

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30th November 2020



ATTENDEES

NAME	INITIALS	ORGANISATION
GROUP A		
Chris Davis MBE	CD	The Baptists
Elizabeth Jenkerson	EJ	Baha'í
Steve Deadman	SD	The Roman Catholic Church
GROUP B		
Richard Wharton	RW	The Church of England
Rev. Duncan Jennings	DJ	The Church of England
GROUP C		
<i>No attendees</i>		
GROUP D		
Councillor Valerie Laurent	VL	Southampton City Council (Harefield Ward)
Councillor Matt Bunday	MB	Southampton City Council (Swaythling Ward)
Kate Martin	KM	Group D Substitute
OTHERS (NON-VOTING)		
Alison Philpott	AP	Southampton City Council
Mary Wallbank	MW	South Hampshire Humanists
IN ATTENDANCE		
Matt Gwyn	MG	Southampton City Mission
Martin Ball		Meeting Support Officer
Samuel Dedman		Meeting Support Officer

APOLOGIES

NAME	INITIALS	ORGANISATION
GROUP A		
Ruth Gill	RG	The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
GROUP C		
Jackie Meering	JM	National Education Union (NEU)
GROUP D		
Councillor James E Baillie	JB	Southampton City Council (Sholing Ward)
Councillor Toqeer Kataria	TK	Southampton City Council (Beovis Ward)

1 WELCOME and APOLOGIES

EJ welcomed SACRE members and the apologies were listed, as stated above.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIR

The election of the SACRE Chair is being postponed until February's SACRE.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (September 2020) AND MATTERS ARISING

To agree the minutes from September 2020 meeting and review any matters arising

The minutes from September's SACRE were deemed accurate.

Regarding matters arising, AP stated that she completed the paperwork to present at a Council meeting regarding changes to the membership including the January voting decision regarding the British Humanist Society member as a full member, the removal of the Voice from membership, and the merging of MUT and ATL in to the NEU. All three changes were agreed at the council meeting for the changes to be made to the constitution.

4 REVIEW OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND DETERMINATION PROCESS

Draft discussion paper regarding update to Determination process to be circulated to members (attached) and link to two current guidance documents an update affects

<https://www.youngsouthampton.org/images/03.17.27515-sacre-new.pdf>

<https://www.youngsouthampton.org/images/scc-collective-worship.pdf>

AP explained that the determination is something that a headteacher can apply to SACRE for and there is a misconception that Determination exempts the school from holding a collective act of worship, which it does not. The statutory requirements state that it has to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. Most of the schools have a very broad values based collective worship program. The idea is that the Determination would come to SACRE in writing and SACRE would request an annual update. AP highlighted that there has never been a determination request in Southampton.

AP noted that a draft form has been created for schools to fill out and submit to SACRE with any additional documentation. Schools have been requested to complete it 6 weeks before a SACRE meeting. SACRE would then respond within 3 weeks of the meeting either to grant or deny the application. EJ noted that if a school has a Determination and it becomes an academy, it will have to reapply through the DfE as it will automatically lose its Determination. AP added that academy schools can be asked to make SACRE aware of their application through the DfE, although there is no requirement for them to do so.

Regarding the application process, AP highlighted that applications can only be made by the headteachers, who will have to consult the school's governing body, who in turn must seek the views of the parents. AP stated that she would check this with the legal team regarding the wording of the document such as 'should', 'could', 'must', 'all' and AP will be involved in that process.

Cllr B noted that it would be difficult to get a unanimous view of *all* the parents and suggested putting down markers to state that parents were consulted to cover any challenges that may arise. AP noted that she has considered being copied in to the process so that she can see the evidence base on which the judgements are made.

5 MONITORING GROUP UPDATE (PROFESSIONAL ADVISER)

AP explained that there has not been monitoring this year due to Covid-19.

A previous action was for EJ to circulate a letter of thanks to the schools for the hard work they have done during the pandemic and there has been some positive replies from schools.

AP explained that following the sending of the letter, there has been request from two schools to put themselves forward for monitoring visits at the start of the following academic year. There were also five requests to see if SACRE were going to commission support for the RE leaders.

AP noted that her and Justine Ball from Hampshire have led twilight sessions for new leaders of RE. AP explained that last year was the third year of these sessions and some schools booked their RE leaders in to all three years as they felt as though it was an invaluable time for RE leaders to talk about changes, assessment information, and network with colleagues. AP is trying to propose this in the budget to support RE leaders, this has been partly funded through SACRE previously. It would be 50/50 from the School and SACRE budget within the Local Authority.

AP reported that SACRE colleagues in different Local Authorities are planning on doing website checks across school to monitor what RE looks like online and it is something that Southampton SACRE could explore. AP noted that some school are 6 years without a monitoring visit. AP stated that the aim would be to visit 12 schools in the year depending on the Covid situation. AP suggested that a monitoring visit preparation meeting can be held for SACRE members to discuss the process of the visits.

6 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT VERBAL UPDATE (PROFESSIONAL ADVISER)

AP noted that this report is almost complete but was able to share a draft version with the attendees. AP explained that this report gets sent to the DfE and goes on to the NASACRE website.

It is noted from the document that many teachers from Southampton schools are not aware of local places of worship for their students as they are not from the local area. AP noted that teachers may know from a mapping perspective but not from the experience you get from living in the area. MG stated that he would be happy to help with putting together a guide to help with this, whether it be a map or database, which could potentially be available on the SACRE website page.

7 DISCUSSION REGARDING PAPER PUBLISHED BY THEOS ON WORLDVIEWS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – LINK ATTACHED

<https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/research/2020/10/21/worldviews-in-religious-education>

AP noted that this item should be carried over to the next meeting to give SACRE members the opportunity to read it and a full discussion can take place. AP added that it is relevant to the agreed syllabus.

8 STANDARD ITEM FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL/NATIONAL EVENTS FROM ALL MEMBERS

EJ explained that the Religious Education Council (RAC) had a meeting on the 10th of November. EJ noted that there were two main sections to the meeting, one of which being about a 'Worldview' concept and how it is perceived. The RAC published studies and a

literature review, which looked at how the term 'Worldview' is used. The other section of the RAC meeting was relating to OFSTED.

EJ noted that NASACRE had their general meeting and EJ was re-elected as a board member. EJ explained that there were interesting projects that had Westfield grants.

Regarding the Hub meeting, AP stated that it was useful to get updates across different areas of the South of England. SACRE Chairs and Professional Advisors from many different Local Authorities were present. The challenges around Covid-19 were addressed. There were discussions around schools that had contacted their SACRE representatives to ask how to give students the best RE experience when working remotely, given how RE relies strongly on discussion in the classroom. AP explained that there were examples of the effect of Covid-19 being incorporated in to the learning, such as the subject of 'kindness' and what kindness means during Covid-19 and the lockdown, to get the students thinking in different ways.

EJ explained that it was highlighted that it a number of parents felt unskilled to try to teach their children about different faiths because they do not have a lot of knowledge about it.

MG reported that City Mission have continued to work with the schools over lockdown and offered resources online through Google Classroom. City Mission have received good feedback and teachers have reported that the online resources have everything that they need to confidently deliver sessions on Christian understandings. Schools have continued to ask them for support in to the next academic year. MG also explained that some schools have allowed them onsite when adhering to Covid guidelines, such as correct PPE.

9 AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE UPDATE (VERBAL REPORT FROM PROFESSIONAL ADVISER)

AP explained that she has met with other Professional Advisers on where revisions may be needed on the syllabus. AP has got teachers involved, as well as colleagues from Hampshire, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight to work collectively to complete the review.

AP noted that this time next year the syllabus will have been launched after getting approved by SACRE in September 2021.

10 AOB (NOTIFIED TO PROFESSIONAL ADVISER OR ACTING CHAIR AT LEAST THREE WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING)

It is noted that there is a Church of England representative vacancy, to which MG reported that he has spoken to his vicar Tony Palmer who is happy to be involved. Rev. DJ stated that he is happy to discuss this at the Deanery Chapters meeting.

AP explained that she has been exploring around the Greek Orthodox group and AP has queried as to whether it is the correct membership group.

AP highlighted that Sam Jordan who represents the Church of England is moving roles but is willing to stay as a SACRE representative.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND NOTIFIED AOB

Date: 1st February 2021 **Time:** 16:00 **Venue:** TBC

