. Following monitoring last year, one school has received specific professional advice and a follow up visit this year. Noted requests for withdrawal as part of the visit and the challenge to manage this.

MW asked if wording for monitoring could be strengthened as this is well established and gives SACRE a firm knowledge base.

Collective worship and complaints: no complaints have been received. Queries about withdrawal received and schools are having additional discussions with parents.

Noted successful training for Primary Schools with a good mix of representation.

AP stated there 2016 results table will be added to the report. 2017 figures not yet validated.

SACRE recommended guidance for collective worship is required. This will enable non-faith schools to gain a good understanding about how to set up to meet statutory requirements. This is part of the action plan.

ACTION:

- AP to remove acronyms from the report.
- AP to strengthen monitoring message
- AP to update and include 2016 results table; this will be brought to the next meeting.
- AP to send a link to the newsletter with the minutes.
- AP: Annual report to DfE in December

A vote was taken to approve the report subject to above actions. In favour:

Group A: approved
 Group B: approved
 Group C: approved
 Group D: approved
 Abstentions: 0

4. COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CoRE) CONSULTATION

AP introduced this active consultation and the link to the information was circulated prior to the meeting. Referring to the executive summary for 'Religious Education for All' AP asked the group for their views on whether a response should be sent by Southampton SACRE or as individuals.

EJ queried the deadline and AP will check whether this is 1 or 4 December. The questions can be printed off and they vary according to whether an individual or a SACRE is responding.

Key questions from the questionnaire were discussed. Topics included:

- The SACRE role: views for renewing and expanding this
- Funding mechanisms
- Officer time
- Role as professional advisor

AP stated national funding mechanisms were discussed at the South Central SACRE hub. It has yet to be decided nationally whether funding should be ring fenced or direct. Noted differences in SACREs' entitlement to funds. AP posed the question if a national entitlement for RE moves forward what would this mean for syllabuses?

JM mentioned a possible name change for SACREs, eg. Religion and Ethics. This was discussed. JM is personally in favour of keeping the Religious Education dimension.

JM asked how schools can be called to account for the provision and quality of RE, also making sure standards are reached. It was noted a revised qualification at Key Stage 4 is being considered.

The validity of SACREs was discussed and who would take national responsibility going forward.

The approach to responding to the report was discussed. Cllr JJ was in favour of a collective response but noted some bodies are not represented at the meeting; he felt more Group D representatives are needed to give a balanced view. AK agreed individuals respond as have all information.

Cllr JJ left the meeting.

AP explained there are SACRE representatives for most communities. Monday was felt by the majority to be the best day for SACRE meetings, however, some people are unable to attend.

Cllr VL asked if she could represent the Roman Catholic Church. Rev. DJ suggested Cllr VL would need to be nominated and authorised by the Roman Catholic diocesan church.

SJ felt it would not be realistic to produce a group response. Rev. DJ stated there was more validity individually and was in support of this. SJ was really encouraged to read the report and noted it still recognises the role for RE and makes a case to strengthen this.

A decision was made that members of SACRE would complete their own responses. However if anybody wished to contribute to a collective response AP will collate for the Southampton view.

JM encouraged individual responses to the consultation. If SACRE members have comments for a collective response, they need to be sent to AP by 1 December. AP will also field any queries from SACRE members. AP noted the consultation has been sent to all schools.

JM highlighted section 24 on the 'National Entitlement Statement' for particular attention and this was discussed.

ACTIONS: AP to check and communicate the deadline for responses.
AP to send links to the executive summary/questionnaire by the end of this week.

5. **FEEDBACK FROM 'ONE CITY NO BARRIERS' SECONDARY SCHOOL EVENT (9 NOVEMBER 2017)**

AP explained that Secondary Heads of RE had come up with the 'One City No Barriers' umbrella vision. The plan is to run events for different year groups throughout the year, starting with Year 8. The event on 9 November was hosted by Tauntons College and 75 pupils from 7 schools attended. There was a wide range of people at the event and new volunteers were found.

AP read from Jill Luddeke's feedback to SACRE from the Tauntons College:

"Thank you very much for volunteering your time and your energy to join us last week. The children really enjoyed meeting you and there were some remarkable comments made by some of them, including:

- I will be more open to talking to new people from other backgrounds.
- I want to find events in my community and see if I can help and make a difference.
- I am going to listen more.

Your openness and honesty in answering the children's questions and in telling them about your lives and, in some cases, your faiths, helped to make the event a success. Thank you very much again."

Cllr VL described a table exercise and pupil questions, for example: 'How does your religion affect your life?' AP confirmed the 'no faith' view was also included. The group learnt about how diverse Southampton is and were encouraged to celebrate this. There was a presentation by pupils in the afternoon.

AP thanked Sam Brown, Trevor Pine and Tauntons College for hosting. JM asked for thanks to be sent to Secondary and Primary groups.

ACTION: AP to convey thanks to Tauntons College and officers concerned.

6. **ACTION PLANNING FOR 2017 – 19**

AP reviewed items on the Action Plan and the following was noted:

- **Audit:** to be revisited at the start of next year. JM queried the data survey on withdrawals and questions on this may be required.
- **Advice document:** to continue, reconvening for an annual update in February.
- **Visits to schools:** SJ noted there is a database of who goes where and training from a Christian dimension. Chris Davis to report back to January SACRE meeting. AP confirmed asking the Council of Faiths to raise at their next meeting ensuring contact details are up to

date on websites; JM emphasised SACRE cannot give recommendations as mentioned in the previous SACRE minutes.

- **Collective Worship:** JM asked if it was possible to produce a document on what good collective worship looks like for the next academic year. AP stated working group meetings are required to address and need to include non-faith schools.
- **Films:** AK attended first meeting and noted the University is also working on restorative justice films with LA. A meeting with the interested secondary school will be organised. AK stated dedicated support is needed and has been indicated by the school.
- **Roadshow and six chair challenge:** it was agreed this will be removed from the list.
- **Locally agreed syllabus:** ongoing item.
- **Website:** items published as and when required.
- **Monitoring visits:** AP asked if the same principles of following questions/queries around secondary provision would be followed next year for Monitoring visits. JM stated the greatest need is in secondaries. AP ran through requests from Head Teachers which cannot all be managed. EJ stated it may be an advantage to wait until the GCSE results and AP agreed this is a sensible approach. May also revisit if there was an Ofsted report and prioritise schools not yet having a visit.

AP asked if everyone was happy to continue with the 9 schools a year model. After discussion it was agreed that there would be 4 monitoring visits to secondary schools this year, which included 2 follow-ups. 3 secondary school visits next year.

ACTION: AP for SACRE January agenda: Chris Davis to feedback on visits to schools/visitors
AP to add collective worship document to the action plan in spring.
AP to remove Roadshow and Six Chair Challenge from the Action Plan.
AP to send letters to Head Teachers for monitoring visits.
AP to add the review audit to the January SACRE January agenda.

7. MONITORING GROUP UPDATE – VERBAL FROM GROUP

This item was included in item 7 Action Planning above.
JM checked with delegates that there were no AOB items.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

ACTION: AP to email dates round and these can be found on the [council website](#)

Next Meeting: Monday 22 January 2018
4pm – 6pm
Moorlands Primary School,