

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

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019**



### **Present:**

#### **GROUP A**

##### **Christian Denominations**

The Baptists

Chris Davis

The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches

Ruth Gill

The Catholic Church

Steve Deadman

The Assemblies of God

Neil Maddock

#### **GROUP B**

Diocesan Education Team

Richard J. Wharton

The Church of England

Rev Duncan Jennings

The Church of England

Sam Jordan

#### **GROUP C**

National Union of Teachers (NUT)

Jackie Meering (Chair)

#### **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

#### **ASC Group (2016 – 2017):**

Bitterne Park Secondary School

Suzanne Underwood

#### **In attendance:**

Professional Cross Phase Adviser – Southampton City Council

Alison Philpott

#### **Meeting Support Officer:**

Dyfan Rowlands

**1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed both Steve Deadman (SD) and Neil Maddock (NM) back to SACRE.

Apologies for the meeting are as follows:

<b>Group A</b>	Elizabeth Jenkerson Anas Al-Korj	Bahá'í Muslim
<b>Group B</b>	Allan King	The Church of England
<b>Group D</b>	Kate Martin Cllr John Jordan	Group D Substitute Councillor Bitterne Ward

**Others (non-voting)**

**Observers** Carol Cunio

**2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 12 NOVEMBER 2018 AND MATTERS ARISING**

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

MW raised concern of an omission from the previous minutes of feedback regarding UK Humanists' application to become a full, voting member of SACRE. MW noted that as a result, this has not been brought to this conference's agenda. Therefore, the item was not included on the agenda, despite its requirement for further discussion.

**Matters Arising:**

**UK Humanists' application to become a full SACRE member**

MW raised that in discussion with UK Humanists in relation to application to become a full member of SACRE, she was provided a list of SACREs nationwide wherein Humanists possess full, voting status, amounting to 25 in total. MW noted further that further challenge and contestation has arisen to the objective, statutory rejection of Humanists becoming a full member of SACRE. Discussion was to be had with Group A members to push the matter further, however progress regarding this has stalled – MW recommended therefore that an application be made by SACRE directly to the local authority in lieu of taking a more elongated approach of attempting to fill Group A slots.

JM recommended that if the Humanists had locally asked for MW to become a full members, then this would be most preferable path and that UK Humanists should nominate MW on behalf of the organisation to SACRE. AP noted that this has been the case for both SD and RG in the past, in that no personal nomination was done but rather a nomination from the group. AP noted that from the September 2018 SACRE meeting it had indeed been agreed that this should be discussed - should Group A members therefore be in agreement that the Humanists should become full members then SACRE shall be informed that a change should be made. AP raised, however, that no endorsement from SACRE can be made without official application. MW agreed, asking AP whether an update on the above could be given to her prior to the following SACRE meeting.

**Actions arising:**

- **AP to provide MW with update regarding Group A member discussion of agreeing to Humanists' application to become full SACRE member prior to next SACRE meeting**

**3 ACTION PLANNING GROUP MEETINGS**

**To provide updates on:**

- **2018-19 Films** (AK and JM)

JM informed that AK had proposed a pitch regarding 2018-19 Films on 31<sup>st</sup> January from 15:00-17:00. JM added that the scope has been proposed to move from primary school focus to secondary.

AP noted that she had been involved in a project centring on developing hate crime in Hampshire, with significant links towards secondary education. Focus would very much be placed on matters such as gender, disability and would draw from personal experience from students across Southampton. AP noted that previous attempts at secondary transition had stalled due to staff absences at particular schools however this is no reinvigorated for further proposals. AP raised that the proposal thus far is for AK to receive assistance from further SACRE members to aid in the films pitch on 31<sup>st</sup> January. Concerning the selling of the pitch, JM recommended that it be emphasised the opportunities that could arise from projects such as these for the potential students involved, in particular given that these films would be on local authority platform. JM added that AK would use predominantly a PowerPoint presentation which is modified each year, depending on the pitch, which plays a key role in selling the opportunity to students.

VL posed what the expected outcome would be of the 2018-19 Films project. AP responded that currently in secondary education those afflicted by any form of hate crime or discrimination might not necessarily receive the response they are looking for upon reporting an incident, or may not raise the abuse in the first instance. AP informed that clear, positive strategies would be outlined in the videos so that these students know the appropriate measures to address any issues. AP added that the proposal would be for schools to be contacted who have expressed their desire to be involved and to invite a representative from each school to be present at the pitch.

Cllr K asked AP whether further details around the format of the 2018-19 Films project could be provided. Discussion took place over the purpose of the project and historical background. AP clarified that the pitching shall be to university students at Solent University in order that take-up for the project can be provided. Both Cllr V and Cllr K expressed their approval of the project and nominated themselves to attend the sales pitch on 31<sup>st</sup> January. AP confirmed that she will contact AK who will in turn send details onto both Cllr K and Cllr V.

**Actions arising:**

- **AP to contact AK in order that details are passed on to Cllr K and Cllr V regarding 2018-19 Films pitch to students**

- **Monitoring group** (AP, KM, HB, RDJ, RW, EJ, JM)

AP noted that she and RDJ conducted the first monitoring visit however were cut short by an urgent call received by the school. AP noted however that a report was delivered within a very efficient timeframe – the afternoon of the visit itself. AP raised, however, that the previously arranged date of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 for the following monitoring group visit shall be postponed to a later date and requested all those who were due to attend on that date to bear this in mind. AP informed that she would reissue future dates to all members.

Prior to leaving the meeting, SD raised that he would be interested in assisting with both future monitoring groups and the 6 Chair Challenge/ One City: No Barriers project. AP noted this and thanked SD.

***Actions arising:***

- ***AP to reissue future Monitoring Group visit dates to all SACRE members***

- **6 Chair Challenge/ One City: No Barriers** (AP, JM, SJ and CD)

SU raised that feedback from her students was positive regarding this project, with many mentioning that they found the experience very beneficial. CD confirmed that he was present and commended the project equally. However, CD raised a minor concern with this year's format and bemoaned the lack of time allocated for students to ask various religious groups their questions, with many questions not being answered or being able to be answered in full. CD proposed that perhaps the religious representatives may be able to stay for lunch at future events to elongate the sessions, given that the format last time appeared very rushed. CD recommended further that such events take place on more than one occasion a year, inviting perhaps fewer students and posing fewer questions at each event.

SJ raised further that this platform for students to voice their opinions is crucial, and raised that perhaps more of a follow-up question kind of approach is offered in future sessions to allow students to enter into deeper discussions and not be restricted by a list of premeditated questions.

AP stated that this project is invaluable for those hoping or considering taking RE at GCSE as it allows enrichment of the subject. AP noted further that whilst monitoring visits are important, students' advice and guidance should be explored also during monitoring visits in the future.

- **Proposal to support schools with faith based knowledge/queries** (AP)

AP noted that various schools across Southampton have come forward with the proposal of having the opportunity to ask faith based questions to those who follow particular faiths, including specific questions about Humanism also. SACRE consequently offered a drop-in evening to facilitate this, considered to be earmarked prior to the June 2019 SACRE meeting. AP stated that the Faith Walk which occurred last year was invaluable however raised that this kind of support to schools might reach out to a wider audience.

Furthermore, should a conference call type of meeting be preferred in lieu then SACRE could organise this.

AP posed what the best format would be to arrange for this to take place. JM raised that perhaps this could take place between 17:00-18:00 with the SACRE meeting itself being split to allow this. SJ emphasised the importance of understanding that should the turnout to this not be optimal then the concept should not be dismissed as some teachers may not be able to attend for alternate reasons other than disinterest. JM noted that should teachers attend and be able to witness the diversity within SACRE then their questions and curiosity may spark further.

SJ questioned whether a forum or blog for faith based questions could be taken online, allowing schools and SACRE members to communicate and leave a written record for others to discover. SJ stated further that this perhaps be more accessible for teachers. CD stated that whilst the concept is acceptable, a face to face discussion would be far more appealing and posed what venues could be booked to accommodate this. The following locations were discussed:

- **Brewhouse, Highfield Lane** – proposed by SJ. Relaxing environment with free parking
- **Bitterne Park Secondary School** – proposed by SU
- **Richard Taunton's School** - proposed by JM
- **Mount Pleasant Junior School** – proposed by Cllr K. New community centre available, with free parking after 16:30

Cllr K recommended that all SACRE members be consulted as regards the location and dates chosen to gauge any objections. JM stated that SJ should investigate some potential dates and costs regarding Brewhouse prior to the June 2019 SACRE meeting. RG emphasised further that this event should be advertised explicitly as a 'drop-in' type session, allowing teachers to have the freedom to attend as and when they wish.

Cllr K informed that following on from questions raised during the event itself, these questions could be placed on the SACRE website to allow teachers who were not able to attend to find answers to a wide range of questions posed. AP commended this concept, adding that the SACRE advice document is often updated during February/March, however posed whether moving the updating to after the Q&A event would be more beneficial as then this advice document will contain much more information and questions resulting from the event.

Cllr K, MW, CD, SD and SJ all raised that they would be keen to look into organising venues and dates for the above forum.

***Actions arising:***

- ***Updating of SACRE advice document to be postponed to following the faith based queries forum to allow for further input therein***
- ***Cllr K, MW, CD, SD and SJ to investigate dates, costs and locations for faith based queries forum prior to June 2019 SACRE Meeting***

**4 SACRE TRAINING**

AP raised that no date as yet has been agreed regarding SACRE training

## 5 **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GCSE AND A-LEVEL RESULTS**

AP noted that GCSE results shall be circulate shortly, however A-level data is not yet available. Overall, AP noted that nationally a drop in RE entry numbers for GCSE had been discovered. Further data as follows:

- 2017: 46.9% entry national for RE GCSE
- 2018: 33.6% entry national for RE GCSE

AP noted that whilst the drop is significant nationally, Southampton's rate of decline was not as sharp, with a 12% decline:

2017: 26.9% entry within Southampton for RE GCSE  
2018: 25.6% entry within Southampton for RE GCSE

AP stated that highest uptake, nationally, was noted in 2014 due to EBAC package however since this year there has been a noticeable decline. AP clarified that all data concerns maintained schools and academies, however does not include independent schools.

AP outlined further the change of GCSE grade due to take place this year, with the A-G scale being replaced with 9-1 scale in lieu, thus making comparisons to previous years somewhat more challenging. Nationally, GCSE scores ranging from A\*-A were at 27.7% nationally however Southampton schools fared much better, with this percentage at 43.3%. AP raised further that Grades C-G in Southampton were significantly stronger than nationally also. AP concluded that of those who uptake RE at GCSE level within Southampton perform well, which is noted also within SACRE monitoring visits. Teaching of RE furthermore is evidently of a good quality however challenges remain with RE uptake at GCSE level.

AP informed that she would send data to all RE teachers and shall work on achieving A-level data also.

### ***Actions arising:***

- ***AP to send data provided regarding GCSE results to all RE teachers within Southampton***
- ***AP to gather and distribute data regarding A-level RE results***

## 6 **SACRE Annual Report 2017/18**

AP raised that the SACRE Annual Report shall be published shortly for all to read, subject to completion of final data in 3-4 weeks regarding September 2017-December 2018. JM raised that it is important that the report goes into some detail on the focus and actions which Southampton SACRE undertake, highlighting the work done and outlining that SACRE are a proactive group.

AP stated that feedback for the report would be much appreciated. A plan for DFE final report shall be presented to the following SACRE meeting and shall be approved/not approved for June SACRE.

### **CHANGES TO UNIONS STRUCTURE FOR MEMBERSHIP (NUT/ATL)**

JM informed that the NUT and ATL had merged to become the NEU as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. JM noted that currently she is appointed by local association of NUT however the ATL representative has not gone through this same process. JM added that an annual meeting for the new union shall take place in March and that all members are currently being asked if they would like to perform committee work, from which point the new committee is allocated. However, previously allocated officers shall be continue their posts until September, in academic year format.

JM noted that her suggestion therefore would be for current officers to remain in their posts until September 2019, with a first committee meeting to take place in May 2019 to appoint members to bodies such as SACRE. JM outlined that this combined union shall be the largest within Southampton, and shall comprise of not only teachers but teaching support staff also.

*All members present were in favour of members resuming their positions as is until September 2019*

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE**

#### **Mayflower 400**

NM introduced the Mayflower 400 project – a project commemorating events relating to the sailing of the Mayflower ship from Southampton waters in 1720 and shall take place in 2020. NM noted further that an education stream is currently being looked at for the wider context of the year also, with links to SACRE being that focus shall be placed on the faith based story of the Mayflower voyage. Production proposed in Mayflower Park, Southampton, with a singing and dancing production, transporting people back to 18<sup>th</sup> century Southampton and bring the story of separatists and settlers back to life. The story of servants and sailors also shall be retold. NM proposed the working title of 'Mayflower: journey of hope', with focus placed on themes such as hope, faith and courage.

NM continued that the Mayflower is undoubtedly a big part of Southampton's culture. Those present on the Mayflower itself would not only have come from Hampshire, with some ailing from areas such as Leiden in Holland and would have visited the Dolphin Hotel and Holyrood Church prior to their voyage to America. NM proposed further that his creative company, Equip Community Arts, shall be hiring a full cast of characters which shall visit schools and engage with classrooms, with students being able to ask questions to historic figures such as William Brewster.

SJ emphasised the importance of children within Southampton to know about such a significant aspect of the city's history and heritage, with values such as hope, courage and faith which are still pertinent in today's world. SP proposed that SACRE could commission assemblies, with schools offering assemblies

with the aid of SACRE members such as herself and NM alongside assistance perhaps from CD (Southampton City Mission). Training could further be offered, and charities such as the Jerusalem Trust could be reached out to in order ensure the diffusion of a broad religious education. AP noted that EJ could propose liaising with West Hill also regarding this.

NM raised that the expected date of release for the project would be in early July 2020, launched with tours taking place to libraries citywide. NM added that the plan for 2020 regarding the project is in the process of being unveiled and shall focus on encouraging the public to become involved as much as possible.

Concerning the promotion of the project, NM stated that he had already visited schools to gauge how children can be involved creatively with Mayflower 400. JM proposed that some kind of overlap could also take place with parallels being made between Humanists who took the voyage on the Mayflower and those represented in SACRE, by way of example.

Cllr K posed whether NM had spoken to the local authority's Cabinet Member for Culture, Councillor Kaur. NM raised that he had been working closely with an individual called Matt Bundy, who has close connections with Councillor Kaur. NM noted that Councillor Kaur is aware of the project and is very supportive of its prospects, with NM's organisation also being part of the culture development trust. Cllr K added further that given his links with Maytree Infant School, this could be used to help promote the project further.

CD recommended that SACRE should wholeheartedly support and endorse the project, given that a lot of what is promoted and discussed within the Mayflower 400 project ties in very closely to core values of SACRE itself. CD added further he could envisage the Mayflower 400 having a knock-on effect on other potential project that could arise in its wake, with other organisations/charities being inspired from the story told.

NM stated that at present, Equip Community Arts are at the production/research stage of the project, with a core team currently being built. A brochure outlining events taking place in 2020 is currently being distributed. NM added that he is confident that his team at Equip Community Arts would welcome SACRE's support and input with open arms.

SJ raised with regard to writing resources, she could liaise with the City Mission Board to assess whether a grant may be offered to assist further with the project.

*All representatives present endorsed the concept of providing broad support to Mayflower 400 and providing support also to schools around themes as faith, courage, journey and hope.*

**Actions arising:**

- ***SJ to liaise with City Mission Board to gauge whether grant could be offered in support of Mayflower 400 project***



To provide updates also on:

- **NASACRE AGM (South West) (EJ)**

EJ provided apologies for the meeting. No update provided

- **South Central Hub Meeting (Winchester) (EJ)**

EJ provided apologies for the meeting. No update provided

## **9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date: **Monday 3 June 2019**

Time: **4:00pm – 6:00pm**

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

## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### MEMBERSHIP

#### GROUP A

##### Christian Denominations\*

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

The Catholic Church	Steve Deadman	
The Baptists	Chris Davis (Southampton City Mission)	
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	<b>VACANCY</b>	
The Greek Orthodox Church	<b>VACANCY</b>	
The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches	Ruth Gill	
The Methodist Church	<b>VACANCY</b>	
The United Reformed Church	Susanne Dawson	
The Assemblies of God	Neil Maddock	
The Salvation Army	<b>VACANCY</b>	

##### 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	<b>VACANCY</b>	
Hindu	<b>VACANCY</b>	
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	
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## **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)	David Parrott
Voice	Dr R Palmer
The Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)	Susanne Woodman
Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)	<b>VACANCY</b>
National Association of Headteachers (NAHT)	<b>VACANCY</b>

## **GROUP D**

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

Councillor John Jordan	
Councillor James Baillie	
Councillor Valerie Laurent	
Councillor Toqeer Kataria	

<b>GROUP D SUBSTITUTE</b>	Mrs. Kate Martin
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## **OTHERS (Non-voting)**

### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

South Hampshire Humanists	Mary Wallbank	
Professional Advisor	Alison Philpott	Southampton City Council

### **OBSERVER**

*None currently.*

### **ASC Group (2016 – 2017)**

Claire Belli (Springwell Special School)	
Suzanne Underwood (Bitterne Park Secondary School)	
Susanne Woodman (Hope Free School)	