

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



## **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 June 2018**

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### **Present:**

#### **GROUP A**

Christian Denominations

Not represented

#### **Other Religions**

Baha'i

Elizabeth Jenkerson (Vice Chair)

#### **GROUP B**

The Church of England  
Diocesan Education Team

Allan King  
Richard J. Wharton

#### **GROUP C**

National Union of Teachers (NUT)

Jackie Meering (Chair)

#### **GROUP D**

Southampton City Council (Sholing ward)	Councillor James Baillie
Southampton City Council (Cabinet Member and Bitterne ward)	Councillor John Jordan
Southampton City Council (Harefield ward)	Councillor Valerie Laurent
<b>Group D Substitute</b>	Mrs. Kate Martin

#### **OTHERS (Non-voting)**

##### **ASC Group**

Not represented

##### **In attendance**

Professional Adviser – Southampton City Council  
RE Leader – Shirley Junior School (for part)  
The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches

Alison Philpott  
Colette Jansen  
Ruth Gill (Observer)

Meeting Support Officers:

Kaye Cantor  
Stephanie Wickenkamp

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## Apologies:

### 1) WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CHANGES OF MEMBERSHIP

The Chair welcomed delegates to the meeting and apologies were noted from:

<b>Group A</b>	Steve Deadman	The Roman Catholic Church
	Chris Davis	The Baptists (Southampton City Mission)
<b>Group B</b>	Rev Duncan Jennings	The Church of England
	Sam Jordan	The Church of England
<b>Co-opted Members</b>	Mary Wallbank	South Hampshire Humanists
<b>ASC Group</b>	Suzanne Underwood	Bitterne Park Secondary School

A special welcome was given to Ruth Gill from the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches who is keen to join SACRE and attended as an observer.

The meeting was confirmed as being quorate.

### 2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair checked with delegates that there were no changes to declarations of interest.

### 3) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 22 JANUARY 2018 AND MATTERS ARISING

The Chair reviewed the minutes which were agreed as a true record.

#### Matters arising

##### **Item 4: ACCORD 2018 Awards Discussion**

AP noted that Shirley Junior School made a submission for the ACCORD 2018 awards. Although not successful, a letter of congratulations was received. This is the first time a nomination has been made by a school in Southampton.

##### **Item 8: Action Planning for September 2017 – July 2019**

##### **Re-labelling of Solent University Partnership videos**

AP reported that the Young Southampton website is under review. With this in mind, any extra work has been held off until decisions about the website are known.

##### **3i RE audit and approve process for 2018/2019 visits to schools.**

The Chair asked for item (8iii) to be taken under (3i)

##### **Protocol for SACRE monitoring visits**

AP tabled the protocol for SACRE monitoring visits which will be distributed electronically. The protocol, schools self-evaluation, SACRE advice document and a paper on Collective Worship are all being reviewed and AP invited comments from delegates.

The Protocol for visits was first issued in January 2015; three years on, the review will check if the document is useful for schools and whether a refresh is required. AP emphasised that the Protocol and accompanying Schools self-audit, evaluation tool is not statutory. AP reminded that faith schools already have their own processes in place for self-evaluation. The return rate is around 30% and AP proposed is to make only minimal changes to the document. This will allow schools to benchmark in the future.

JM confirmed that the self-audit is really useful for monitoring officers as a reference document prior to a visit.

AP requested that a small working or email group is formed to review the documents ready for September re-issue. AP requested initial comments from those present.

EJ noted the annual report is sent to NASACRE and offered to provide AP with a named person.

AP confirmed that the agreed syllabus will be updated from 2016 to read 2021.

KM asked if the Protocol covers all schools in the city; AP confirmed, stating the text has been lifted from statutory duties. On receiving a monitoring visit letter, there has been no feedback from any school to say that it does not apply to them. AP commented that the LA has a duty to know about their city schools.

28 out of 75 schools have received monitoring visits in 3 years. This means that a full cycle will take 6 years to complete. AP explained there are 3 or 4 further visits to be made this year with some schools receiving a follow-up visit on request.

JM commented this equates to a minimum of 8 visits per year but encouraged to aim for 10. EJ felt that 6 years is a long time and space for a further visit should be available if required. AP to include this under the criteria for 'Following the visit'.

JM asked about including a reference to the self-audit tool and AP agreed this process should be mentioned in the Protocol.

EJ asked about linkage with the quality mark and AP confirmed schools may prefer to use this standard if they wish. AP to check quality mark criteria. JM welcomed the self-audit, stating that it provides another document to demonstrate schools have reviewed what they are doing.

AP talked about RE sometimes being led on the first rung of leadership and the support required for this to be developed. There are various different structures in place within schools for RE. AP stated it is helpful for schools to show where they have developed RE. The self-audit is not a statutory document and SACRE cannot direct this. However, schools could be requested to provide self-evaluation prior to a visit; AP could add a paragraph about this in the Protocol.

JM highlighted the value of schools publishing their RE policy and curriculum on their websites. AK emphasised resource challenges in keeping websites up to date. Discussed school websites including a policy statement confirming their statutory RE duties. AK suggested this is raised at Heads' conferences. AP agreed it needs to be clear that the agreed syllabus is met. AP agreed to include the statutory wording in the Protocol document, making it clear for schools it applies to and for those who have a choice.

It was agreed there was no need to change production of the confidential report for the school following a visit. AP provides verbal summaries on visits prior to inclusion in the annual report. Written summaries could be provided.

Follow-up visits could be on request of the school or as a result of Ofsted. AP to include the criteria in the Protocol. EJ suggested a change of Head or leadership could be a reason.

JM asked if SIAMS evaluation for RE covers same content. RW noted a new SIAMS framework from September 2018 and AP to check and compare.

Delegates agreed no amendments are required for the Self-Audit Evaluation tool.

Work needs to be completed by the end of June for re-issue in September.

**Actions:** EJ to provide AP with a named DfE representative.

AP to update agreed syllabus to '2021'.

AP to update 'Following the visit' criteria.

AP to check and compare 'quality mark' criteria.

AP to include reference to the self-audit tool.

AP to include paragraph asking schools for evaluation evidence if felt helpful.

AP to send the statutory statement for websites to AK. AK to raise at Heads conference in July.

AP to include statutory duties statement.

AP to include criteria for follow-up visits.

AP to check SIAMS criteria against the Protocol.

AP/EJ/JM/RW to work on draft via email.

AP to update and circulate the Protocol via email.

### **3ii (Item 8) To approve changes to the Southampton SACRE advice document.**

AP stated the only query or contact all year for the SACRE advice document was in relation to Ramadan fasting and exams. AP circulated advice received from the Muslim Council of Great Britain, which was supported by the Muslim Council of Southampton. AP proposed to include the advice received in the SACRE document.

There was a discussion regarding the advice received. This included AP reading statements from the existing Southampton guidance and considering:

- The maturity of the child
- LA Safeguarding and duty of care
- Performance in exams
- Other religions which have fasting traditions

It was agreed that the advice in the current Southampton document differed slightly from the national advice received from the Muslim Council.

Councillor Jordan commented that the advice needs to cover all exams occurring throughout the year.

AP stated that any changes to the Southampton guidance need to be fair and in appropriate consultation with the faith group/s.

**ACTION:** Councillor Jordan offered to discuss this matter with Councillor Dr Darren Paffey, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Dr Parvin Damani MBE. This item will be brought back to the September SACRE meeting.

#### 4) **TO APPROVE GUIDANCE FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

AP organised a workshop attended by some delegates to explore Collective Worship. As a result of this and prior to the SACRE meeting, AP circulated draft 'Guidance for Southampton schools on Collective Worship'. AP sought approval for the document, which helps schools to develop this distinct moment in the school day.

It was noted that DfES guidance from 1994 still applies. There is no statutory definition for Collective Worship and the examples given are divided into four elements. AP explained, the draft document describes what Corporate Worship might or look like. The document was discussed.

Page 1 second paragraph 'broadly Christian character': AP confirmed for RW and EJ that the Council's legal team have checked this. Schools values are usually applied around this context.

Page 2 'Example of CW in practice': JM suggested that the 'visual clue' is applicable to both box 1 and 2. AP to update document to reflect this.

Page 2, box 3 'Time for reflection': KM commented that 'determined' should be removed due to different context in the guidance. KM suggested: 'Quiet time for reflection (may include invitation to pray or reflect)'. AP to update guidance.

Page 3 'Guide to determination': AP confirmed no schools in the city have applied for Determination. The Determination process exists in statute and law.

EJ suggested paragraph 3 is expanded to make it clear about parents' right to withdraw, making it clear that Collective Worship is not part of RE and that they are two totally separate things. AP confirmed for Councillor Jordan that the child does not have the right to withdraw. AP to make clear the most recent advice in Education Act law and embolden.

Page 3 - 4 'Governor's Guide to Collective Worship': AP explained if the guidance is approved by SACRE it will be presented at Southampton Governors' forum on 6 June.

AP asked all to note with reference to Determination that only one application per year per school can be received.

JM asked SACRE if they were happy to adopt the document subject to the changes below and this was agreed.

**ACTION:** AP to add 'visual clue' to box 3.

AP to embolden the most recent Education Act advice.

AP to remove reference to 'determined' in box 3.

#### 5) **FEEDBACK FROM PRIMARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TRAINING COMMISSIONED BY SACRE**

AP reported that 18 schools attended the training last year with 11 this year.

AP noted the existing need for the training and proposed SACRE continue to commission with part of the budget. The SACRE group agreed to this continued commissioning.

## **6) DELIVERING HIGH QUALITY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

JM welcomed Colette Jansen, RE Leader for Shirley Junior School to the meeting. As previously mentioned under Item 3, 'Matters Arising', Shirley Junior School applied for the ACCORD 2018 awards. CJ explained the school was delighted to receive a letter, stating they were placed in the top 10 schools in the country.

CJ described for SACRE members the key foundations of their success. Firstly, it is helpful to have a lead RE with subject knowledge. Then plans are formulated and different religions explored. Once the plans are completed and shared, Teachers feel more confident to answer children's questions. CJ shared planning documents with SACRE delegates.

CJ circulated examples of 'Smart boards' which are developed for every year. They are based on a cycle, helping Teachers and children to talk through different subjects. Teachers feel comfortable using this method and worked examples are given for different religions. The cycle of work is contextualised and emphasised, so that Teachers and children know this routine. Teachers are encouraged to come up with ideas and the children themselves are able to compare and contrast different religions.

CJ highlighted the need for regular training and attendance at annual RE conferences. Any learning is cascaded to school staff, to keep them up to date. This is very valuable and helps to make the plans fresh for everyone.

Cultural diversity days and workshops for parents are organised. CJ is carrying out an assessment this year to ensure the concept continues.

CJ commented that the staff are doing a fantastic job and the children value RE as much as any other subject.

SACRE members asked questions about the RE approach. CJ described for Councillor Jordan how one child drew God on the other side of a sheet of paper because a deity was not in their life. Books are kept and valued over the years, giving a broad information pool.

AP commented that the ACCORD result was fantastic. JM thanked CJ for her presentation, encouraging further application to ACCORD next year.

## **7) ACTION PLANNING FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 - JULY 2019**

### **Item 7i Monitoring Group update**

JM proposed to retain the monitoring group and maintain professional development support. Signposting for secondary schools to continue.

The Film group was discussed. AM explained due to technical reasons, it has not been possible to show the latest films today. JM noted there may be a need for a change of direction; Monitoring visits have raised what a good RE lesson and good Collective Worship looks like. AK discussed Solent University support for the films and pitching proposals to schools. AK suggested that fewer, more relevant films are made available. All agreed the films need to be viewed and this was taken forward as an action for the next meeting.

**ACTION:** AP to make the films available for the September meeting and add to the SACRE agenda.

JM/AK to meet and discuss process for producing films.

*Councillor Jordan and Allan King left the meeting.*

## 8) **ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

### **Item 8i Election of Chair/Vice Chair for 2018/2019**

This item was brought forward and JM requested nominations from the group. EJ proposed for JM to remain as Chair for 2018/19. This was seconded by RW.

**Agreed:** Members present agreed JM to continue as Chair.

JM requested nominations for Vice Chair. EJ stated she would be happy to continue as Vice Chair and this was seconded by RW.

**Agreed:** Members present agreed EJ to continue as Vice Chair.

### **Item 8ii To review the SACRE constitution**

Item not discussed.

### **Item 8iii To review the protocol for monitoring visits**

Item discussed in (3i).

*Ruth Gill left the meeting.*

## 9) **FORTHCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE**

### **Item 9i National updates**

AP confirmed the new Humanist representative has been circulated to all the Secondary Heads in the sector. AP noted an event in Crewe would be discussed in September's agenda.

### **Item 9ii Dates for RE Network Group 2018/2019**

Item not separately discussed.

### **Item 9iii 11 July 2018: walking event**

AP has agreed with Secondary Heads of RE to hold a networking, walking event for RE staff.

The following potential sites to visit around Northam were discussed: AP confirmed for EJ that any sites suggested should allow visitors entry and be within walking distance.

- Vedic Temple
- Guru Ravidass Gurdwara
- Gurdwara Guru Tegh Bahadar Sahib
- Masjid Abu Bakr

- Taqwah Mosque

It was noted that the walking event on 11 July is different to the 'Walk for Peace' on 1 July.

Members agreed the school event could become an annual event. Walkers will meet in the morning.

**Actions:** Members to provide AP with suggested sites to visit.

AP to provide further details to members.

## **10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date: Monday 17 September

Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm (arrive 3:45pm for 4pm start)

Venue: Committee Room 1, Ground floor, Civic Centre