

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Tuesday, 18 March 2014

Additional Information

Agenda Item 6 – Draft Swindon SACRE Annual Report

- Chair's Introduction
- Chair's amendments to the main document

Agenda Item 6a – Swindon SACRE Web Pages

- Report by the Chair on proposals for a Swindon SACRE web page

Contact: Stuart Figini (Telephone 01793 463612),
email: sfigini@swindon.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Swindon SACRE Annual Report 2012-2013

Chair's Introduction

Swindon is well known as a railway town (if not THE Railway Town). Home of the Great Western Railway or as GWR was sometimes known, God's Wonderful Railway. But why Swindon? Supposedly it was because Swindon marked the halfway point between London and Bristol - and before geographers write in - halfway in term of power and fuel used. It became a place of innovation, invention and high technology.

We are still a town of innovation and technology, with hi-tech manufacturing and modern service industries sitting alongside the general services needed to keep towns and village running, amidst a thin curtain of agriculture.

Yet Swindon's history predates Mr. I. K. Brunel. The area around Swindon had long been a place of long journeys, the Celts using the river systems, many generations travelling the Ridgeway, both route-ways from the great spiritual centres of Stonehenge and Woodhenge as well as our more local centre of Avebury. The local countryside includes the great white horses. We also sit just above the old Great West Road (A4) and on the modern equivalent, the M4.

Though much of Swindon Borough is new in historic terms, up in Wrde Hill (Highworth) we have a parish church yard in which a Civil War skirmish took place and one of the oldest congregational churches in the area (now the United Reformed Church) and overlooking the main town we have the remains of Blunsdon Abbey. The massive growth of the late nineteen and late twentieth centuries sits within this older context.

Religious Education and Collective Worship, the parts of school life for which SACRE has responsibility, are about bringing together the old and the new. About helping each generation of children and young people, whether they have a personal religious faith or not, understand the key world faiths, other faiths and all the ethical and social issues which the whole of humanity seek to live with or challenge. What can Abraham and the Buddha say about nuclear weapons or abortion? Can we listen to the Kings Saul and David about friendship, leadership or ethnic cleansing? So how do sacred works written down hundreds or thousands of years ago speak to and influence people in (what some people call) this twenty-first century? Or how do those pupils and students with non-religious views address major ethical issues and everyday choices? It is about equipping the young of Swindon to live in a time when the growing majority of the global population are people of faith yet in our own national context it is seen as less important and valid. A time when some of the world's nations and conflicts still are drawn on religious lines, yet most religious leaders would preach a message of peace. To be able to understand the other and their neighbours, wherever they are from and whatever they believe.

Religious Education remains an entitlement of all school and academy pupils from Year R to Year 13 and an option which has to be made available to those who want it in FE colleges. Daily acts of collective worship (whatever that entails) remain a legal entitlement for all school and academy pupils. However reports to government and our own local understanding show that provision of RE and collective worship is not meeting these requirements. Government has no plans to address this, but we are keen to support our local schools and academies in this area. Indeed, we are grateful that the local authority and the local academies continue to work together with us to support all the pupils in this area.

This report contains information about: our SACRE meetings; teacher network meetings; exam results; work from local pupils and students.

As a SACRE we began the year with the meeting chaired by Councillor Doreen Dart, before her death. Her memorial service was a fitting tribute to her and all her passions, including SACRE and the children and young people of the borough. We have sought to build on her legacy of leadership and plan in the coming year to increase our size and representation. I thank my fellow SACRE members for all they did in this year and for their work in the future.

If SACRE can help you and your school in the areas of religious education and collective worship, please contact us. We have a number of very experienced and knowledgeable enthusiasts who are keen to share our time to help you. We hope you find this report helpful to you.

Mark A. Cawte, Chair, Swindon SACRE

Swindon SACRE 2012-2013 Annual Report

Katy,

Thanks for all your hard work in putting this together. I have had the time to offer a full editing, below.

Mark

Amendments

- Page 1-** AMM - "Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)" - initials spelt out
AMM (amend) - "students" and "symbolism" - not capitalised
AMM - "Gospel story" - story not capitalised
AMM - "children" - not capitalised
- Page 2 -** ADD - New Chair's introduction to replace draft
- Page 3 -** AMM - remove "-" at 2012 to - June 2013
AMM - list committee members in alphabetical order
Committee A - AMM - remove deputy from Arun
Committee D - ADD - Councillor Dorren Dart (Chair", to October 2012")
- Page 4 -** ADD - "(Current Committee Officer - Stuart Figini)" and his contact details
All meetings - ADD - "Key" agenda items were
AMM - "National developments in RE" - same item, not capitalised
AMM - "Update of RE Network meetings" - standardise
September - AMM - "assessment" - not capitalised
December - AMM - "tribute" - not capitalised
AMM - "Religious Education Council" - initials spelt out
June - AMM "update" "activities" - not capitalised
- Page 5 -** June - AMM "update" "activities" "draft" - not capitalised
AMM "ten" years - spell small numbers in sentences
AMM add gap at (RE)Provision
- Pages 5-8 -** Can we get the data to add to the report before the meeting (it used to be available in November).
- Page 8 -** 1c - AMM - "key national documents" - not capitalised
2 - AMM - "South-West" "local UTHORITY" - initials spelt out
ADD - the picture of Justin Tomlinson, MP, Swindon North receiving the All-Party Parliamentary Report on RE from Councillor Fay Howard of Swindon SACRE at Haydonleigh Primary School [Fay has the pictures I think]
- Page 9 -** 2a - AMM - "academies" - not capitalised
LPA (thrice) - ADD - "Secondary"
September - AMM - "good practice" - not capitalised

April - AMM - "media" - not capitalised
Primary - October - AMM - "student" - not capitalised
January - AMM - "challenge" - not capitalised
May - AMM - "creative" - not capitalised
AMM - "training" - not capitalised
AMM - "Three secondary colleagues" - numbers and not capitalised
AMM - "Five colleagues" ... "Gloucestershire" - numbers, not capitalised and initials.

Page 10 - AMM - "Local Agreed Syllabus" - capitalised
AMM (twice) - "Local" Agreed Syllabus - second time, capitalised

Swindon SACRE web-page re-organisation - Some thoughts from the Chair

Objective:

To make Swindon SACRE more visible on the web.

The aims of this website re-organisation are to:

- 1) provide a point of information about the Swindon Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) as well as religious education (RE) and collective worship (CW) within the Borough.
- 2) provide a point of contact with Swindon SACRE
- 3) provide and hold our documents
- 4) provide a link to relevant sites and resources for RE, CW and appropriate organisations, locally and nationally.
- 5) increase the profile of Swindon SACRE.

Background

We currently have a page to access agenda and minutes with the Swindon Local Agreed Syllabus (LAS) held elsewhere. We need to increase this to be a portal to more information and be a single point of access and information for the officers and work of Swindon SACRE.

The shape of the site

I think we could summarise and organise the information into six areas:

- Who are we ?
- What do we do ?
- How can we help ?
- Syllabus, publications and what are we doing ?
- Gallery

Detailed content

Who are we ? A welcome from the Chair, information about the groups and names of the members. A first point for contacting the SACRE Clerk, Chair, Advisor and other key persons.

What do we do ? Information about our legal responsibilities, role and how we fulfil it. A brief history of Swindon SACRE and RE / CW in England.

How can we help ? Information about services offered – withdrawing pupils / students; determinations for collective worship; information and advice for head teachers / teachers / governors / parents / pupils and students; complaining – advice and proforma; visits; professional development and training. Another point for contacting the SACRE Clerk, Chair, Advisor and other key persons.

Syllabus, publications and what are we doing ? Swindon LAS; Swindon Advice on Collective Worship; our Annual Reports; other local guidance; local exemplars – work and comments; our committee dates, next meeting agenda and previous minutes; local dates / noticeboard; key national reports. Information on the use of Swindon materials by Swindon academies and non-Swindon users.

Who else can help ? Links to sending groups; local RE / CW partners; links to RE organisations and professional bodies; links to RE / CW sites; links to key educational information on faith groups and religions.

Gallery Pictures and writing by local pupils and students and photos of visits and events. We could note why these are within good practice models of working. Accessible in dated groups, most recent first. (We can start this by using the images from the annual report, then occasionally adding new material.)

Presentation

Ideally we would like an interesting and arresting presentation but we will need to consider whether we need to have all the information on the council server and site or whether it can be held separately.

The site needs to be user-friendly to a variety of users;

clear, easy to navigate and easy to maintain.

One design idea

**Welcome to the website of the
Swindon Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).
Please use the buttons on the left to navigate and use the site.**

**Who
we are ?**

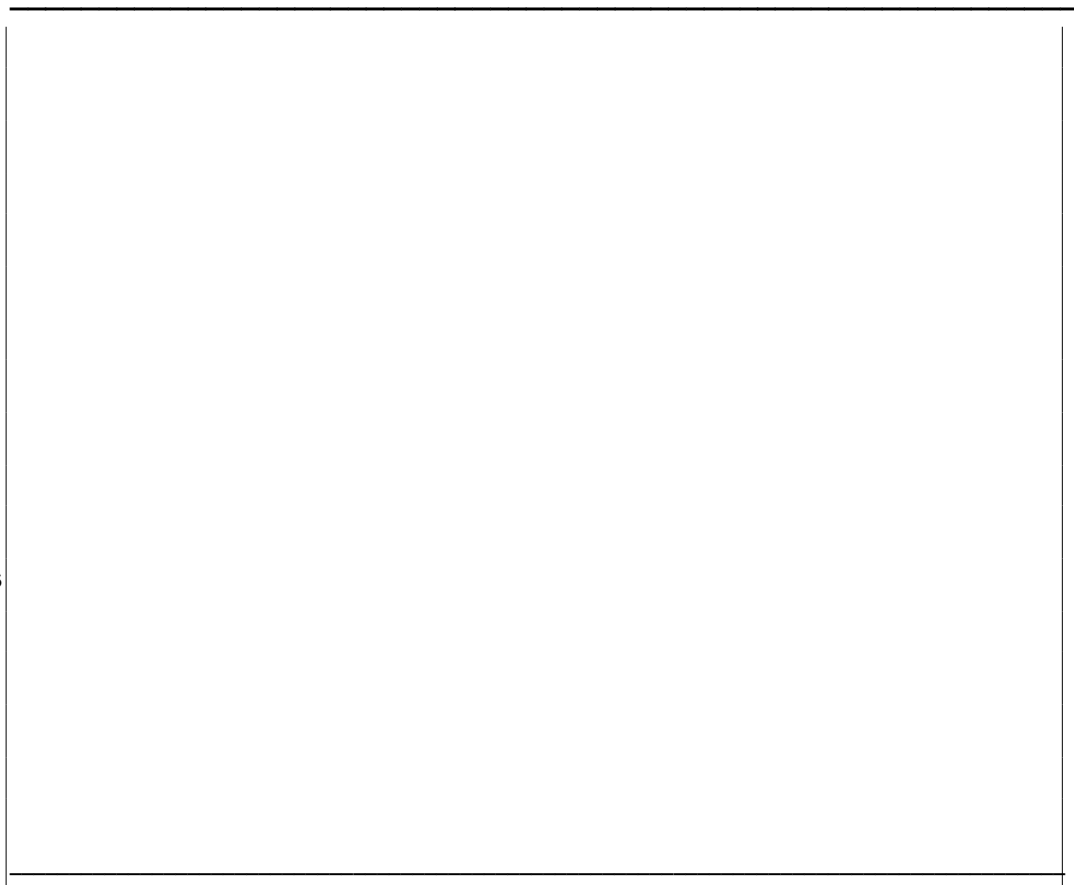
**What
we do ?**

**How we
help ?**

**LAS and
publications**

**Others
who help**

Gallery



The main section (the box) running a gallery slide show until a button is selected.

Up-keep

Clear responsibilities will need to be understood for the overall design and maintenance of the site and its information once established. Access to add and alter information will need to be available to the Clerk, Chair and Advisor and a very limited number of others.

Websites live and breathe by their currency.

Cost and legal implications

The costs will depend on the quality of the presentation and whether or not we can get voluntary support to build and maintain the content. We could also seek support from local businesses or educational charities.

In my opinion (this will need to be checked by the Council's officers) as long as we have appropriate disclaimers on external content there should not be any major problems. We may need a mechanism with the council for agreeing the original content and any subsequent changes to the type of content.

Any suggestions or further thoughts please contact me at: mark.cawte@btinternet.com or on 01793-493379.

Mark CAWTE

Chair, Swindon SACRE

March 2014

This page is intentionally left blank