
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 JUNE 2016

Present:

Group A –
Christian Denominations
Ruth Cunio, Susanne Dawson

Other religions
David Vane

Group B – Church of England
Rev Duncan Jennings, Sam Jordan, Richard Wharton

Group C – Teachers
Jackie Meering, David Parrott, Julian Waterfield

Group D – Members of the Council
Councillors J Baillie, Laurent and Jordan, Kate Martin

Also in attendance:
Alison Phillpot – Professional Advisor

Others (Non-Voting)
Mary Wallbank – Humanist
Suzanne Underwood (ASC Writing Group)

Apologies
Chris Davis, Priti Dave and Allan King

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

RESOLVED that Jackie Meering be appointed as Chair for the remainder of the municipal year.

JACKIE MEERING IN THE CHAIR

The SACRE agreed not to elect a Vice-Chair at this meeting.

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

The Chair welcomed new members to the SACRE. It was noted that Ruth Cunio had joined as representative for the Catholic Faith; Sam Jordan was now a representative

for Group B in place of Rev Jeff Williams and Councillors J Baillie, Jordan, Laurent and Payne were representatives in Group D.

Apologies were received from:

Group A – Priti Dave and Chris Davis

Group B – Allan King

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **OFSTED UPDATE**

The SACRE received a verbal update on the Ofsted Inspections which had occurred under the new framework since September 2015. During a number of the inspections it was noted that SMSC (Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural education) was a strength within the school. One school would be monitored during the next year as a result of actions within its Ofsted report, it was aware of this and support was already being given to the school.

5. **UPDATE ON ACTION PLAN**

Alison Philpott stated that during the last year, each member had signed up to a group within the Action Plan and this approach was to be encouraged for the new academic year.

The groups gave progress reports as follows:

Advice Document – The SACRE heard that most of the paper copies of the Advice Document had been allocated and that the document had been well received in schools. The advice document was programmed to go on the SACRE website, be updated annually and schools would be able to contribute into the process. All schools had received an electronic copy and all had the offer of one hard copy per school to be collected at a Head teachers meeting that was held in March. Positive feedback on the document had been received at a recent conference where it was launched. It was further noted that the Muslim Council had recently produced a Guidance Document and Alison Philpott stated that she would endeavour to get this document into schools.

Film Project – The group had been working in conjunction with Solent University which would be an ongoing situation as it had worked well. Four films had been produced for use in schools and these had encouraged adults to review how children view RE issues, which had been both interesting and informative. David Vane suggested that the films could possibly be promoted during Interfaith Week in November. The Chair suggested that the SACRE logo be put at the end of each film so that the viewer knew its origin.

Road Show/Debate – A competition “The 8 Chair Challenge” had been drafted for primary and secondary schools and this was tabled at the meeting. The members recognised the need to continue to update the list of “influential people” within the competition and were asked to make suggestions to Suzanne Underwood and Sam Jordan. The idea of one man and one woman per faith was put forward.

It was further suggested that the name of the competition be amended to “The 6 Chair Challenge”. It was recognised that in order to make the competition a success, it required a good team to work on the final version – volunteers were asked to sign up if they wanted to work on this project.

Locally Agreed Syllabus – The SACRE heard that an updated, clearer, Locally Agreed Syllabus would be launched in the autumn. Once the syllabus had been formally adopted, it would be put on the SACRE website. The group were due to meet on 12 July and would report back to the September meeting with the syllabus to be voted upon – the SACRE would convene the ASC at the next meeting to fulfil this statutory function.

Monitoring – The SACRE noted that one school had cancelled their monitoring visit, albeit for valid reasons and this school will be monitored in the Autumn term. In general, the monitoring programme had been well received and it had become clear that there was a good awareness in RE within schools monitored this year. The monitoring group will carry out the final visit of the year the day after the meeting and so a review from the group will be tabled at the next SACRE meeting.

Research – this item was deferred until the next meeting as Chris Davis had sent apologies.

Website – Alison Philpott stated that the new website would be launched in the near future and would be found on the Southampton Information Directory, “Just for Practitioners” channel.

6. FEEDBACK ON EVENTS

The SACRE received feedback on the Peace Walk that had taken place on 5 June. This had been well attended and in future there would be one walk in November and one in June, with the area being split into two sections. It was suggested that the November Peace Walk be advertised in schools in September.

7. NATIONAL POSITION ON R E

The SACRE discussed the high court ruling issued by NASACRE, although many members had had difficulty in gaining access to this matter due to technical issues with their website.

The SACRE noted that the RE syllabus for GCSE did not incorporate a Humanist element which was not technically correct under statutory RE requirements. However schools often covered Humanism at other times and therefore there was simply a need to be aware of this matter.

It was noted that the Locally Agreed Syllabus was delivered by some Academies although this depended on their individual funding agreement. The SACRE acknowledged its responsibility to schools to teach RE and potentially the correct teaching of RE within Academies was a wider issue to be addressed.

8. **DATES OF MEETINGS 2016/17**

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on 19 September 2016 at 4pm in the Civic Centre. This will be the ASC meeting and must be quorate. An additional short SACRE meeting will follow for action plan items and planning launch of Agreed Syllabus, if approved.

It was further agreed to hold meetings on the following dates, the venues for which would be agreed at the September meeting.

- 28 November 2016 – **longer meeting with Launch of Agreed Syllabus if approved at full council meeting**
- 6 March 2017
- 10 July 2017