

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2009**

**AT THE CIVIC CENTRE, SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL**

**PRESENT:**

**Group A Members**

Bridget Goom	The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Peter Howard	The Assemblies of God
Ms Mag Kushner	Jewish representative
Rev David Turner	The Baptists

**Group B Members**

Tony Blackshaw	The Church of England
Lilian Weatherley	The Church of England

**Group C Members**

Jackie Meering	National Union of Teachers (NUT)
David Parrott	National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
Julian Bryant	The Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)

**Group D Members**

Councillor Carol Cunio	Southampton City Council
Councillor Edward Daunt (Vice-Chair)	Southampton City Council
Councillor Brian Parnell	Southampton City Council

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Sue Langdon – Secondary Phase Inspector	Southampton City Council
Vicky Pett – Democratic Support Officer	Southampton City Council

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

**COUNCILLOR DAUNT IN THE CHAIR**

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

At the invitation of the Vice-Chair, a moment of reflection was provided at the start of the meeting by the Jewish representative, Ms Mag Kushner.

Apologies were received from:-

Group A:

Rev David Sillince  
David Vane – Buddhist representative

Priti Dave – Hindu representative

Jeff Lynn – Baha’I representative

Group C

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

Group D

Councillor Damani (Chair)

Group D Substitute

Mrs K Martin

Co-opted Members

Ms Chris Robinson

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 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 meeting received a verbal update from the Vice-Chair on the current membership of the SACRE.

New Member

The Chair announced the following new member nomination whose membership was duly formally endorsed:-

Group C

David Parrott, representing The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT), replacing Mr Don Bulmer.

Co-opted Member

Sian Roberts had provided temporary cover for Mr Bulmer during his long illness. However, the meeting was keen that Sian’s valuable contribution to SACRE as a teacher actively concerned with religious education in school, and member of the Teachers’ Subject Network, should continue.

RESOLVED that Sian Roberts be co-opted as a member of SACRE for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

**4. REVIEW OF SACRE CONSTITUTION**

Members considered the report of the Chair of SACRE reviewing the SACRE Constitution and the amendments shown as track-changes in Appendix 1.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the amendments indicated by track-changes in Appendix 1 be accepted;
- (ii) that, in addition, under Group A Membership in Clause 9.1 of the SACRE Constitution, Baha’i be added to the existing list of Religions other than Christianity represented (as adopted at the meeting of SACRE on 14 July 2008).

**5. FEEDBACK ON EVENTS**

CHANGES TO OFSTED FRAMEWORK

The Secondary Phase Inspector gave a verbal report on the impact of the new Ofsted Framework and provided a written summary of the changes.

The meeting heard that the timing and frequency of the inspections would be changing and that the Report Card, which was designed to give a 'healthcheck' on the school, would form the core of the process by which Ofsted selected schools for inspection. Schools would be 'red-flagged' following a sampling procedure, with attendance and exclusion issues likely to trigger an assessment.

The meeting also heard that other priorities of the new Ofsted Framework included checking schools' procedures for safeguarding, and the effectiveness with which the school promotes community cohesion. The meeting noted that Community Cohesion was the Fifth Dimension of SACRE's Development Plan.

#### ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

The Secondary Phase Inspector gave a verbal update on the funding situation and suggested that, since the funding stream from Schools Standards would not be available to SACRE from March 2011, additional sources should be explored. It was felt that, since there was a similarity of messages, there might be some potential for rationalising resources with the Community Cohesion division in the City, which included the Prevent agenda.

RESOLVED that a representative from the Community Cohesion area of the Council be invited to attend a future meeting of SACRE.

#### ANNUAL REPORT

The Secondary Phase Inspector reported that the SACRE Annual Report 2007-08 approved at the 15 June 2009 meeting would be made available for public inspection and circulated (as per Clause 2.1 of SACRE's Constitution) at the conclusion of appeals to examination results. This was imminent.

#### LOCAL SACRE'S NETWORK GROUP MEETING ON 29 JUNE 09

Members had received the Minutes from the above meeting. The Secondary Phase Inspector reported that these meetings had been very useful. Members heard that, from now on, the Group would only be meeting twice a year.

#### FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL FAITH GROUPS

No feedback was offered.

### **6. THE FIRST INTERFAITH WEEK IN ENGLAND (15-21 NOVEMBER 2009)**

In the absence of Jeff Lynn, it was not possible to hear this item.

RESOLVED that, due to the impending date of the Interfaith Week, which made it impossible to defer the item to a future meeting, information would be emailed to members following the meeting.

### **7. SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Councillor Daunt gave a verbal update on the Plan and presented written material provided by members of the working group set up to progress the Development plan who were not present. Jackie Meering was present and with the consent of

the Chair, addressed the meeting.

Members heard the following:-

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

The self-evaluation form to be completed by subject leaders, senior leaders and shown to governors, was the most logical action for the Development Plan in order for SACRE to support and help improve the standards and quality of provision of RE.

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

There would be more information at the next meeting but the first objective proposed was for a moment of reflection at the start of SACRE meetings, led on a rotating basis by the various faith groups.

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

Since the Agreed Syllabus was currently under review there was not much to report at this stage.

Dimension 4: Collective Worship (update from Peter Howard)

There had been discussions on issues relating to the practice and provision for collective worship, but no detailed guidance given to schools by SACRE and no monitoring of provision. Also, there was a lack of awareness of the latest national developments in collective worship. Therefore, it was not possible to rate this Dimension as 'above development'. There had been little on SACRE agendas.

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

No update had been provided for this Dimension.

Members also heard that this item was to be the main item for consideration at the next SACRE meeting, with a more detailed analysis on each of the Development Plan Dimensions from the Working Group.

RESOLVED that the verbal update be noted.

## **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

In addition to the items given on the agenda members requested that a representative from the Community Cohesion area of the Council be invited to attend a future meeting of SACRE (as minuted above).

## **9. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

1. Monday 8 March 2010
2. Monday 14 June 2010

Both at 4.00pm. Venues to be advised.