

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



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020**

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### **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

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## 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020**

**Time: 16:00-18:00**

**Venue: Committee Room 1 – Civic Centre**

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**GROUP A**

**Christian Denominations\***

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

The Roman 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		<b>VACANCY</b>	

**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 Education Union (NEU)	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)	Sian Carr

### **GROUP D**

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

Councillor Matthew Renyard	
Councillor James Baillie	
Councillor Valerie Laurent	
Councillor Toqeer Kataria	

<b>GROUP D SUBSTITUTE</b>	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)	