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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 July 2023

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Present:

Group A –

Christian Denominations

The Baptists – Chris Davies

The Religious Society of Friends – Vacancy

The Greek Orthodox Church – Vacancy

The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches – Ruth Gill

The Methodist Church - Vacancy

The United Reformed Church –Susanne Dawson

The Assemblies of God - Neil Maddock

The Salvation Army - Vacancy

Southampton City Mission – Ellie Cousins

Other religions

Muslim – Imam Sayfullah

Other Bodies

Mary Wallbank – South Hampshire Humanists

Group B – Church of England

Liz Allen

Lucy Heptinstall

Vacancy

From Diocesan education team

Richard Wharton

Group C – Teachers

No members present

Group D – Members of the Council

Councillors Beaurain, McEwing, Webb and Wood

Also in attendance:

Others co-opted (Non-Voting)

Southampton City Council, Professional Advisor - Alison Philpott

Primary RE Lead Rep - Ellen Brodigan

Southampton Council of Faiths – Tim Toffs

Apologies

Steve Deadman

Chris Davis

Elizabeth Jenkerson

David Vane

Claire Wikley

Kate Martin

Councillor Lambert

Suzanne Underwood

Amelia Day

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

Members noted the resignation of Kate Martin from the Advisory Council and thanked her for all of her hard work over the years.

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

The members present noted that the meeting was not quorate and therefore it was unable to elect a Chair or Vice-Chair at this meeting and noted that the election would take place at the next scheduled meeting. In the absence of a vote the position of chair at the meeting was Chaired by Ruth Gill.

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. **NEW ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR MEMBERS PROPOSAL**

Members present took part in an activity exploring an number of options that could be seen to define a new description of the role and expectations of a of SACRE Member.

Following the exercise It was explained that the findings would help to form the basis for for the role description in the forthcoming induction pack.

5. **NASACRE WEBSITE NAVIGATION**

A demonstration of the NASACRE website outlined to members the very useful resources and information that was available online <https://nasacre.org.uk/> Members were informed that the password for member areas would be circulated seperately.

6. **SACRE SELF-EVALUATION - FINALISED FOR ACTION PLANNING DISCUSSION**

Members were unable to sign off the finalised review as the meeting was not quorate. It was noted that the item would return to a later meeting for ratification.

Members present discussed potential items for the forthcoming plan and noted that a focus should be:

- to reinstate a program of school reviews;
- improve awareness and acceptance of the diversity of faiths and beliefs; and
- establish a network of spokesperson for faiths and beliefs that could be called upon by schools to promote a clearer understanding of issues relating to their beliefs.

7. **MONITORING VISITS SCHOOLS - ANNUAL REVIEW**

Members learnt that only 1 school visit had taken place in the previous year due to restrictions relating to Covid protocols and a number of issues. The Members were informed that it was an important part of the Role of SACRE and that most requested visits were at the behest of a school's head teacher. It was noted that reintroduction of a robust visit frame should be part of the forthcoming action plan.

8. **MONITORING VISITS SCHOOLS IN 2023-2024**

Members were briefed on the need to resume visits as schools had found visits a valuable tool in the past to help assess how they were performing against the agreed syllabus for religious education especially for the period in a child's school life after the choice of GCSE subjects. It was noted that even for those children who had not undertaken to study religious education there was an obligation on the school to provide an element of education that helped students understand.