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MEETING	(SACRE) STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
DATE	Monday, 10th June, 2013 4.00 pm
VENUE	CANTELL MATHS & COMPUTING COLLEGE - VIOLET ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON SO16 3GJ
ENQUIRIES	PAT WOOD 023 8083 2302 Email: pat.wood@southampton.gov.uk
MEMBERS	SEE ATTACHED LIST

A G E N D A

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

To appoint a Chair.

2. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

3. **STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

4. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

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

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2013, attached.

6. **MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE**

To update the Membership list.

7. **FEEDBACK ON EVENTS**

8. **REVIEW OF SACRE CONSTITUTION**

To consider the SACRE Constitution and whether any changes be recommended for approval.

9. **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2013 - FOCUS ON RE**

To receive an update from the Senior Inspector for Schools regarding the educational attainment for Religious Education in schools.

10. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

To consider and approve the meeting dates for 2013/14, set out below:

- Monday 7 October 2013, 4 pm
- Monday 3 March 2014, 4 pm
- Monday 9 June 2014, 4 pm

Friday, 31 May 2013

HEAD OF LEGAL, HR 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
The Greek Orthodox Church	Vacancy
The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches	Margaret Blake
The Methodist Church	Gail Ratcliffe
The United Reformed Church	Vacancy
The Assemblies of God	Peter Howard
The Salvation Army	Vacancy

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 (VICE-CHAIR)
Hindu	Priti Dave
Jewish	Vacancy
Muslim	Anas Al-Korj
Sikh	Vacancy

GROUP B

(Four representatives of the Church of England)

The Church of England

Tony Blackshaw
Anne Steele-Arnett
Chris Pritchard
Ros Wigley

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)	Vacant
Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)	Ruth Evans
National Association of Headteachers (NAHT)	Vacant

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 (CHAIR)

Councillor Satvir Kaur

Councillor Dr Darren Paffey

Councillor Brian Parnell

GROUP D SUBSTITUTE

Mrs. K. Martin

OTHERS (Non-voting)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

South Hampshire Humanists Ms. Chris Robinson

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

(SACRE) STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 March 2013

Present:

Group A –

Christian Denominations

Margaret Blake, Gail Ratcliffe and Peter Howard

Other religions

Elizabeth Jenkerson and Anas Al-Korj

Group B – Church of England

Tony Blackshaw and Anne Steele-Arnett

Group C – Teachers

Jackie Meering and Mr D Parrott

Group D – Members of the Council

Councillors Daunt, Paffey, Parnell and Kate Martin

Also in attendance:

Sajid Butt

Others (Non-Voting)

Chris Robinson and Chris Davis

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:-

Group A – David Vane

Group A – Priti Dave

Group A – Andy Mills

Group D – Councillor Kaur

Varina Emblen

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record. (Copy of the Minutes circulated with the Agenda and appended to the signed Minutes).

Matters Arising

Page 1 – Apologies had been received from Anas Al Korj and Ellen Humphries.

Page 2 - Jackie Meering reported that the fourth paragraph should read "The Chair reported that only one written response had been received in connection with the way Collective Worship was taught in schools, although Jackie Meering confirmed that **most primary** schools have themes set each week".

Page 3 – Educational Attainment 2012 - Elizabeth Jenkerson reported that she now had a hard copy of the questionnaire which had been passed to the Chair.

3. **MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE**

It was noted that Anas Al Korj was willing to stand again for a four year term as the Muslim representative. It was further noted that Ellen Humphries (National Association of Headteachers) and Julian Bryant (Association of Teachers and Lecturers) had left SACRE due to change in their circumstances and that the clerk was pursuing new members for these two positions.

The Chair reported that he was enquiring about new members to fill the Quakers, Jewish, Salvation Army, Greek Orthodox, Sikh and United Reformed vacancies.

4. **FEEDBACK ON EVENTS**

Elizabeth Jenkerson reported that an RE Quality Mark had been introduced which would raise the profile of RE in schools. She stated that the high quality Living Difference syllabus required extra training for staff and therefore extra funding, which may not be available.

5. **UPDATE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL OF ENGLAND AND WALES' SUBJECT REVIEW OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The Chair reported that the Religious Education Council of England and Wales' subject review of religious education was at a midpoint and that no further action was currently required.

6. **DISCUSSION ON FAITH SCHOOLS**

The Chair introduced the presentations by giving some statistics about different types of schools in the UK, stating that Academies had started in 2000 and that to date, over half the secondary schools in the UK have converted to Academy status. A discussion took place regarding how RE was monitored in non-Local Authority schools and it was acknowledged that although a City Councillor may be on the Board of Governors, this was not always the case and SACRE members stated that Local Authority representatives had not asked questions about the teaching and results of RE. It was agreed that clarification on the extent of RE teaching and the degree of intervention during an Ofsted report would be useful as it was difficult to know what was happening in non-Local Authority schools unless the Ofsted report quantified the results.

The clerk was asked to forward the electronic link to the list of criteria against Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) in Ofsted inspections

<http://www.retoday.org.uk/news/ofsted-guidance-on-smsc> and also the link to the National Framework for Church Schools

http://portsmouth.anglican.org/what_we_do/education/school_inspection_sias and

<http://www.churchofengland.org/education/national-society/inspecting-our-schools.aspx>

Sajid Butt, Principal of Fitrah Sipps, gave a verbal presentation on his faith school and also tabled a paper which the clerk was asked to circulate to all members. He stated that the school began in 2010 and was an independent school for children in Years 1-6. He outlined the setting up process of the school, the principles and ethos, the make up of the Governing Body and the priorities and challenges for the next two years. Mr Butt said he would like to hear from other members regarding the possibility of sharing learning and experiences. He reported that the finances for the school were limited thereby making the future of the school somewhat uncertain.

Tony Blackshaw, Diocesan Director of Education, gave a verbal presentation on Church of England schools in the UK and the clerk was asked to circulate his presentation notes to members. He spoke about the history; the need for Government to require good results and resources for RE in schools; the openness to welcome all children into Church of England schools and stated that school results tended to be above average.

7. **ATTAINMENT IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT GCSE LEVEL IN SOUTHAMPTON MAINTAINED SCHOOLS**

The meeting noted Varina Emblen's paper on attainment in RE at GCSE level in Southampton Maintained Schools. Although the report listed statistics about numbers of children taking RE GCSE, members were keen to know how many children were from faith schools and also if there had been changes in the way that GCSE option of subjects was offered in schools. The Chair said that he would ask Varina Emblen and let members know. Members were asked to pass any further questions to the Chair so that he could seek clarification.

8. **WESTHILL AWARDS FOR 2013**

The Chair asked that members note the closing date of 30th March for the Westhill Awards for 2013.

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SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

CONSTITUTION

1 **AIM**

- 1.1 The aim of the SACRE is to provide advice to the Authority upon such matters connected with collective worship in schools, and the religious education to be taught in accordance with an agreed syllabus.

2 **OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 The core objectives of the SACRE are:

- to provide independent consultation and detailed scrutiny on any matters within its scope of interest;
- to determine any application from the headteacher of a City school, following consultation with the governing body, for an amendment to the requirement that collective worship be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character; and
- to publish an annual report which:
 - i. specifies any matters on which the SACRE has advised the Authority;
 - ii. broadly describes the nature of that advice; and
 - iii. sets out its reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not initially referred to the SACRE by the Authority.

In addition to making the report available for public inspection, a copy shall be sent to the Qualifications and National Curriculum Authority (QCA) and to such other organisations, including County, Foundation and Voluntary Schools and Academies and local teacher training institutions as the SACRE considers appropriate.

3 **SCOPE OF INTEREST**

- 3.1 The scope of interest of the SACRE shall include:

- any such matters connected with collective worship in City schools, and the religious education to be taught in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the Authority may refer to the SACRE, or as the SACRE may consider appropriate; and
- the statutory duty of the Authority to review its agreed syllabus every five years and to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

4 RELATIONSHIP OF THE SACRE WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

- 4.1 The SACRE will have a separate identity and independent voice within the arrangements. The SACRE should be consulted by the Local Authority on any issues falling within its scope of interest.

5 ACCOUNTABILITY AND BUSINESS PLANNING

- 5.1 The SACRE is independent of the Council. The Education Reform Act 1988 requires the City Council as a Local Authority to establish a SACRE. When reports and actions are required that need to be considered by the Council they will be formally considered by the Cabinet or Cabinet Member or Officer acting under delegated powers.

6 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 The SACRE is established pursuant to the Education Reform Act 1988.
- 6.2 To facilitate the effective operation of the SACRE in accordance with its aims, the SACRE will respond as necessary to any further government guidance, legislation or new initiatives impacting upon the areas of responsibility of functions of the SACRE.

7 THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SACRE

- 7.1 In pursuit of its aims the SACRE will:-

- operate to a timetable that mirrors the municipal year of the Local Education Authority.
- hold meetings (including extraordinary meetings) at a time of day and at an appropriate location to allow full participation by members:
 - i. at the Civic Centre and/or other venues;
 - ii. at the end of the school day;
 - iii. or otherwise notified to SACRE members 5 clear working days before each regular meeting.
- hold its meetings at least once per term, no less than 3 times per year;
- require at least one member from each voting group to be present to constitute a quorum in order to have a fully constituted meeting;
- always seek to operate on a consensus basis. If it is not possible to reach a consensus, members will be required to undertake a formal vote as set out in paragraph 12 of this Constitution.

- review and recommend to Cabinet (Cabinet Member) any amendments to its Constitution on an annual basis at the first meeting of each financial year following a formal consultation process with the relevant parties;
- review and adopt the terms of reference for any sub-committees on an annual basis at the first meeting of each financial year following a formal consultation process with the sub-committees;
- keep a written record of all SACRE meetings and meetings of its sub-committees;
- any member of the SACRE may submit items to be included on the agenda of a main meeting of the SACRE supported by a written statement/report to the Chair at least 10 working days before the meeting;
- agenda and reports will be circulated generally at least 5 working days prior to the meeting;
- create sub-committees where necessary;
- be able to ask that the Local Authority consider holding an extraordinary meeting of the SACRE at the written request of at least one member.

Confidential Business

- Report authors are responsible for informing the clerk, in advance, of the status of reports to be included on the Agenda and if they contain confidential or commercially sensitive information and with such items of business, the principles of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 will apply. Reports that are to be treated as confidential should be marked accordingly and contain the appropriate confidentiality clause.
- Where an item of business before the SACRE is marked as confidential, that item of business will be discussed in private. The professional advisors to the SACRE may attend and speak at the SACRE meetings on consideration of all matters considered in private. Members of the public and observers (including other elected Members or Officers of the Council) shall be excluded from the consideration of any confidential item.

8 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

- 8.1 Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act will be handled in accordance with the Council's published procedures for dealing with such requests.

Any Member of the SACRE receiving a request under the FOIA will be required to pass that request to Legal & Democratic Services within 24 hours of receipt of that request in order that Legal & Democratic Services may deal with the request on behalf of the SACRE within the 20 working day time limit.

Where a request has been made for the disclosure of information covered by a qualified exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or other relevant information), the Chair of the SACRE will be invited to attend a Public Interest Test Panel meeting to consider the potential disclosure. If the Chair is unable to attend the meeting the request will be dealt with by the Panel at their discretion. Where the Panel decides that the balance of interest is in favour of the disclosure of the information requested, Legal & Democratic Services will arrange for disclosure. Where the Panel decides that the balance is in favour of the non-disclosure of the information requested, the information requested will be withheld and Legal & Democratic Services will arrange for the reasons for the decision to be communicated in writing. Such decisions will be made after taking any appropriate legal advice in accordance with the Council's published policies and procedures.

9 MEMBERSHIP

9.1 The SACRE shall comprise members drawn from four groups, appointed by the Authority, as specified below:

GROUP A

One representative of each of the religions and other bodies listed below:

Christian Denominations

The Roman Catholic Church	The Methodist Church
The Baptist Union	The United Reformed Church
The Religious Society of Friends	The Assemblies of God
The Greek Orthodox Church	The Salvation Army
The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches	

Religions other than Christianity

Judaism	Islam
Hinduism	Sikhism
Buddhism	<u>Baha'i</u>

GROUP B

Four representatives of the Church of England

GROUP C

Six teachers representing associations recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and negotiation

GROUP D

Four representatives of the Southampton City Council, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the City Council.

- 9.2 In addition to members drawn from these four groups detailed above, one person appointed by Oasis Community Learning in respect of the Academies operating in the City of Southampton which previously had Community or Voluntary status may sit as a member of the SACRE. Academies are included (for non voting purposes) simply because they are not technically represented by any other group and deliver part of the public sector curriculum (albeit with a different status to maintained schools) and effectively replace the old concept of Government Maintained schools. Foundation schools are not specifically included because they are effectively covered elsewhere as they are maintained schools (in common with community and Voluntary schools) and are thus represented by other groups already present on the Committee.
- 9.3 The SACRE may co-opt additional persons, including such teachers as may be necessary to ensure adequate representation of teachers who are actively concerned with religious education in primary and secondary schools. Co-options shall be for the period set by the SACRE.
- 9.4 Members of the SACRE, with the exception of co-opted members, shall be appointed for a period of four years.
- 9.5 In accordance with regulations, the Local Authority will review the membership of the SACRE on an annual basis in line with the Constitutional review, and may terminate the membership of any member of the SACRE by giving one month's written notice.
- 9.6 In addition to the term of office coming to an end, a member ceases to be a member of the SACRE if he or she resigns from the SACRE or no longer occupies the office which he or she was nominated to represent.
- 9.7 A member of the SACRE appointed by the Authority may be removed from membership by the Authority at any time if, in the opinion of the Authority, the person ceases to be representative of either the denomination, religious group, association or Academy which he/she was appointed to represent.
- 9.8 Subject to condition 9.7, above, members of the SACRE having served a full term are eligible for re-appointment.
- 9.9 The SACRE will receive support and advice from the School Inspectors.

- 9.10 At the discretion of the Chair of the SACRE, Advising Officers can attend SACRE meetings. Advising Officers provide information and professional expertise but are not members of the SACRE and cannot vote.
- 9.11 The Executive Director for Children and Learning and the Executive Member for Children's Services shall have a standing invitation to attend all SACRE and sub committee meetings but are not members of the SACRE and cannot vote. At the discretion of the Chair they may address the meeting.
- 9.12 At the discretion of the Chair of the SACRE, Observers can attend SACRE meetings. Observers are interested individuals who have been invited to attend SACRE meetings. At the discretion of the Chair of the SACRE observers can address the meeting but they are not members of the SACRE and cannot vote.

Meetings of the SACRE are open to the public unless members resolve that an item of business be considered in private session and with such items of business the principles of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 will apply.

Members of the public do not have a right to speak at any meeting of the SACRE but may address the SACRE at the discretion of the Chair. Members of the public do not have rights to vote.

10 **ELECTION AND NOMINATION OF SACRE MEMBERS**

- 10.1 Members of the SACRE are responsible for the method by which they elect and nominate their representatives, and each representative group within the SACRE will be responsible for the method by which they elect their representatives.
- 10.2 The membership of existing schools members is valid until such members' terms of office come to an end or they resign or they become otherwise ineligible for membership. When a vacancy does arise, the authority must appoint a replacement schools member to the SACRE to represent the same group as the retiring member.
- 10.3 Nomination of members is by a process of self-nomination. The SACRE will formally endorse membership by a simple majority vote at the next available meeting of the SACRE.

11 **MEETINGS**

- 11.1 Meetings of the SACRE shall be held in public.

12 **VOTING**

- 12.1 On any matter to be decided by the SACRE, the four groups A, B, C, and D shall be entitled to vote and each group shall have a single vote. The Academies' representative and the co-opted members do not have a vote.
- 12.2 Decisions within a group about how the vote is to be cast do not require unanimity. Each group is to regulate its own proceedings, including provision for resolving deadlock.
- 12.3 In the event of a tied vote, the Chair shall have the casting vote.

13 **CODE OF PRACTICE**

- 13.1 Members of the SACRE will operate in accordance with the Local Code of Conduct for Members. Members are therefore required to sign a declaration in respect of the Code of Conduct and also complete a Register of their Interests.
- 13.2 Interests, whether personal or prejudicial, should be declared. If a member has a prejudicial interest they should declare that interest and withdraw from the meeting and take no part in the decision.
- 13.3 Members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings without a satisfactory explanation will have their membership reviewed by the SACRE.

14 **CHAIRING**

- 14.1 The Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed from the members of Groups A, B, C and D. Such appointments shall be for the Municipal Year or until the person appointed ceases to be a member of the SACRE, whichever is sooner.
- 14.2 Persons continuing to be members of the SACRE are eligible for re-appointment to the position of Chair or Vice Chair.

15 **SERVICING THE COMMITTEE**

- 15.1 The specific responsibilities of the Chair and Members of the SACRE will be as set out in this Constitution and the Education Reform Act 1988.
- 15.2 The specific responsibilities of Democratic Support and Member's Services of the City Council will be to:-
- convene meetings of the SACRE;
 - arrange accommodation for meetings;
 - co-ordinate and act as secretariat to meetings;

- copy, circulate and dispatch appropriate papers; and
- provide appropriate guidance on the operation of local government and other relevant procedures.

15.3 The specific responsibilities of the Professional Advisors to the SACRE will be to

- provide advice to the SACRE and any sub committee(s) on professional issues; and
- advise and update SACRE members on any new government guidance or policy documents.

16 **DISPUTES AND COMPLAINTS**

16.1 The SACRE is intended to be a collaborative, co-operative body and needs to ensure that no particular sector or member is unduly favored. Problems and issues should normally be debated and resolved at the SACRE meetings. However, if parties feel that these have not been resolved, the following process should be followed and minutes taken.

16.2 Stage 1: The parties who are in dispute meet with the Chair of the SACRE and the Professional Advisor who will assist in finding or recommending a solution.

16.3 Stage 2: A special meeting of the SACRE is convened, with papers prepared by the parties representing different views. The Chair and the Professional Advisor also prepare a paper offering possible options for resolution. If the problem is not resolved, the dispute is referred to Stage 3.

16.4 Stage 3: If the issue is not resolved then guidance or clarification will be sought from the relevant Government Department.

16.5 Complaints from members of the public will be handled by the Council's Complaints Procedure.

17 **NON COMPLIANCE OF ACTIVITIES**

17.1 Issues of non-compliance will, in the first instance, be referred to the Chair of the SACRE who will investigate and attempt to reach satisfactory resolution through discussion with the representative of the agency concerned. In the event of satisfactory resolution not being reached, the matter will be referred to the next SACRE meeting.

18 **MONITORING AND INSPECTION**

18.1 The effectiveness of the SACRE will be assessed by Internal Review.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

- 18.2 The SACRE and its members will co-operate with any reasonable request by the Council in respect of its overview and scrutiny functions under Section 21 Local Government Act 2000. Any requests for information or attendance of SACRE members at the relevant overview and scrutiny committee will be made as soon as possible and generally at least 10 days before the meeting.

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