



OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNANCE

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wednesday 11 July 2018
1.00 pm
Council House, PL1 2AA

Members:

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Dreaan, Mrs Johnson, McDonald, Morris, Tuohy.
Bakari Arabi, Cathy Bowness, Mark Andrew Dearden, Katie Freeman, Gary Fletcher, Liz Hill, Gwen Hughes, Malc Halliday, Jayesh Bhagat, Ed Pawson, Mirella Paganuzzi, Margaret Thompson, Louis Efthymiou, Claire Linden, Sara Wells, Ben Kerr and Barbara Wintersgill.

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.

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Tracey Lee
Chief Executive

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

PART I

Agenda

1. The appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair

Members will be asked to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair for the forthcoming municipal year 2018/19.

2. Apologies

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by SACRE Members.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of items on this agenda.

4. Minutes

(Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2018.

5. Chair's Urgent Business

To receive reports on business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

6. Reviewing the role of Plymouth Sacre and its members

(Pages 5 - 10)

Members will review the role of Plymouth Sacre.

7. AOB

Members will be invited to raise any other items of business.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Monday 12 March 2018

PRESENT:

Martin Edmonds, in the Chair.

Helena Mitchell, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Aspinall and Drear.

Bakari Arabi, Dr Judith Beckman, MarkAndrew Dearden, Katie Freeman, Gary Futcher, Elizabeth Hill, Gwen Hughes, Claire Linden, Ed Pawson, Dr Barbara Wintersgill.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Ball, Cathy Bowness, Councillor Morris, Jayash Bhagat, Alison Williams, Louis Efthymiou, and Malcom Halliday.

Also in attendance: Jonathan Marshall (RE Adviser), Heather Ogburn (Senior Leadership Adviser) and Helen Rickman (Democratic Adviser).

The meeting started at 1.30 pm and finished at 3.05 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

29. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest in accordance with the code of conduct.

30. **Minutes**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2017 are an accurate record subject to Claire Linden's attendance being included.

31. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

32. **Welcome to New Members**

The Chair welcomed Dr Judith Beckman to the meeting who was to replace Anna Kelly in Group A (Christian and other religious denominations, not including Church of England).

The Chair also highlighted that Jayesh Bhagat (Buddhist representative for Group A), Malcolm Halliday (Baptist representative for Group A) and Louis Efthymiou (Greek Orthodox Co-opted representative) had joined SACRE however due to apologies submitted were unable to attend.

Order of Business

With the permission of the Chair, the order of business was changed and was reflected in the minutes below.

33. **National and Local News and Developments, including the Commission on RE**

Katie Freeman presented the National and Local News and Developments (including the Commission on RE) item to Members along with Callum and Cody, two Year 5 students from St Matthew's Church of England Primary and Nursery Academy).

Members were advised that Katie had recently attended a meeting in Exeter to discuss the state of RE in which she read out quotes from students in her class. Katie's presentation was well received as she had provided the students viewpoint to RE and as a result the Commission sent a representative to her school to speak to the children.

Callum and Cody presented SACRE with what they considered to be good RE, bad RE and highlighted misconceptions surrounding RE, the differences in how RE is taught in different schools and year groups and the impact of changing the name of RE to Religious Ethics.

Members thanked Katie, Callum and Cody for their updates and attendance at the meeting.

34. **SACRE Annual Report**

Jonathan Marshall (RE Adviser) presented the SACRE Annual Report and highlighted the statutory duty to do so.

Agreed the SACRE Annual Report.

Under this item the Chair advised Members that this was Jonathan Marshall's last meeting supporting SACRE as he was due to retire and move to France; Members thanked Jonathan for his dedication to the role and wished him well for the future.

35. **Matters Arising**

Jonathan Marshall (RE Adviser) provided Members with an update on a recommendation discussed at the previous meeting.

Members were advised that –

- (a) with reference to minute 20 'Annual Report and Examination Results', and SACRE's decision to write a letter to all schools congratulating those achieving a GCSE in RE, Jonathan advised Members that he did not consider a blanket letter would be appropriate due to the issue of non-compliance in teaching RE in some schools across the city. Members were concerned that several schools were not complying and were advised that a freedom of information request had been submitted with regards to the number of hours RE was being taught in local schools.

Members agreed that further information regarding the non-compliance of teaching RE in schools should be provided to Heather Ogburn (Senior Leadership Adviser).

36. **Presentation from Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity on Current Developments**

Claire Linden (Centre for Faiths & Cultural Diversity) provided a brief update on current developments.

Members were advised that –

- (a) the Centre for Faiths & Cultural Diversity newsletter was now being emailed to SACRE Members;
- (b) developments had started on a CPD for faith speakers; Jonathan had recently provided training and raising awareness of prevent and British values;
- (c) faith speakers did over 600 visits last year.

Members thanked Claire for her update.

37. **Promoting RE and Religious Tolerance**

Alizeh Abdul Rahman, a sixth form student at Devonport High School for Boys, presented the Promoting RE and Religious Tolerance item.

Members were advised that Alizeh had created a video, which was broadcast on ITV Westcountry, raising awareness and talking about the importance of teaching RE in schools and how it could be improved. As part of her video Alizeh visited Plympton Academy and spoke to Year 8 students regarding what should be taught in RE, as well as how they should be taught. The students participated well and considered that contemporary issues should also be taught.

Members thanked Alizeh for her attendance at the meeting and noted her update.

38. **Feedback from the South West SACRE Conference**

Helena Mitchell provided Members with Feedback from the South West SACRE Conference. Several workshops were scheduled throughout the day including the importance of a Councillor's role on SACRE, teaching Hinduism in Primary school and teaching Buddhism to key stage 3.

Members noted the update.

39. **Feedback from Holocaust Memorial Day Events**

Jonathan Marshall (RE Adviser) provided Members with Feedback from Holocaust Memorial Day Events.

Members were advised that the event was funded by Plymouth Centre for Faiths & Cultural Diversity and was held on the Hoe at the Peace Garden. A tribute to Solly Irving was presented by Jonathan Marshall and an olive tree was plated in his honour.

It was highlighted that there were plans to involve schools in Holocaust Memorial Day in the future.

Members noted the update.

40. **Future SACRE Development, Membership Issues and Adviser Support**

Heather Ogburn (Senior Leadership Adviser) presented the Future of SACRE Development, Memberships Issues and Adviser Support item.

The key topics covered included:

- (a) Jonathan Marshall's retirement and the affect this was going to have on the future workings of SACRE;
- (b) SACRE was previously commissioned out however this service would now be brought back into the Council to support;
- (c) SACRE's budget allowance of £6000;
- (d) membership, representation of faiths, members attendance, focus at meetings;
- (e) the statutory duty of SACRE and if this was being adequately met;
- (f) future planning for the agreed syllabus;
- (g) dates and times of future meetings.

It was agreed that SACRE dates for 2018/19 would be emailed to Members; changes to dates of future meetings would be discussed with the Chair, Lead Officer and Democratic Adviser.

41. **Date and venue of next meeting**

Members were advised that draft dates for SACRE were to be submitted to 26 March 2018 Full Council Meeting.

What is SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education)?

A SACRE is part of local government. Every local authority must have a SACRE and it must meet sufficient times to fulfil its statutory duties. Plymouth SACRE meets three times a year.

- It is a statutory body that all local authorities have to have and support.
- It is representative of the local community and has four groups.
 - ❖ The Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area.
 - ❖ The Church of England
 - ❖ Teacher, Lecturer and Head Teacher Associations
 - ❖ The Local Authority – usually elected members.
 - ❖ SACRE may co-opt other members who have a particular expertise or represent other communities, for example: Humanist; Pagan etc.
- It is responsible for Religious Education and Collective Worship (CW) in most schools.
- It strives to ensure quality experiences for all pupils in RE and CW.
- It makes an annual report available.
- It has the potential to contribute to social harmony and cohesion.

Plymouth SACRE's main function is to advise the local authority (LA) on matters related to Religious Education and collective worship in school.

Plymouth SACRE must:

- advise the local authority (LA) on matters related to agreed syllabus religious education (RE) and collective worship (CW) either in response to a referral from the LA or as it sees fit
- publish an Annual Report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups
- email a copy of the Annual Report to the Secretary of State

Plymouth SACRE must also:

- meet in public, unless confidential information is to be disclosed
- make minutes of its meetings available for inspection (uploaded to the PCC website)

- consider appeals from schools wishing to modify the legal requirement for the majority of acts of collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character; this procedure is called a 'determination' as SACRE determines whether or not to agree the appeal
- monitor the provision and quality of agreed syllabus RE and of CW in order to provide targeted advice and support on teaching agreed syllabus RE
- advise the LA on the provision of training for teachers
- consider complaints about RE and CW referred to them by their LA
- consider whether changes need to be made to the agreed syllabus, in partnership with the LA
- offer advice to the LA in respect of the agreed syllabus and its implementation

Plymouth SACRE may:

- require the LA to review its agreed syllabus
- decide to advise the LA on matters to do with RE and CW
- co-opt individuals, who are not members of any of the groups, for example: to provide educational expertise, the views of young people, or religious and non-religious views that reflect a diverse multi-cultural society

SACREs are responsible for oversight of religious education and collective worship in the majority of maintained schools.

The exceptions are:

- RE in voluntary aided schools where RE is determined by the governors and taught according to the school's trust deed
- collective worship in all schools with a religious character where worship can be reflective of that religious faith
- academies (even those that follow the LA agreed syllabus)

Type of school	Religious education is
Community and Voluntary controlled (VC) schools	taught according to the local authority's agreed syllabus and comes within SACRE's remit.
Voluntary aided (VA) schools	determined by the governors in accordance with the trust deed and reflects the religious character of the school.
Foundation schools with or without a religious character	taught according to the local authority's agreed syllabus.
Trust schools	taught according to the local authority's agreed syllabus.
Academies	Is part of the curriculum, but is taught according to the school's funding agreement.

Type of school	Collective worship
Community	follows the 1996 Education Act and the majority is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.
Voluntary controlled (VC) and Voluntary aided (VA) schools	reflects the Christian character of the school.
Foundation schools without a religious character	follows the 1996 Education Act and the majority is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.
Academies	Collective worship is determined by the academy's funding agreement but must be every day for pupils not withdrawn in whole or in part by their parent.

The Plymouth agreed syllabus for Religious Education

'Engaging with Religion and World Views'

 [Revised religious education syllabus](#) [419KB]

Support for Teachers

A Plymouth RE hub for teachers, which began through the Learn Teach Lead RE project, continues to be supported by Plymouth SACRE and run by Miss Katie Freeman (teacher at St Matthews Primary and Nursery Academy). The Hub meets six times a year and is advertised on the Plymouth Teaching School Alliance (PTSA) website.

Contact

General enquiries should be directed via Helen Rickman:
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Telephone:

Time	Activity
5mins	Welcome, intro to the afternoon - purpose and intended outcomes (5 mins)
10 mins	Consideration of the SACRE Chair and Vice Chair 2018
10 mins	I am a SACRE member because..... complete the statement including strengths you bring to the group.
30 mins	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are SACRE's responsibilities/duties? 2. What can SACRE's do? 3. What do you know about Collective Worship? 4. What do you know about Religious Education? <p>Feedback and summarise.</p>
10 mins	Break
35 mins	<p>From the conversations created by these exercises (SWOT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are our strengths as SACRE? • What do we need to develop? • Where are the opportunities/how can we create them? • Are there threats and how can we mitigate?

20 mins	The way forward – consider the terms of reference in the light of the above along with a budgeted action plan of annual ‘must do’; ‘should do’; ‘could do’.
	Close