
(SACRE) STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 March 2010

Present:

Members of the Council

Cunio, Daunt and Parnell

Independent Members

Anas al-Korj, Mrs Margaret Blake, Bridget Goom, Peter Howard, Ellen Humphries, Jeff Lynn, Jackie Meering, Mrs Gail Ratcliffe, Sian Roberts, Chris Robinson, Rev David Sillince, Anne Steele-Arnett, David Vane and Lilian Weatherley

Apologies

Councillor Parvin Damani, Ruth Evans, Mag Kushner and David Parrott

Also in attendance:

1. **WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CHANGES OF MEMBERSHIP**

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair took the Chair and welcomed everybody to the meeting.

At the invitation of the Chair, a moment of reflection was provided at the start of the meeting by the Buddhist representative, David Vane.

The meeting was declared inquorate and therefore no decisions could be made. However, it was agreed that non-contentious general business could continue until a quorum was formed.

Apologies were received from:-

Group A

Ms Mag Kushner Jewish representative

Group C

Ruth Evans Association of School and College Leaders – (ASCL)

David Parrott The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)

Group D

Councillor Damani Southampton City Council

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

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2009 be approved and signed as a correct record. (Copy of the minutes circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

3. **MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE**

The SACRE received a verbal update from the Chair on current membership and drew attention to paragraph 9.7 of the Constitution. It was noted that the sending of apologies and the use of substitutes were seen to be necessary.

RECOMMENDED

(i) that a more vigorous approach be adopted towards members who continually failed to attend regularly, unless reasonable reasons were provided.

(ii) that the following new members were welcomed:-

Group A

Mrs Margaret Blake, representing the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches in Southampton.

Ms Gail Ratcliffe, representing The Methodist Church.

Group B

Rev Canon Geoff Annas, representing The Church of England and replacing Jennifer Cox.

Co-opted Member

Anna Adams, Primary School RE Teacher.

4. **ADOPTION OF SACRE CONSTITUTION**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH 7.1 OF THE SOUTHAMPTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONSTITUTION, THE MEETING BECAME QUORATE.

The SACRE considered the report of the Chair of the SACRE requesting members to formally approve the amended SACRE Constitution for 2009/10.

It was noted that there was guidance and good practise on Religious Education (RE) available on both the NASACRE website (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education) and/or the QCDA website (Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency).

RESOLVED that the approval of the constitution be deferred to the next meeting following the receipt of advice on the following:-

- (i) the wording and sense of paragraph 9.12 concerning the status of observers and their rights to address the SACRE;
- (ii) the issue of confidential business was discussed and it was noted that should members of the Press and public be required to leave a SACRE meeting at any point, there would be a need for this to be indicated in advance on the agenda;
- (iii) paragraph 9.3 was queried with regard to the representatives for Academy schools and a discussion took place around co-opted members and representatives from other school groups.

5. **FEEDBACK ON EVENTS**

The SACRE received and noted a verbal update from the secondary phase inspector on the following:-

Local SACRE's Network Group Meeting on 5 October 2009

- Southampton had not been represented at October's meeting;
- The Secondary Phase Inspector volunteered to take any queries to the next Local SACRE's Network Group meeting.

The First Interfaith Week In England, Held 15 – 21 November 2009

- Events and successes in the week were outlined.
- A new appointee to SCOF (Southampton Council of Faiths) was noted.
- A discussion took place on linking the First Interfaith week in England with the National Faith week.

Feedback On Individual Faith Groups

Youth Peace Walk

- David Vane reported of the youth peace walk that had taken place on 7 March 2010 involving approximately 70 students.

Funding

- Rev Canon Geoff Annas, from the Anglican University chaplaincy, reported that the Church of England in England was lacking funding to support chaplaincies.

Non-Statutory Guidance For Religious Education (Re) In Schools

- Chris Robinson reported that the non-statutory guidance for RE in schools had now been agreed.
- Group A membership guidelines had changed to include humanism on SACREs.

Muslim Awareness Week

- Anas Al-Korj gave details on the activities and workshops held. although open to all, the SACRE heard that it was mostly university students who attended.

Annual Report – Exam Results

- overall, the pass rate had been good.
- RE full course had a pass rate of 62%-73% A-Cs.
- RE short course had a pass rate of 50%-55% A-Cs.
- SACRE activities had been limited over the last year, but it was hoped that these would become more active over the next year.
- no subject inspections had taken place yet.

RECOMMENDED

- (i) that a summary document of the Agreed Syllabus could be made available and that the link for this be sent to all SACRE members;
- (ii) that the non-statutory guidance be included on the next agenda as a main item;
- (iii) that Anas Al Korj be requested to forward the link relating to Muslim Awareness Week to all SACRE members;
- (iv) that Councillor Parnell would attend the next local SACRE's Network Group meeting on 22 March 2010; and
- (v) that Chris Robinson be requested to send out a related website link prior the next meeting.

AaK

BP

CR

6. SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The SACRE considered a report from Councillor Daunt giving detailed analysis on each of the Development Plan Dimensions' from the working group. Councillor Daunt outlined the background, purpose and structure of the Plan and set out the following five sections:

Dimension 1: Standards and Quality of Provision of RE (update from Sian Roberts)

Dimension 2: Management of SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders (update from Councillor Daunt)

2a) SACRE meetings

2b) Membership and training

2c) Improvement/development planning

2d) Professional and financial support

2e) Information and advice

2f) Partnerships with other key stakeholders

Dimension 3: The effectiveness of the local Agreed Syllabus (update from Jackie Meering)

Not discussed.

Dimension 4: Collective Worship (update from Peter Howard)

Not discussed.

Dimension 5: Contribution of SACRE to community cohesion (update from Jeff Lynn)

Not discussed.

RESOLVED

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| (i) that the Chair would contact NASACRE regarding training to ensure that at least one member of each group received appropriate training; and | ED |
| (ii) that future development-group meeting dates needed to be agreed prior to the next meeting. | ED |

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following upcoming events were noted:-

- the next NASACRE AGM.
- an application for the Young People Interfaith Project/Westhill Awards (deadline for application 31 March 2010).
- the RE Celebration for 2011.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Declaration of Interests training – date to be confirmed (Sarita Riley).

Social cohesion – Prevent agenda (Vanessa Shahani)

9. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED that proposed dates be circulated by the Clerk.