

# Public Document Pack

MEETING	<b>(SACRE) STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>
DATE	<b>Monday, 26th January, 2015 4.00 pm</b>
VENUE	<b>CONFERENCE ROOM 4 - CIVIC CENTRE</b>
ENQUIRIES	SUE LAWRENCE 023 8083 3569 Email: susan.lawrence@southampton.gov.uk
MEMBERS	SEE ATTACHED LIST

## A G E N D A

### 1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

To appoint a Chair for the remainder of the Municipal Year or for the purposes of the meeting.

### 2. **WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CHANGES OF MEMBERSHIP**

To receive any apologies and changes to membership and to receive any changes in membership.

### 3. **STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

### 4. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

### 5. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING**

(Pages 1 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014, and to consider the notes of the informal meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014, attached.

### 6. **RE AUDIT OF SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS**

Update from Professional Adviser on the teaching of Religious Education in schools in the City and members' feedback on the draft RE Audit Tool (as recently circulated for their comment).

### 7. **FEEDBACK FROM HAMPSHIRE SACRE TRAINING EVENT**

Verbal feedback from Alison Philpott (Professional Adviser to the SACRE) and any other attendees regarding the recent training event held by the Hampshire SACRE on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**8. OFSTED UPDATE / LOCAL OFSTED REPORTS**

Verbal update from Elizabeth Jenkerson regarding recent Ofsted reports relating to the provision of RE in schools in the City.

**9. RE ATTAINMENT REPORT**

Verbal update from Alison Philpott regarding RE attainment in schools in the City.

**10. LOCAL DIRECTORY TO SUPPORT RE IN SCHOOLS**

For the SACRE to consider feedback from members regarding what they could provide to support faith teaching in schools in the City.

**11. LIVING DIFFERENCE - AGREED RE SYLLABUS**

Consideration of the Agreed RE Syllabus "Living Difference" in light of the need for the five year review - an update and timeline to be provided by Patricia Hannam, professional support to Hampshire SACRE.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To agree a date for the next meeting.

Friday, 16 January 2015

HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

# STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## MEMBERSHIP

### GROUP A

#### **Christian Denominations\***

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

The Roman Catholic Church	David Walford
The Baptists	Rev Andy Mills
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	VACANCY (was Bridget Goom)
The Greek Orthodox Church	VACANCY (was Gregory Hadjikyriacou)
The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches	Margaret Blake
The Methodist Church	VACANCY (was Gail Ratcliffe)
The United Reformed Church	VACANCY
The Assemblies of God	Neil Maddock
The Salvation Army	VACANCY (was Ruth Hill)

#### **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	David Vane
Hindu	Priti Dave
Jewish	VACANCY (was Nicola Peckham)
Muslim	Anas Al-Korj
Sikh	Harmeet Singh Brar (December 2014 from Hants SACRE)

### GROUP B

*(Four representatives of the Church of England)*

#### **The Church of England**

Rev Duncan Jennings  
Allan King

From diocesan education team:

Rev Jeff Williams OR Joyce Johnson  
Richard Wharton

## **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)	Mr D Parrott
Voice	Dr R Palmer
The Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)	Fiona Plummer
Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)	VACANCY
National Association of Headteachers (NAHT)	VACANCY

## **GROUP D**

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

### **Southampton City Council**

Councillor Edward Daunt

Councillor Denness

Councillor Dr Darren Paffey

Councillor Brian Parnell

### **GROUP D SUBSTITUTE**

Mrs. K. Martin

## **OTHERS (Non-voting)**

### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

South Hampshire Humanists	Liz Mizon
Primary School RE Teacher	Anna Adams
Representative of Teachers' Subject Network/Advanced Skills Teacher (RE)	Sian Roberts
Southampton City Mission	Chris Davis

### **OBSERVER**

Freemantle C of E Community Academy	Natasha Bye-Brooks
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# Agenda Item 5

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2014, and to consider the notes of the informal meeting held on 24th November 2014, attached.

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(SACRE) STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 March 2014

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Present:

Group A – Christian Denominations

David Walford

Group A – Other religions

Anas Al-Korj, Priti Dave, Elizabeth Jenkerson and David Vane

Group B – Church of England

Allan King, Chris Pritchard and Richard Wharton

Group C – Teachers

Jackie Meering, Dr Richard Palmer, Mr D Parrott

Group D – Members of the Council

Councillors Daunt (Chair) and Parnell, Kate Martin

Others (Non-Voting) Co-opted Members

Liz Mizon (Humanists), Chris Davis (Southampton City Mission)

Also in attendance:

Graham Talbot, Head of Education – SCC

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

Apologies were received from:

Group A - Nicola Peckham

Group C - Fiona Plummer

Group D - Councillors Kaur and Paffey

28. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED that Councillor Daunt be appointed as Chair for the purposes of the meeting.

COUNCILLOR DAUNT IN THE CHAIR

29. **STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

The retirement of Anne Steele-Arnett was confirmed and it was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent from the Chair on behalf of the SACRE.

30. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING**  
**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013 be approved and signed as a correct record. (Copy of the Minutes circulated with the Agenda and appended to the signed Minutes).

31. **ANNUAL REPORT**

Councillor Daunt tabled a draft Annual Report for consideration and comment.

Graham Talbot, Head of Education SCC was present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

Councillor Daunt acknowledged that an Annual Report had not been produced for some time but that the Southampton SACRE was not alone in this and also referred to those reports available on the NASACRE web site which varied from brief two page overviews to 80 page detailed tomes. It was also recognized that the draft was basic but the inclusion of more detailed evidence would be the aim for future reports.

Jackie Meering highlighted that whilst some SACREs did not post their reports to the NASACRE web site – they did make them available on their local authority web pages.

Following discussion, amendments to the wording in the report were agreed regarding the following main points-:

- references to the provision of training by SACRE which was established at the meeting as not being within its resources but that the SACRE should more suitably signpost training provision; and
- references to the monitoring of RE provision in schools which was felt to be outside the remit of the SACRE; however observation and feedback to the local authority was felt to be a more appropriate function.

Graham Talbot agreed to provide additional data for inclusion in the report and to amend the wording in line with the outcome of the discussion for appropriate circulation.

The SACRE AGREED the draft of the report subject to these modifications.

32. **THE WAY FORWARD**

Councillor Daunt introduced this item which had been the main focus of his covering letter distributed with the agenda for this meeting and in the body of the draft Annual Report.

Councillor Daunt highlighted his proposal that each of the areas he had outlined under a plan of action be lead by members of the SACRE in order to give purpose and direction on the task and sought volunteers. Jackie Meering volunteered to lead on the review of educational attainment in RE and standards of RE teaching across the City.

There was a detailed discussion which included the need for professional support to the SACRE from the local authority in order to carry out its responsibilities and what these responsibilities were.



It was reported that a meeting had taken place with Graham Talbot, Head of Education, following the last meeting's resolution (Minute 26) at which professional and budget support for the SACRE had been discussed.

Graham Talbot reported on the current position regarding support from the School Improvement Team from where future professional support would be made available undertaking to provide this himself in the meantime. He clarified at the request of members, that the responsibility of the SACRE was broadly to ensure the local authority was assisting schools with the delivery of RE in line with and to the standard of, the Agreed Syllabus. It was also suggested that effective SACREs organised meetings with a clear focus, requesting relevant information from the local authority to inform their discussion / action.

It was recognised at the meeting that members had restrictions on the time they could commit outside the three scheduled meetings per year and the limitations of the skills / resources within the group. Following discussion it was concluded that as an advisory body the SACRE could commission reports from the local authority and debate these at its meetings, request data and information to inform its actions and use the local authority to provide the mechanism for contact with schools such as the proposed questionnaires; but should not be attempting to sort out or directly monitor the management of RE provision in schools. Graham Talbot offered to arrange visits to schools as a learning experience for SACRE members

The group discussed the content of the questionnaires drafted by Jackie Meering and Elizabeth Jenkerson for distribution to primary and secondary schools which could inform the SACRE regarding the RE teaching provision in schools.

Graham Talbot agreed to take charge of the administration of the questionnaires to schools – including its distribution and the collation of responses into a report to be brought to a future meeting for discussion. This was welcomed by the SACRE.

33. **FEEDBACK ON EVENTS**

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

34. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.**

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 4.00 pm on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at St Mark's Primary School.

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(SACRE) STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
NOTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2014

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Present:

Group A

Christian Denominations

None present

Other religions

Elizabeth Jenkerson, Priti Dave, Anas Al-Korj

Group B – Church of England

None present

Group C – Teachers

Jackie Meering, Mr D Parrott

Group D – Members of the Council

Councillor Parnell, Kate Martin

OTHERS non-voting

Southampton City Mission, Chris Davis

Also in attendance:

Sue Lawrence – Clerk to the SACRE

Alison Philpott – RE Professional Support to the SACRE

Alison Philpott welcomed members to this informal introductory session, to introduce herself as the new Local Authority professional support for the SACRE.

Alison outlined her background and reported that she had already linked with the South Central Hub to develop knowledge of local practice and with Councillor Daunt as previous Chair of the SACRE. The aim of the meeting was to discuss a positive way forward for the SACRE in general but in particular with regard to the first of the three annual statutory meetings in January 2015.

Alison invited members to highlight issues which they felt had arisen.

The group agreed that chairing the SACRE had been an issue for the past few meetings with each meeting electing a Chair for the purpose of that meeting alone and there being no chair elected for the municipal year.

Alison suggested that the Professional Support could take a stronger facilitating role at future meetings (as occurred at the Hants SACRE meetings) with the Chair taking a more nominal role. It was agreed that this might assist with encouraging members to come forward to take on the role of Chair.

Members felt that the SACRE had become a talking-shop unable to carry out its statutory functions due to the lack of professional support and a dedicated budget, in particular:

- Annual Report
- Evidence gathering regarding RE in schools – primary schools especially
- Data regarding long/short course take-up
- Use of Agreed Syllabus
- Training for SACRE members
- Offering training and support to RE teachers
- Evaluation of RE attainment in schools

It was highlighted that the review of the Agreed Syllabus would form a major part of the SACRE workload for the next year.

There was discussion around work carried out by some members on the questionnaire to schools. It had been agreed that the previous head of education for SCC would arrange for this to be finalised and sent out to schools – this had not unfortunately been progressed.

There was discussion around other possible areas of work (which would include data gathering) including:

- Future working with academies,
- Governing bodies
- Visits to schools to support RE
- Offering schools support regarding education on specific faiths
- Development of online social networking service eg Twitter for RE teachers
- Auditing if not monitoring work on RE in City schools
- Training for SACRE members to undertake supportive school visits
- Possible development of list of faith contacts in SACRE to support schools.

Alison agreed to undertake some in-depth research into RE attainment in schools in the City for the next formal meeting.

Additionally, Alison would email a revised version of the questionnaire to the group with a view to it being sent out to schools in the City in early January.

Following discussion of suitable days/times for future meetings as canvassed by Alison's invitation to this meeting, it was agreed that the next formal meeting of the SACRE would be arranged for either Monday 26 January or Monday, 2 February in the Civic Centre (to be confirmed by email). There was general agreement that Monday afternoons were generally the most suitable but consideration of other venues be given for future meetings.

Members noted that the next meeting of the South Central Hub was on 9<sup>th</sup> February and Alison invited any members interested in attending to contact her.

It was also agreed that:

- notes of the meeting would be circulated to members
- the next meeting agenda include a session on the Agreed Syllabus
- copy/link to the Agreed Syllabus be circulated to members
- members bring list of what they could do to support faith teaching in schools
- and further to above produce examples of any protocols in use regarding school visits (Alison)
- for the next meeting members consider what one thing was not being done in schools in the City – perhaps being done by Hampshire as an example.
- Copies of/links to the following be circulated to members:
  - Latest Ofsted report
  - Review of RE in C of E schools
  - RE Council information
  - RE The Truth Unmasked

Members noted that the consultation on revised subject content for GCSE and A level religious studies for first teaching from 2016 ended late December (link below).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gcse-and-a-level-reform-religious-studies>

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