

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th November 2018

Present:

GROUP A

Other Religions

Baha'i
Muslim

Elizabeth Jenkerson (Vice Chair)
Anas Al-Korj

GROUP B

The Church of England
The Church of England

Rev Duncan Jennings
Sam Jordan

GROUP C

National Union of Teachers (NUT)

Jackie Meering (Chair)

GROUP D

Southampton City Council (Harefield ward)
Southampton City Council (Sholing ward)
Group D Substitute

Councillor Valerie Laurent
Councillor James Baillie
Mrs Kate Martin

OTHERS (Non-voting)

Co-opted Members:

South Hampshire Humanists

Mary Wallbank

In attendance:

Professional Cross Phase Adviser – Southampton City Council
Assistant Head Teacher (Welfare & Inclusion) - Fairisle Junior School
Year 6 Teacher – Fairisle Junior School

Alison Philpott
Robin Hayes
Zoe O'Shea

Meeting Support Officer (Minutes):

Huw Thomas

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CHANGES OF MEMBERSHIP

The Chair welcomed representatives from Fairisle Junior School.

Apologies were noted from the following:

Group A	Steve Deadman	The Roman Catholic Church
	Chris Davis	The Baptists
Group B	Allan King	The Church of England
	Richard Wharton	Diocesan Education Team

Others (non-voting)

ASC Group:	Suzanne Underwood	Bitterne Park Secondary School
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Cllr Kataria introduced himself to members but unfortunately was not able to stay for the duration of the meeting.

No changes in membership reported. AP has written to four groups about vacancies as Sarita Riley had advised at the previous meeting that vacancies would need to be filled for the validity of the decision-making process.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 1 OCTOBER 2018 AND MATTERS ARISING

In relation to the minutes from the previous meeting, MW noted an admission on the attendees list with Sarita Riley to be added.

EJ highlighted that the previous minutes indicated the NASACRE report would be circulated alongside the minutes, however this had not happened. As an alternative, AP suggested that the NASACRE web address is shared: <http://nasacre.org.uk/> and provided the password for members to enable them to log-in and view reports and other useful information.

Actions: Meeting Support to amend the previous minutes to reflect SR's attendance.

Matters Arising:

EJ provided an update concerning **Item 6: Discussion on CoRE Report.**

EJ relayed that part of the remit for members of the independent commission is to rewrite, replace or reinforce a new working paper 36, which was the foundation for change in the teaching of RE in the early 1970s. EJ suggested this does not mean the changes will necessarily be enforced but that there is greater authority than initially assumed.

Coinciding with the CoRE report, EJ discussed a real push for teachers who may want to switch to teaching RE. EJ noted that currently they are at 59% of the ideal number they would like signed up for training. EJ suggested one of the positive aspects of the monitoring visits is that they can signpost to Hampshire secondary teaching.

3 FORTHCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE

One City No Barriers - MW stated this was the first time she had attended and expressed it was a really inclusive and co-operative event. MW discussed the challenging nature of some of the questions asked and commended the depth of understanding shown by the pupils. Councillor Laurent agreed that the questions this year had been much more in-depth and had made her carefully consider her responses. AP advised the feedback would be collated and provided. MW commented she felt the vast majority were really engaged and interested in the subject matter.

AA-K expressed agreement that this year's participating pupils appeared more prepared and had likely been provided an induction prior to the event. In terms of the format of the event, AA-K explained that it was designed to be succinct and fast-moving with six to seven minutes spent on five to six questions and representation from six different religions. Each faith representative would then rotate between tables. AP described that the pupils would then work together to produce a presentation regarding what they had learnt later that afternoon.

In relation to forthcoming events, EJ discussed the scheduled NASACRE AGM for the South West to be held in Wiltshire during the first week of the month. AP raised there is also the South Central Hub meeting in Winchester on 6 December and advised they could provide details regarding the event for those interested in attending. Concerning local events, AA-K explained on 18 November there is a SCOF peace walk scheduled to take place between 12.30 and 4.00pm.

4 ACCORD AWARD PRESENTATION BY FAIRISLE JUNIOR SCHOOL

AP introduced representatives from Fairisle Junior School: RH and ZO'S. Last year, Fairisle Junior School were awarded second place in the country for the ACCORD award which recognises inclusivity in the widest sense including: faith, non-faith and disability.

RH advised there are various accreditations and awards schools can apply for but when they explored the ACCORD award they determined this was in line with some of their priorities. Additionally, from the perspective of the applicant, the process was a lot more straightforward and they could signpost to their relaunched website which contains a lot of the necessary information.

RH explained that in the first part of the process they provided context detailing the school's affiliations with other schools, their strategy, vision and ethos. In the second part of the application, they had to demonstrate how they implemented these core values and the work Fairisle have carried out to ensure they are promoting inclusion not just from a religious perspective but within a wider context of disability and sexual orientation.

In terms of how they implement this work, ZO'S explained they focus on delivering a curriculum that is meaningful to their pupils and ensuring that what they teach evolves with new developments. ZO'S outlined that Fairisle is not a religious school but they deliver Religious Education in a way that is relevant and reflects local priorities. As part of this, they are unafraid of tackling difficult topics such as mental health and have talked openly with their year six children about homophobic language. Additionally, RH explained that Fairisle's PSHE teacher attended Stonewall training in Birmingham and now delivers the course to other schools across the city.

Furthermore, ZO'S explained the school possess a wide range of religious books including religions that are not taught explicitly in lessons and text books that promote inclusion and discuss diverse family units.

Fairisle has close links with Southampton City Mission and they visit four times a year. In conjunction with this, Fairisle have facilitated very successful harvest festivals and last year participated in a reverse Christmas advent calendar. ZO'S explained that this begun as a staff initiative to improve morale by bringing in items for Southampton City Mission every day in the run up to Christmas but was extended to children and parents. SJ relayed that they had spoken with one of the Southampton City Mission volunteers and they spoke very highly of the work the school has undertaken. RH expressed that one of the positive things from the school's relationship with Southampton City Mission is they provide feedback to the children about the impact their contributions have made.

In addition, Fairisle are also involved in FAST; Families and School Together. This comprises of an eight week programme funded through Save the Children and Middlesex University in which families are invited to attend the school in an informal setting to cook, play games and participate in various activities.

In terms of feedback received from ACCORD, ZO'S explained that the contributing factors cited in their recognition included:

- Fairisle's expertise in PHSE.
- The Stonewall teaching programme.
- Book corners celebrating diversity and different types of family units.
- Teaching regarding different types of bullying and tackling these issues when they occur.
- The school's celebration of world views in assemblies and how they link this to the curriculum.

JM raised that one thing the school representatives observed but had not discussed was their continued commitment to support SEN children and the way in which they provide opportunities to them.

JM thanked RH and ZO'S for their attendance.

5 ACTION PLANNING GROUP MEETINGS

a) 2018-19 Films

(AK and JM)

AP relayed significant progress with the film project following discussions on a 9 November meeting. AP explained they have been tasked to work with Hampshire Police around the increase in reported incidents of hate crime, some of which possess a faith element. In conjunction with this work, a resource tool kit for schools has been developed as a proactive measure to tackle the increase. AP suggested that the film project could link into that work.

In terms of timescales, the film project should be in completion by May 2019 while the hate crime work is to be launched in September 2019. AP confirmed the police were very happy with this proposal and had talked about two things; making sure the films are based on local information and ensuring they feed into the things that young people have experienced.

RDJ queried the role police would take in the process, AP advised that Hampshire Police are very happy for SACRE to continue managing the project while they will manage the data and funding elements. In terms of participating schools, AP relayed that more than one school have already registered an interest and there were apparently further expressions of interest at the One City

No Barriers event. JM discussed it would be nice if the schools could pitch their ideas for the project. AP responded that she didn't have details for when the pitch would take place but it was likely to be at the end of November.

b) Monitoring group

(AP, KM, HB, DJ, RW and EJ)

AP explained they had received some initial responses back from schools in terms of dates and proposed meeting as a working party with diaries to schedule visits. AP commented that if anyone wished to join then this was still a possibility. Individuals interested would require a voluntary DBS check and name tag application for identification and safeguarding purposes.

c) 6 Chair Challenge

(SJ and CD)

SJ explained this event had merged with One City No Barriers. AP raised that there was a further event they would like for Year 9's to participate in but discussion was to be deferred.

6 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GCSE AND A-LEVEL RESULTS

At the time of meeting, not all schools data was available for comment. AP relayed that from verbal discussions held, the indication was students had performed well at both GCSE and A-Level. However, the number of students taking RE at GCSE remains an issue. EJ queried whether the data would break down into examination boards, AP responded that they had not asked for this yet but could request this information.

AP suggested there were three different specifications that she knew of at GCSE and cited one school as an example of a greater trend of being more mindful in terms of setting up different pathways at year ten to allow pupils to focus on a particular religion. At the school in question, they have doubled the number of enrolments for RE with some of the cohort opting to study the religion they are from and others utilising the opportunity to learn about a different religion. AP affirmed that next summer they would have a better notion of the impact.

JM queried the likelihood of GCSE RE students taking the subject at sixth form, AP suggested this can depend on where they go to attend as not all sixth forms offer the course. SJ relayed that Suzanne Underwood had provided apologies as they are teaching an evening course at Bitterne Park due to the low uptake and lack of capacity to provide it as an option. EJ raised that some sixth forms are offering RE as part of philosophy courses. AP advised they are due to receive results at the end of November.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: **Monday, 21 January 2019**

Time: **4:00pm – 6:00pm**

Venue: **Committee Room 1, Ground Floor, Civic Centre, SO14 7LY**