

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 04 September 2017

Present:

GROUP A

Christian Denominations

Other Religions

Baha'i

Elizabeth Jenkerson

GROUP B

The Church of England

Rev Duncan Jennings
Allan King

From diocesan education team:

Richard Wharton

GROUP C

National Union of Teachers (NUT)

Jackie Meering (Chair)

GROUP D

Southampton City Council

Councillor John Jordan
Councillor Valerie Laurent
Mrs. Kate Martin

Group D Substitute

OTHERS (Non-voting)

ASC Group

Bitterne Park Secondary School

Suzanne Underwood

In attendance

Professional Adviser – Southampton City Council
RDA Class Teacher, Bitterne CE Primary School
Meeting Support Officers:

Alison Philpott
Pauline Abbott (Speaker)
Kaye Cantor
Stephanie Wickenkamp

Apologies:

Chris Davis	Southampton City Mission	Group A
Susanne Dawson	United Reformed Church	Group A
Priti Dave	Hindu	Group A
Sam Jordan	Church of England	Group B
Councillor Warwick Payne	Southampton City Council	Group D
Mary Wallbank	South Hampshire Humanists	Co-opted Member

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES and CHANGES OF MEMBERSHIP

The Chair welcomed assembled delegates to the meeting and apologies were noted as above. Where delegates cannot attend, the Chair encouraged named substitutes.

The Chair welcomed KC and SW from the Meeting Support Team.

ACTION: All asked to forward their named substitute contact details to AP.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Chair noted that the meeting has a quorum.

EJ and Rev. DJ proposed JM as Chair for this Academic year. Votes taken with majority in favour.

JM asked members for voluntary election of vice chair, which has been outstanding from previous SACRE meetings. EJ volunteered to stand as Vice Chair. Cllr VL proposed EJ with RW as seconder. Votes taken with majority in favour.

Round the table introductions were made to aid minute taking.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Register of Members Interest document was distributed. The return address to Meeting Support was noted. Discussed how the forms are to be completed. AP noted this is for personal interests.

ACTION: All to bring back completed to the next meeting.
AP will send a copy to any delegates who are not in attendance.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEW

The Code of Conduct forms were circulated. It was noted that the Members' [Code of Conduct](#) can be found in 12 part 5 of the Council Constitution.

ACTION: The Chair asked for all to review this, so the Code of Conduct forms can be signed and brought to the next meeting.

AP will send a copy to delegates who are not in attendance.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND NEW CLERKING ARRANGEMENTS

The last set of minutes were from the meeting held in March 2017 as the July meeting was cancelled. The Chair noted that the March meeting was not quorate, so no decisions were made. New clerking arrangements were discussed and Meeting Support Officers will provide support to future meetings.

ACTION: KM's contact email needs to be updated, so that agendas are received.

Delegates to email SACRE queries and membership updates to AP.

AP will forward any membership or meeting emails to:
Meeting.support@southampton.gov.uk putting 'SACRE' in the subject heading.

6. GOOD PRACTICE PRESENTATIONS FROM SCHOOLS: (CLASS BASED COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT BITTERNE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL)

AP explained the aim for SACRE meetings is to share RE best practice and resources. Speakers will be invited to future meetings.

Pauline Abbott (PA) was welcomed to the meeting by the Chair. PA is an RE Teacher based at Bitterne CE Primary School. The school received a monitoring visit last March, in the first cohort of 9. The school achieved an "Outstanding" rating from their SIAS inspection from the diocese last academic year.

Since 2011, PA has widely researched class-led, child-based worship. This resulted in a Farmington scholarship for one day a week for a year. Following the scholarship PA conducted further work and developed resources.

PA is now working to roll out the resource pack product, with implementation at a school in Winchester. PA handed round an example of a Child-Led Collective Worship (CLCW) outline: 'Forgiveness' from the pack. There are different leaflets for years 3 / 4 and 5 / 6.

PA gave a slide show presentation, emphasising the innovative nature of children leading, preparing and participating in worship. PA has coached 480 children and supported 17 teachers and collated evaluation about the pack.

The resources are centred around Christian values, to develop children's theological thinking. PA stated the impact of this is most important, helping children to develop a personal approach on their perception of the world. The material challenges children about how they can think and behave differently. Children are encouraged to be creative in presenting the worship.

KM asked how much time is given to prepare for the worship. PA answered that worship is prepared within school time. For years 5 / 6 this is for about two weeks, during lunch and break times. For years 3 / 4 preparation is about two hours.

KM asked about children who have mixed literacy ability. PA explained that no-one has to write anything, it is all discussion based and can be presented in any format. The group leading the worship are no more than 4 in number.

PA gave powerful examples in a powerpoint slide prepared by a group of Muslim children in Oxford. The statements were created with their Teacher's help following preparation for collective worship:

- 'Forgiveness is always possible and you can do anything'
- 'Learn to give people a second chance'
- 'Think before you say things'.
- What if felt like when they were forgiven:
'I feel like a bird above the clouds and not a bird in a cage.'

The programme aims to help children think about how they live with other people whether they have a faith or none. Other benefits noted:

- Building self-esteem and confidence
- Improving teamwork in developing the worship
- Promoting empathy
- Produces resilience
- Learning from one another
- Enhances listening skills
- Develops faith

EJ asked about the frequency of worship sessions. PA stated there are resources for one every half term and the pack has eight. Sessions last about 20 - 30 minutes.

Rev. DJ asked about support from Teachers and adults for years 5 / 6. PA agreed this is a sensitive path.

EJ asked if there is an opportunity for prayer. PA confirmed all sessions have 'Include a Prayer'.

EJ asked if the whole school is involved in collective worship. PA explained the worship is class based.

Cllr JJ referred back to PA discussing her experience of teaching collective worship in a school with a 60% Muslim faith. He questioned how a school with a different faith can use the pack. PA stated the pack is designed for SIAMS schools and Muslim children can and do lead worship. AP stated if there was a particular faith group, the resources would be sensitively used and adapted according to context. JM emphasised the values are for all faiths or none.

AP thanked PA for the presentation. JM commented if delegates have an opportunity to watch child-led collective worship, this is worthwhile.

PA left the group with contact details and leaflets about the product pack available to schools. AK praised the product and mentioned it would be worth a discussion at the Heads' Conference.

7. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS TO BE AGREED FOR 2017-18

Proposed dates: 6 November 2017: **Alternative date of 13 November agreed.**
22 January 2018: Agreed
4 June 2018: Agreed

ACTION: Meeting Support to book venue for 13 November meeting.

8. MONITORING GROUP UPDATE – VERBAL FROM GROUP

A document regarding monitoring visits to schools was distributed. AP and JM gave a verbal update on Monitoring Group visits, commenting that schools have been great at sharing information.

It was noted schools are now making more provision for RE because there is a statutory requirement to deliver and monitoring is supporting this. One school has more than doubled the number of children taking GCSE. Another has seen numbers of children participating raised from 3 to 44. This is usually as a result of provision developing/remaining strong in Key Stage 3, then taken up in Key Stage 4 for exams.

AP talked about the impact of removing RE from EBacc. Work is in progress to address this.

Last year 23 primary schools took up training and agreed for their syllabus. AP is now to look at secondary school needs.

AP discussed the opportunity of Training for Primary Practitioners being implemented. 23 schools took up the training. JM confirmed arrangements with Hampshire and AP agreed this needs to happen locally.

KM asked about secondary numbers of specialists teaching RE but AP does not have the statistics. AP stated there is recognition of need for continuity but this is not a high priority across secondary schools.

AP commented that there are less R.E. specialists, as fewer students are training to teach RE as specialists but there are opportunities to do this.

Monitoring Group visits will be made to up to half of schools by the end of this year. JM asked if anyone was interested in joining the group to get in touch with AP. Monitoring Group members need a voluntary DBS check and to have no connection to the school being visited. Rev. DJ stated he felt it a privilege to be part of the group. KM is happy to continue.

9. ACTION PLANNING FOR 2017-19

Action Plan items discussed and the following were agreed to carry forward:

Film Project

AP explained Year 1 films are available on the web (You Tube) however, Year 2 films are of a different quality and will be put onto the website with the first year films

for schools to use as appropriate. The coming year it is proposed to pitch for some films for year 9, pupil year assembly and secondary schools. JM confirmed this needs to be SACRE led and where this goes through to secondary, being clear about what is offered.

ACTION: AP to check with Kate regarding progress with website films.

Collective Worship

AP stated further work is needed to support and challenge through governing bodies what good collective worship looks like. The range of resources needs to be explored and guidance developed. A working party group to take this forward over the next 12 – 18 months.

Secondary RE Network Group

The last network meeting was in the summer. Another event is planned on 9 November with all secondaries in the city. Interested delegates were invited to attend a planning meeting on 19 September 2.30pm - 5.00pm.

ACTION: AP to send details of the planning meeting with the minutes.

Post meeting note:

Meeting to be held at Richard Taunton College and members should confirm with AP if they are going to attend the planning meeting.

Review Advice Document

To add and amend as per last year.

AP stated Hampshire SACRE have developed their own guidance which will be circulated to Hampshire schools next week.

KJ asked about Hospital Chaplains and AP stated this can be brought to the next meeting:

ACTION: AP for agenda item on Hospital Chaplains.

AP suggested adding 'Visitors to schools' – both visits by schools and visitors to schools; this is a common theme at the monitoring visits.

KM suggested developing a support network and contacting faith based groups. This was discussed, however it was felt SACRE would not be able to make recommendations regarding this.

ACTION: It was agreed that AP will contact faith groups, liaising with David Vane to ensure all their website contacts content is up to date.

JM asked about CD's report on provision and suggested when finalised, this is brought to a future SACRE meeting.

ACTION: AP to liaise with CD regarding the report.

JM concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Next Meeting: Monday 13 November
4pm – 6pm
Conference Room 3, 1st Floor, Civic Centre