



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 October 2023

Present:

Group A –

Christian Denominations

The Roman Catholic Church – Steve Deadman

The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches – Ruth Gill

Southampton City Mission – Joyce Wan

Other religions and beliefs

Muslim – Imam Sayfullah

South Hampshire Humanists – Mary Wallbank

Group B – Church of England

Liz Allen

Lucy Heptinstall

From Diocesan education team

Richard Wharton

Group C – Teachers

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers –
Suzanne Underwood

Group D – Members of the Council

Councillors Webb and Wood

Also in attendance:

Kate Lewis – SCC Governance and Leadership Advisor

Ed Grimshaw - Clerk

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

SACRE noted the apologies of Councillors Beaurain and Lambert. It was also noted that Joyce Wan was now acting as the Southampton City Mission Representative covering for Ellie Cousins who was away on maternity leave. No other changes to membership had been notified.

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

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Ruth Gill be elected as Chair for the Municipal Year 2023/24; and
- (ii) Suzzane Underwood be elected as Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2023/24

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

RESOLVED that SACRE approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2023 and the notes taken on 10 July 2023

4. **FEEDBACK ON EVENTS**

SACRE Members were informed of forthcoming events:

- **One City** event will be taking place on **Thursday 9th November at Bitterne Park School.**

If you would like to attend the event, please confirm your attendance with Suzzane Underwood suzanne.underwood@bitterneparkschool.org.uk and Trevor Pine (RE Network Chairperson) Trevor.Pine@regentspark.southampton.sch.uk.

- **NASCRE Collective Worship (joint with AREIAC) virtual training session: Monday 20 November, 4-5.30pm**

If you would like to attend the event, please contact Alison Philpot for details and access codes.

5. **SACRE SELF-EVALUATION**

Members received an updated version of the self-evaluation form following discussions at previous meetings. It was agreed to sign off the finalised self -evaluation form so that this could inform the Action Plan for Sacre that would be presented to a future meeting for sign off.

6. **INFORMATION SHARING**

SACRE member received presentations from Imam Sayfullah of Hampshire Islamic Outreach Society, based in Southampton and Joyce Wan from Southampton City Mission. The presentations set out how these organisations reach out to schools and community organisation in order to bring a greater understanding of their respected faiths into the community and foster a greater tolerance of other beliefs.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

SACRE members learned that case law in England had now established that the position taken by Southampton in regard to the humanist organisations was in fact correct.

Kate Lewis SCC Leadership and governance advisor will lead the review of the constitution this year, those wishing to support this should contact Kate at kathereine.lewis@southampton.gov.uk

In addition it was noted that Ruth Gill hoped to table an updated version of the SACRE advice document at the next meeting for discussion.