



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 July 2024

Present:

Group A –

Christian Denominations

The Roman Catholic Church – Steve Deadman

The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches – Ruth Gill

The United Reformed Church – Susanne Dawson

Southampton City Mission – Joyce Wan

Other world beliefs

Jewish- Clare Wikeley

Muslim – Imam Sayfullah

Mary Wallbank – South Hampshire Humanists

Group B – Church of England

Lucy Heptinstall

From Diocesan education team

Richard Wharton

Group C – Teachers

National Education Union - Amelia Day

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers –
Suzanne Underwood

Group D – Members of the Council

Councillors Beaurain and Webb

Also in attendance:

Others co-opted (Non-Voting)

Southampton City Council, Professional Advisor - Alison Philpott

Primary RE Lead Rep - Ellen Brodigan

Southampton Council of Faiths – Timothy Tofts

Love Southampton

Apologies

Councillors Lambert and Wood
Richard Wharton
Silas Bingley

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

It was noted that the constitution set out that elections should come with the start of the Academic year and not the start of the municipal year.. It was therefore resolved that the elections would take place at the next meeting.

2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the last meeting held on 26th February 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

3. **WELCOME, APOLOGIES, CHANGES OF MEMBERSHIP AND INDUCTION PROCESS**

SCRE noted the apologies of Mr Richard Wharton and Councillors Lambert and Wood.

In addition it was noted that this was the last meeting of Liz Allen. The Chair thanked her for all of her hard work over the years a wished her well for the future. It was also noted that Joyce Wan period of cover for Ellie Cousins had drawn to and end and that Ellie would be returning to future meetings.

Members noted that the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education reference handbook had been attached to the papers along with a draft of the local induction information pack for discussion. Members suggested an number of additions including a glossary of terms and acronyms; the potential to add more information on the monitoring visit; a training schedule; and the code of conduct.

It was agreed that the Chair and Vice chair with the support of the professional advisor would circulate a further draft for approval at the next meeting.

4. **WESTHILL GRANT UPDATES**

Members discussed the idea of developing a grant proposal for a Westhill Grant.

It was suggested that a grant could be drawn together to fund an information programme that set out to debunk the myths and popular inaccuracies about other religions across the City.

A number of suggestions were broadly outline a possible ways to assemble access information to reach out to the City.

One suggestion was a number of short information films and inline presentations along those first shown on television but to link them to the City. Imam Sayfullah explained that he had been involved in a similar project “ I am Human” in Northampton prior to his move to this City.

The following links give an insight as to what this project produced.

<https://www.ordinarytoucan.com/showcase/i-am-human>
<https://www.niff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/I-Am-Human-Activity-Book-pages.pdf>

It was agreed that a working group of members including Ruth Gill, Imam Sayfullah, Tim Tofts, Susan Underwood and supported by the Council's professional advisor Silas Bingley should work together to review the matter for the consideration at the next meeting.

5. **MONITORING AND BUDGET**

It was explained that the budget review for the Service had now been completed at that and allocated. Members had expressed concerns over the level of professional support for monitoring visits had been listened to. It was explained that the allocated budget would allow for professional support on monitoring for schools supported by local authority however, it was noted that there would be a charge to Academy Schools.

Members that wanted to engage with the programme of monitoring visits and the drafting of the schedule of monitoring visits (including the potential of training) should contact the professional advisor so that a schedule could be drawn up.

It was considered that a training event for Members wishing to undertake monitoring could be explored. The vice chair explained that they could explore the possibilities of using Bittern Park Secondary for this.

6. **NATIONAL OFSTED REPORT ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Members noted that the National report into Religious Education had now been published [Deep and meaningful? The religious education subject report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115448/Deep_and_meaningful?_ga=2.181111111.162811111.162811111.162811111).

Alison Phillpott talked through the report and discussed the findings made within it. It was noted that this was a useful document that would help to continue to provide a strong syllabus and increase the links between subjects throughout a child's education as shown in [Research review series: religious education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115448/Research_review_series_religious_education?_ga=2.181111111.162811111.162811111.162811111)

7. **SOUTHAMPTON COUNCIL OF FAITHS - EDUCATION PROJECT**

Tim Tofts from the Council of Faiths outline how the much progress had been made in establishing a database that could be used by organisations seeking to help organisations to contact members of particular faith groups that would be willing and able to discuss their religions.

It was explained that work had been undertaken to create a proforma for schools that would outline exactly what it was they were requiring and what would be expected of any attendee including the length of time they would be required.

Members noted that this project was being led by the Council of Faiths with the support of the Silas and the Vice-Chair.

8. **FEEDBACK ON EVENTS**

The Chair noted that she had attended the NSACRE conference and reported back to the meeting. The Chair stated that it was refreshing to see that many of the ideas nationally discussed had already been implemented locally. It was noted that many Councils made a point of meeting in locations. The Chair suggested that this should be explored locally as it allowed members to gain a greater understanding of religious establishments outside of their own. Members were requested to explore whether their own organisations would be amenable to hosting future meetings.

Members noted that this year's "No Barriers" event would be held on the 28 November 2024. Members were requested to contact the Vice-Chair nearer the event should they wish to take part.