

Swindon Borough Council

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Tuesday, 19 March 2013

**Seven Fields Primary School, Leigh Road, Penhill, Swindon,
SN2 5DE** (Location map enclosed)

At 6.00 p.m.

**Group A:
Christian Denominations
and Other Religions or
Religious Denominations**

Mr Arun Bedi, Sikh Community
Mr David Burbidge, Baptist Church
Mr Mark Cawte, Methodist (Chair)
Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte, United Reformed Church
Reverend David Howell, Swindon Evangelical Alliance
Mr M S Khan, Muslim Community
Mr Tony McAteer, Catholic Community
Mr Dinesh Patel, Hindu Community

**Group B:
The Church of England**

Miss Janet French
Reverend Norma McKemey
Ms Steph Mordin
Mrs Penny Summers
Reverend Beth Brown

**Group C:
Teacher Associations**

Mrs Tracy Mason, NUT
Miss Lottie Rowe, NASUWT (Vice-Chair)
Mrs Mandy Sandleton, NASUWT
Ms Mel Shepherd, NASUWT (to be confirmed)
Ms Catherine Lomax, NASUWT - Deputy (to be confirmed)
Mr Paul Sunners, NAHT
Mrs Victoria Misselbook, NUT
1 Vacancy

**Group D:
The Local Authority**

Councillor Claire Ellis
Councillor Russell Holland
Councillor Fay Howard
Councillor James Robbins
Councillor Alan Bishop

Support Officers:

Katy Staples, SACRE Advisor
Paddy Bradley, Head of Commissioning - Economy &
Attainment
Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Adviser

Committee Officer: Sarah Lawrence (Telephone 01793 463603)

email: slawrence@swindon.gov.uk

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Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

3. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.

4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the last meeting.

5. RE at Seven Fields Primary School

Victoria Misselbrook will give an introduction to the school and the teaching of RE.

6. SACRE Annual Report and Development Plan 2012-14 (HCEA)/ (Katy Staples) (Pages 7 - 28)

7. National Developments in RE (Katy Staples) (Pages 29 - 36)

8. Update on Network Meetings (Katy Staples) (Pages 37 - 40)

9. Dates for Future Meetings

The dates of SACRE for the next municipal year are still to be confirmed.

SACRE is asked to determine if it would wish to continue to meet on a Tuesday at 6 pm or would agree to move its regular meeting to a Thursday at 6 pm.

Indicative dates are set out below:

Tuesday 25th June, or Thursday 27th June

Tuesday 1st October, or Thursday 27th October.

Tuesday 3rd December or Thursday 12th December

Tuesday 18th March or Thursday 27th March.

Date of Despatch: 11 March 2013

Key: Officers:

HCEA – Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment.

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and Democratic Services is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.

Access Arrangements – *The Venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Clerk above, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.*

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TUESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2012

PRESENT:-

Group A: Christian Denominations and Other Religions or Religious Denominations	Mr Mark Cawte (Methodist) (Chair), Mr Arun Bedi (Sikh Community), Mr David Burbidge (Baptist Church), Mr Mark Cawte (Methodist (Chair)), Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte (United Reformed Church) and Mr Tony McAteer (Catholic Community)
Group B: Church of England	Miss Janet French, Reverend Norma McKemey and Mrs Penny Summers
Group C: Teacher Organisations	Mr Paul Sunners, and Mrs Victoria Misselbrook (tbc).
Group D: Councillors	Councillors Claire Ellis, Fay Howard and James Robbins
Also in attendance:	Katy Staples (SACRE Adviser) and Sarah Foulkes (School Improvement Adviser)

Apologies for absence were received from Ms Steph Munding, Reverend Beth Brown, Mrs Tracy Mason, Miss Lottie Rowe, Mrs Mandy Sandleton, Reverend David Howell, Mr M S Khan and Mr Dinesh Patel.

19. Tribute to Councillor Doreen Dart

The SACRE took time at the start of the meeting to remember Councillor Doreen Dart, who had served as the Chair of the SACRE for several years. The Vice-Chair repeated parts of the Civic memorial service held on 19th November 2012. Members of the SACRE paid tribute to her understanding, encouragement, determination, strength of character, sense of humour, authenticity and her commitment to public service. The SACRE then had a few moments of silence in remembrance.

20. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Resolved – (1) That Mr Mark Cawte (Group A) be appointed as the Chair of the Standing Advisory Council for the remainder of 2012/13 municipal year.

(2) That Ms Lottie Rowe (Group C) be appointed as be appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Standing Advisory Council for the remainder of 2012/13 municipal year.

21. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

Mrs Sarah Lane-Cawte made a personal but non-pecuniary declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 8 'RE Council Review of Religious Education' as she was on the Board of the RE Council. Mr Mark Cawte indicated that this also gave him a personal interest in the matter. Councillor Robbins advised that he was a teacher at Churchfields School, but that he did not have a personal or pecuniary interest in any particular items on the agenda.

22. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

23. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2012, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

24. Membership Update

The SACRE received a Membership Update report and noted that there were currently four vacancies on Group C (Teacher Associations). The SACRE were advised that in accordance with the SACRE Constitution, the Group should contain up to 8 representatives of teaching associations, which in the Council's opinion ought to be represented, with at least 3 being teachers of RE, and at least one a primary school teacher.

Three expressions of interest had been received. One from a RE Co-ordinator at Seven Fields Primary Ms Victoria Misselbrook to represent the NUT, and two secondary teachers, Mel Shepherd of Dorcan and Catherine Lomax at Churchfields to represent NASUWT. The SACRE did not feel able to support both of the representatives from NASUWT as full members as although there was a need for additional Secondary representation, the NASUWT was already represented. It was suggested that the one who had applied first be offered a full membership, and the other teacher the deputy position.

As part of the Membership Update, Mrs Penny Summers advised that she was currently a non-voting co-opted member of the Children and Young People's Overview Committee representing the SACRE, but had fulfilled this role for a while and would like to step down from the position. She asked if anyone else would be interested in the role. Mr Paul Sunners indicated that he would like to be nominated. It was noted that this was a discretionary co-opted role on the Overview Committee, and it would be up to the Committee if it wished to continue to have a representative from the SACRE and if it wished to accept the nomination.

Resolved - 1) The SACRE appointed the following to be members of Group C (Teacher Associations) for a period initially up to September 2015, unless renewed at that time:

- Victoria Misselbrook (Representative for NUT)
- Mel Shepherd (Representative for NASUWT)
- Catherine Lomax (Deputy Representative for NASUWT)

2) That it be recommended to the Children and Young People's Overview Committee that Mr Paul Sunners be appointed as a non-voting co-opted member to represent the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education in place of Mrs

Penny Summers, and that Mrs Summers be thanked for her service to the Committee.

25. RE Council Review of Religious Education

The SACRE received a copy of the Preliminary Report from the RE Council for England and Wales (REC) on the review of the RE curriculum which had been issued for consultation. In addition to the main report, the SACRE noted an addendum which had been issued on matters raised during initial consultation meetings. The SACRE had appointed a Working Group at the last meeting to review the document in detail, and a copy of their recommended response to the consultation was considered.

The SACRE thanked the Working Group for their work on the response, and agreed that it supported the preliminary report as amended by the Addendum, subject to the suggestions of the working group. It was agreed that the response be approved, subject to the addition that the REC be asked to consider how to make the language and terminology used more accessible to non-specialists.

Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte and Mr Mark Cawte had declared a non-prejudicial personal interest in this item as she was a Board member for the REC, but was not employed by them. Sarah Lane-Cawte advised that the REC was not a funded body and that to support their work they were organising sponsored walks and RE Trails at different locations round the country. It was suggested that SACRE Members may be interested in contributing to the creation of a Swindon RE Trail, which could be linked into the Agreed Syllabus. If money was raised from a sponsored walk, then half the money could go to the REC, and half to a fund for RE projects in Swindon. The Clerk advised that the legal position of the SACRE fundraising for the REC would need to be checked. Sarah Lane-Cawte advised that she would be happy to lead on any project to establish the RE Trail, and Paul Sunners, Tony McAteer, Katy Staples and Mark Cawte indicated that they would wish to be involved.

Resolved - 1) That the SACRE Advisor submit the response attached at Report Appendix '2' to the REC as the SACRE's formal submission, subject to the addition that the REC be asked to consider how to make the language and terminology used more accessible to non-specialists.

2) That SACRE Members be invited to make any additional comments they may have direct to the REC.

3) That subject to the legal position on fund raising being checked and reported back to the SACRE, that Sarah Lane-Cawte lead a working group to set up a RE Trail in Swindon, which links to the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

26. SACRE Self-Evaluation and Draft Development Plan 2012-2014

The SACRE reviewed the summary of the self-evaluation exercise it had carried out at the last meeting, and considered the implications of this exercise for the draft Development Plan for the SACRE for 2012/14.

It was noted that some of the actions in the Development Plan had already started, but those beyond April 2013 would depend on the SACRE Budget being maintained

at its current levels. The School Improvement Adviser agreed to check on the budget and report back to the next meeting.

In relation to priority 1A), the SACRE Advisor tabled a summary of the results of a survey of Schools on the teaching of the Locally Agreed Syllabus. It was hoped that the survey data would help the SACRE to identify both needs and compliance, in supporting raising standards of teaching and learning in RE. Katy Staples agreed to summarise the survey results further into primary and secondary responses, in a form which could be used in the SACRE's annual report and as evidence to the Parliamentary Group on RE.

It was noted that a South West SACRE Conference was being held on 14th March 2013, which would include information on the RE Review, which was a key development in the coming year. Given the subject matter, it was agreed that a representative of the SACRE should attend, who could use any information gained to the benefit of Swindon Schools. The SACRE Advisor was also attending, but as a seminar leader.

Resolved - 1) That the outcome of the self-evaluation exercise undertaken at the last meeting be noted.

2) That the results of the survey of Schools on teaching of the Locally Agreed Syllabus are noted, and the SACRE Advisor analyses the results further to make a distinction between primary and secondary responses.

3) That the Development Plan for the SACRE for 2012/14 be approved, subject to confirmation being received at the next meeting of the budget available to the SACRE for 2013/14.

4) That the Chair, Vice-Chair or a Member of Group C be nominated as a representative of the SACRE to attend the South West SACRE Conference on 14th March 2012.

27. National Developments in RE

The SACRE Advisor provided an update the SACRE on National Developments in Religious Education since the last meeting, which included:

- a) A national discussion on the status of Circular 1/94, guidance which requires that collective worship in schools should be primarily Christian based. It was noted that the Circular was still in place, but it was unlikely to be enforced. However, this would have little practical effect for local schools, who should continue to follow the local Collective Worship Guidance issued by the SACRE at the last meeting.
- b) An invitation from the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on RE, for individuals and organisations concerned with RE to make contributions to a major national project on RE. Two oral evidence sessions were being held in the House of Commons as part of the project, the next one was on 16th January 2013. It was noted that the SACRE Chair had written to the local MPs in September on their involvement in the APPG, and Robert Buckland MP had confirmed that he was a member.

Resolved - 1) That the update on national developments be noted.

28. Update on Network Meetings

The SACRE received an update on the meetings of the Primary Network and the Secondary Humanities Teaching and Learning Group for RE, which had taken place since the last meeting.

It was noted that Swindon teachers were being offered the opportunity to attend a conference for RE teachers in conjunction with by Bristol City and South Gloucestershire, organised by Bristol Diocese. This will be a good opportunity for our teachers to attend training that Swindon could not host on its own, and this was welcomed by the SACRE.

Resolved - 1) That the SACRE note the Report.

29. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SACRE was scheduled to take place on 19th March 2013. Victoria Misselbrook offered to host the meeting at Seven Fields Primary School.

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SACRE Annual Report 2011/12 and Development Plan 2012/14

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 19 March 2013

Author: SACRE Advisor /
Head of Commissioning - Economy /Attainment

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To consider the draft Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report covering the period September 2011 to August 2012, including the RE examination results for 2012. The SACRE is required by Section 391 of the Education Act 1996 to produce an Annual Report of the exercise of its functions during the preceding year.
- 1.2 To receive an update on the SACRE Survey results.
- 1.3 To consider any updates required to the approved Development Plan for 2012/14.

2. Recommendations

The SACRE is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider the draft SACRE's Annual Report attached at Appendix '1' and the authorise the SACRE Advisor to finalise and submit the report to NASACRE, taking into account any comments provided by SACRE Members.
- 2.2 Note the summary of the Swindon Examination Results for 2012, and consider any support required to Swindon schools from the SACRE.
- 2.3 Note the analysis of the SACRE Survey Results requested at the last meeting as attached at Appendix 2'.
- 2.4 That the SACRE consider and approve any amendments to its Development Plan, as attached at Appendix '3', which was adopted at the last meeting.

3. Detail

Draft Annual Report

- 3.1 The draft Annual Report of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education is attached at Appendix '1' for the SACRE's consideration. The SACRE is asked to consider the draft report and to authorise the SACRE Advisor to finalise the Annual Report and submit it to be collated nationally by the NASACRE.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples, SACRE Advisor, katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org, 0117 906 0100

SACRE Annual Report 2011/12 and Development Plan 2012/14

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 19 March 2013

RE Results.

- 3.2 The Head of Commissioning - Economy /Attainment will attend the meeting to present and provide context to the Religious Education examination results which are included within the Annual Report.
- 3.3 The SACRE is asked to consider any actions required to support schools arising from the results.

RE Survey

- 3.4 At the last meeting the SACRE received the results of a questionnaire to Swindon Schools on the teaching of RE in accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus. The results of the survey are reflected in the SACRE Annual Report. The SACRE requested a further analysis the results by phase, and this is attached at Appendix 2.

Draft Development Plan 2012/14

- 3.5 The SACRE approved its Development Plan for 2012/14 at the last meeting, subject to confirmation of the SACRE budget for 2013/14 on which it was based. The budget for SACRE is still to be confirmed, but is anticipated as continuing at £5000 per year. The SACRE is asked to consider if it wishes to make any amendments to the Development Plan attached at Appendix '3' as a result of the RE Results or school survey results.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The SACRE can set its own Development Plan, in line with its statutory responsibilities.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 A £5k annual budget is provided to support the SACRE's work, which includes funding for support from the SACRE Advisor. Any activities identified as a result of this report, will be funded from this budget.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 The report has no specific legal or human rights implications.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 No other implications have been identified.

SACRE Annual Report 2011/12 and Development Plan 2012/14

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 19 March 2013

Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 The work of the SACRE seeks to support Theme 5 of the Community Strategy, “for Swindon to be a place where high aspirations are supported by superb education provision for all ages”.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report, as it does not relate to a specific policy or strategy change.

Risk Management

- 5.6 There are no risk management factors which have been identified in relation to this report.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Draft Annual Report 2011/12
8.2 Appendix 2 – Further analysis of SACRE Survey results
8.3 Appendix 3 - SACRE Development Plan 2012/14

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Swindon SACRE Annual Report 2011 -12

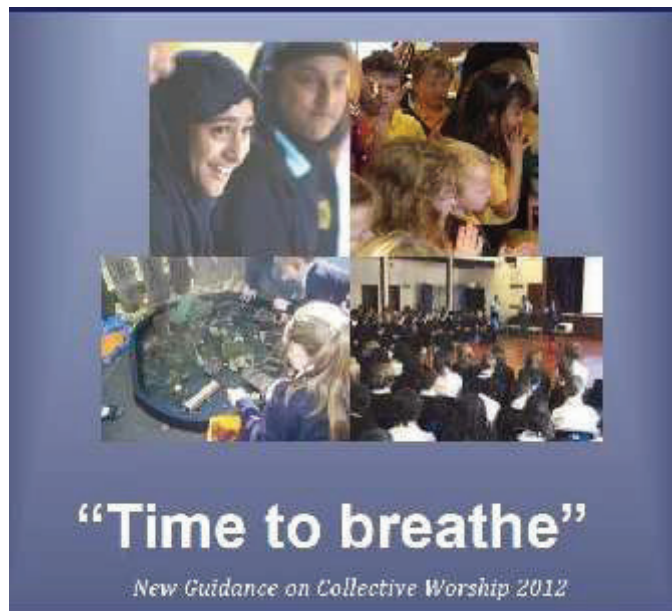


Students from Commonweal school take part in an interactive RE task to explore faith in action.

Swindon SACRE published its new Guidance on Collective Worship :

“Time to Breathe”

<http://www.bristoldiocese.org.uk/index.php/articles/item/327-new-collective-worship-guidance-for-bristol-and-swindon>



Children from King William Street CofE VC School help others to Celebrate Harvest Festival



Chair's Introduction

(to follow)

Executive Summary

The report meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Act, which states that:

- 'The council shall in each year publish a report of their functions and any action taken by representative groups on the council during the preceding year.'
- The report is required to specify any matters in respect of which the council has given advice to the authority, and the nature of that advice.

The key function of SACRE is to advise the Local Authority on RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus.¹

The composition of SACRE is set out in legislation.

The four groups or committees represent the following interests within the local community. These are the people that have served for the year September 2011 to - June 2012

- **Committee A Christian Denominations, Other Religions or Religious Denominations**

Reverend David Howell, Swindon Evangelical Alliance
Mr M S Khan, Muslim Community
Mr Dinesh Patel, Hindu Community,
Mr Arun Bedi, Sikh Community – Deputy
Mr Mark Cawte, Methodist Church
Mr David Burbidge, Baptist Church
Mr Tony McAteer, Catholic Community
Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte, United Reformed Church

- **Committee B The Church of England**

Reverend Norma McKemey
Ms Steph MUNDIN
Miss Janet French
Mrs Penny Summers
Reverend Beth Brown

- **Committee C Teacher Association Representatives**

Mr David Easter
Mrs Tracy Mason
Ms Helen Miller
Mrs Mandy Sandleton
Miss Lottie Rowe
Mr Paul Sunners
Mrs Sara Crabb

- **Committee D The Local Authority.**

Councillor Doreen Dart (Chair)
Councillor Russell Holland
Councillor James Robbins
Councillor Raymond Fisher
Councillor Fay Howard
Councillor Claire Ellis

¹ Section 391(1)(a), Education Act 1996

Councillor Alan Bishop

Support Officers:

Ms Katy Staples, SACRE Adviser, 0117 9175583, katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

Ms Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Adviser

Mr Paddy Bradley, Director of Schools and Learning

Miss Sarah Lawrence, Committee Officer, 01793 463603,

slawrence@swindon.gov.uk

Members are nominated by appropriate organisations and appointments confirmed by the Local Authority. Other members may be co-opted.

SACRE met on four occasions during the Academic year 2011 -12

All meetings were quorate.

Tuesday 27th September 2011

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices

Agenda items were:

- Understanding Local RE: Secondary
- National Updates on RE and Collective Worship
- Feedback from the launch of the Agreed Syllabus Update
- Update on Network meetings
- SACRE Development Plan
-

Tuesday 6th December 2011

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices

Agenda items were:

- Understanding local RE : Primary
- National developments for RE
- SACRE Development Plan
- Feedback from Network Meetings
-

Tuesday 27th March 2012

Emmanuel United Reformed Church - The High Street, Haydon

Wick, Swindon, SN25 1HU

Agenda items were

- A faith perspective : the work of Emmanuel United Reformed Church
- Correspondence to and from local and National Politicians about RE and the EBacc
- SACRE Annual Report and Development Plan
- Collective Worship working party report
- National Developments in RE
- Feedback from Network meetings
-

Tuesday 17th July 2011

Crowdys Hill School, Jefferies Avenue, Swindon, SN2 7HJ

- Understanding local RE : Special Education
- Collective Worship Guidance
- Provision for RE in Swindon – ensuring entitlement
- SACRE Development Plan
- Feedback from network meetings

Challenges and opportunities that lie ahead

Challenges for SACRE include

- Offering continuing support for RE within a limited budget.
- Keeping alive a local community of shared best practice and enthusiasm amongst a changing landscape of school providers
- On going need to monitor achievements in RE effectively

Opportunities include

- The enthusiasm and professionalism of SACRE members. This was exemplified by the dedication and care shown in sculpting the Guidance to Schools for Collective Worship
- Continued commitment and dedication of teachers as shown by attendance at Network meetings and other CPD opportunities offered by SACRE

1. Standards and quality of Religious Education (RE) Provision

1a. Compliance and time allocation for RE

The Locally Agreed Syllabus sets out the required number of hours for each pupil in relation to the delivery of RE, which is 36 hours in Key Stage 1 and is 45 hours per year for Key Stage 2, 3 and 4.

With the lack of information available through Ofsted reporting, it is very difficult to determine whether community schools and academies are fully compliant with the statutory requirements for RE.

In order to address this lack of knowledge about the place of RE Swindon Schools SACRE commissioned a Survey of teachers in June 2012.

25/66 schools responded to this survey (37.8%) 16 primary Schools/ Academies and 9 Secondary Academies

In 76% of the schools who responded RE is taught to all pupils in all year groups. In 5 Secondary Schools the KS4 RE is squeezed into Year 10 and none is taught in Yr 11 or in one school it is only taught to those who wish to take their studies further and convert a short course qualification into a full GCSE. In one secondary school KS4 RE consists of 6 two and a half hour conferences covering RE and PSHE covering topics such as Homosexuality, war and Peace etc.

In 60% of schools RE is taught as a separate subject, in 48 % of schools it is taught mainly as a separate subject and then sometimes in combination with other curriculum areas. On in one school is it taught totally integrated with other subjects.

The time allocated for RE in Swindon schools varies from 30 mins per week to 1 ½ hr or more if it is an option subject at GCSE. It would appear of those schools who responded that there is RE being taught at most Key stages: there is widespread compliance in 37.8% of Swindon schools. In 24/25 or the schools who responded there is at least one subject specialist for RE (whether by initial qualification or through consistent long term access to CPD).

92% of the Schools who responded use the locally agreed syllabus and two of those schools who do not are using the Roman Catholic Diocese syllabus in stead. There is good reliance

on the locally agreed syllabus in Swindon. In 73% of Swindon Primary schools who responded to the survey RE is taught by class teachers and also in PPA time. In only 44% of the Swindon Academies who responded to the survey, are all students entered for a public examination in RE at KS4.

1b Public Examination entries in RE

It is recognised in the examination entry statistics at Key Stage 4, that there has been an increase of 41 students being entered for a public examination in RE in the last year.

52.3% of students in Swindon are entered for a public examination in RE.

Dorcan school appear to have not entered any students for a public examination in RE at KS4 for the past four years, all other secondary schools did enter students for examination in 2012.

Results for the 2012 GCE and GCSE.

286 students out of cohort of 2214 were entered for full course which represents a 1.2% decrease in the numbers of entrants since last year.

The largest numbers of examination entries were from St Joseph's Catholic College. Only Nova Hreod and Dorcan did not enter pupils for the full course RE examination.

Results from the 2012 full GCSE were 79.4% A* - C which was below last year and similar to 2010 results, but was above the national average of 74.2%.

GCSE Full Course: Pupils Achieving...						
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
A*-C	78.6	73.8	80.9	79.5	84.2	79.4
A*-G	100.0	99.6	100.0	98.6	100.0	98.6

871 students from 9 schools (including 1 special school) out of a cohort of 2214 were entered for short course RE which is an increase on the previous year.

This represents a 14% increase in entrants since last year.

Only Kingsdown School did not enter any students from their cohort for RE short course examination entries.

Results from the short course were 48.8 % A* - C which is below the national average of 50.3% but was above the Swindon 2011 results of 48.2 %

GCSE Short Course: Pupils Achieving...						
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
A*-C	42.9	47.7	54.0	48.9	48.2	48.8
A*-G	95.4	94.9	96.1	96.8	96.2	96.8

GCE A and AS Level Religious Studies

The numbers taking AS level showed a large increase to 57 from the 19 entrants in 2011.

The largest number of examination entries came from New College, with St Joseph's and Ridgeway School also entering students.

There was an increase in standards from 57.9 % A-C grades in 2011 to 63.2% A-C grades in 2012

AS-Level: Pupils Achieving...						
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
A-C	56.4	100.0	71.4	33.3	57.9	63.2
A-E	82.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	94.7	86.0

44 pupils took A level in 2012 (5 less than in 2011). The highest number of examination entries came from New College. The average percentage gaining A*- C was 65.9% and increase on last year 59.2%. Those gaining A*-E was 93.2%.

A-Level: Pupils Achieving...						
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
A-C	95.7	70.0	75.9	75.0	59.2	65.9
A-E	100.0	100.0	100.0	97.2	100.0	93.2

1c Standards and achievement quality of teaching and quality of leadership and management of RE

There are no methods for collecting verifiable evidence of levels of achievement in RE, other than through public examination results. There are no opportunities to access sufficient information to make a well-substantiated judgement on the quality of RE teaching or leadership and management of RE in Swindon schools.

Support has been offered to both Primary and Secondary RE teachers about the management of RE and key National documents have been shared, modelled and discussed during network meetings.

2. Managing the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders

SACRE members have been offered training at the SW SACRE conference in Dillington House but unfortunately no members except the adviser were able to attend.

The LA officers Sarah Foulkes and Paddy Bradley have attended SACRE meetings and have been kept informed of developments such as the new Guidance for Collective worship. Local councillors play an informed and supportive role in all SACRE meetings.

The diverse constituents of SACRE ensure that the breadths of beliefs held in Swindon are represented and links to those key stakeholders are sustained.

2a SACRE development

CPD offered.

During the year big changes occurred in the model of the offer of RE support to Secondary teachers as there was a widespread conversion of schools becoming academies in this sector. The academies have been working together organising teaching and learning Hubs across Swindon, these have been well attended and the adviser has been able to support staff through these meetings when she has been able to attend them. Three of these meetings were held in the academic year 2011 – 12 .

Three network meetings were also held for primary colleagues.

Primary /Secondary/Venue	Date/Topic
Secondary Greendown School	28/9/11 Key Stage 3 Syllabus and ideas Revision Techniques Ks3 and Ks4 Raising the profile of RE
Secondary Greendown School	18/1/12 KS4 How to raise standards
Secondary Greendown School	18/4/12 National Developments and RE The New Ofsted Framework Spiritual Development and RE
Primary Oliver Tomkins CofE VA Primary	22/9/11 EYFS – what is good RE for a 4 year old?
Primary Orchid Vale Primary School	19/1/12 Spiritual Development in RE
Primary Liden Primary School	12/7/12 Raising Standards by increasing the challenge in RE

Further Training offered to support the Update to the Agreed Syllabus

1st May 2012 Swindon CPD Centre

The purpose of this CPD was to further support teachers in delivering the new Update to the Locally agreed Syllabus

9 delegates attended

100% of delegates rated the training very good or excellent

Training was offered to teachers to support them in delivering effective and compelling

Collective Worship to support the publication of SACREs new guidance to Swindon Schools

7 delegates attended

100% of delegates rated the training very good or excellent

3. The Effectiveness of the local Agreed Syllabus

3a

The update for the Locally Agreed Syllabus was launched in June 2011 and so this has been a year where teachers have begun to implement the changes. It is encouraging that of the schools who returned the survey all but 1 school is using the Locally Agreed syllabus. With limited capacity to observe teaching and learning it is hard to effectively evaluate the effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus

4. Collective Worship

The focus for SACRE 2011-12 has been to review the guidance offered to schools on Collective Worship. A small working party met twice and worked diligently and creatively to produce new guidance for all schools in Swindon about Collective worship. This has been sent to all schools electronically and has been well received.

“Time to Breathe” is a document that Swindon SACRE can be proud of.

The adviser also offered CPD to support schools in delivering Collective Worship.

There were no determinations in force during the reporting year.

No formal complaints or other matters were referred to SACRE this year.

5. SACRE as a representative effective diverse community

There is an excellent ethos and sense of community within Swindon SACRE, the quality of debate, spiritual insight and meticulous attention to detail has been amply demonstrated within the Collective Worship Working Party.

2011 - 2012 has seen a year where Swindon SACREs commitment to RE has been actively demonstrated through its tireless letter writing campaign to MPs and other prominent leaders. Members of this SACRE attend well and work hard to act as guardians and propagators of exciting RE and reflective Collective Worship in Swindon Schools.



Students from St Joseph's Roman Catholic College respond to a campaign for Shoeboxes for Women's Refuge Centres

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Further Analysis of the Swindon Survey for RE from June 2012

25/66 schools responded to this survey (37.8%) 16 primary Schools/ Academies and 9 Secondary Academies

Primary findings

In all Primary Schools who responded RE is taught to all pupils in all year groups.

All pupils in Swindon Primary Schools who returned the survey are taught at least 30 - 45 mins of RE per week.

All pupils in the schools that responded to the survey teach the Locally Agreed syllabus except the Roman Catholic Schools who teach a Diocesan Scheme "God Matters".

In 26.7% of Primary Schools who responded to the survey RE is taught by the Class teacher.

In 73.6% RE is taught by a combination of class teacher and through PPA time.

Secondary Findings

In 6 of the 9 schools who responded to the survey RE is not taught to all students in all year groups

A variety of reasons and models of teaching RE at KS4 are provided: In two schools RE is either just taught in 6 lessons a year or in 6 conferences across two years. In other schools there is no RE in year 11 as the Short course is delivered in Yr 10.

In one school there is no RE at KS4 except for those pupils who have opted to take the subject.

Across both phases

In only one school is there no subject specialist for RE (either through Initial Teacher training or through continuous access to INSET).

In 56% of schools who responded to the survey there is one subject specialist

32% have 2 subject specialist and one school has more than 2 subject specialists.

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Swindon SACRE Development Plan 2012 – 14

Context

This plan reflects the current context that Swindon SACRE finds itself in: –

- a) effected by national education curriculum decisions (EBACC and 2015 plans for major public examination changes at KS4)
- b) local responses to the Academies Act 2010 which has meant that there are now no longer any Secondary Schools under Swindon local authority control , some primary schools have become Academies too and therefore SACRE's remit as funded by Swindon LA is unclear
- c) SACREs role in challenging Swindon LA about RE is redundant and the powers SACRE has in ensuring standards and entitlement in RE and Collective Worship in Academies is under question.
- d) this development plan has been written in the light of Swindon SACRE having undertaken a thorough self evaluation of its current effectiveness.

Key Priorities

1. To raise the standards and quality of the teaching and learning in Religious Education within Swindon
2. To ensure that Swindon SACRE is effectively managed and has good partnerships with the LEA and other key stakeholders
3. To ensure the effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus
4. To effectively fulfil SACREs responsibility for the provision and practice of Collective worship
5. To ensure that SACRE contributes to the wider social and racial harmony agenda.

Priority	Action	Person(s) responsible	Review date	Cost
1a) Raising the standards of Teaching and Learning in RE	Survey schools to identify needs and compliance	Katy Staples	January 2013	£200
1b) Raising the standards of Teaching and Learning in RE	Analyse Swindon public examination results in RE to identify trends and training needs	Paddy Bradley	Spring 2013	

1c) Offer CPD to RE teachers to encourage raised standards of teaching and learning in RE	<p>SACRE adviser to lead 3 Primary Cluster meetings and attend 2 Secondary Academy RE Teaching and Learning Hubs to offer best practice in RE</p> <p>Signpost other good CPD in the region</p>	Katy Staples	June 2013	£1,250
2.a) To ensure effectiveness of the management of SACRE and its relationship with Swindon LEA	<p>Bi annual meetings with the Swindon link officer to evaluate effectiveness</p>	<p>Sarah Faulkes Chair/ Vice Chair</p> <p>Katy Staples</p>	2 Meetings	£250

b) To establish relationships with significant key Academy providers within the Swindon area	Write to and attempt to establish a commitment to local RE from local Academy providers	Chair/ Vice Chair Katy Staples	April 2013	£500
3 a).To continue to ensure the effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus	To ensure that teachers understand and can access and share good practice for the locally agreed syllabus – through cluster/ network meetings	Katy Staples	June 2012	
b) To develop and strengthen the local element of the locally agreed syllabus	i)To compile an effective directory of local people and places of faith useful to support RE in schools ii)To write local materials about a	Volunteers from SACRE Local teachers Katy Staples	January 2014	£ 1,000

	Swindon specific issue / example of faith			
4a).Provide guidance for and encourage schools to raise the quality of Collective Worship to enhance pupil's spiritual , moral, social and cultural development	Promote the recently written guidance on Collective worship - signpost good training to enhance the quality of Collective Worship in Swindon Schools	Katy Staples Sarah Faulkes All members of SACRE	September 2013	
4b)To ensure local people of faith can play a part in leading and encouraging good collective worship within their local communities	Provide training for SACRE members and local people of faith to be able to lead/visit and observe collective worship in schools	Sarah Lane-Cawte David Burbidge	January 2014	£200

5) To ensure the contribution of SACRE to the social and racial harmony agenda	Make sure that all voices of SACRE members have an opportunity to be heard – by the style of debate and the tone of encouragement	Chair/ Vice Chair All Members	On going	Jan 2014
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National Developments in Religious Education (RE)

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

19 March 2013

Author: SACRE Advisor /
Head of Commissioning - Economy /Attainment

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To update the SACRE on national developments in relation to Religious Education.
- 1.2 The SACRE has a duty to help schools fulfil their statutory obligations with regard to religious education and to do so needs to keep up to date on the latest national developments in RE.

2. Recommendations

The SACRE is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the update on national developments and to consider any response which might be required by the SACRE in relation to these developments.

3. Detail

National Developments General Update

- 3.1 The SACRE Advisor will update the SACRE on a range of national developments set out in Appendix '1' listed below:
 - a) New secondary school assessment arrangements.
 - b) New Consultation Framework for National Curriculum (not RE)
 - c) REC RE curriculum review update
 - d) All Parliamentary Party Group for RE (APPG)
 - e) RE Quality Mark
 - f) Specialist Leaders of Education for RE

NASACRE Newsletter and AGM

- 3.2 A copy of the NASACRE newsletter for Spring 2013 is enclosed for Members of the SACRE, for information.
- 3.3 The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) AGM will take place on 23rd May 2013, and a copy of the flyer is also enclosed with this agenda for information. It is not intended to send any representative to the AGM. However, a SACRE Teachers Representative and the SACRE Advisor will be at the

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples, SACRE Advisor, katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org, 0117 906 0100

National Developments in Religious Education (RE)

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

19 March 2013

Dillington House South West Conference on 14th March and can report back at this meeting on any matters for the SACRE to consider.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 There are no alternative options for the SACRE.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications relating to this report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 There are no specific legal or human rights implications relating to this report.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 No other implications have been identified.

Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 The work of the SACRE supports Theme 5 of the Community Strategy, for Swindon to be a place where high aspirations are supported by superb education provision for all ages.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report, as it does not relate to a specific policy or strategy change.

Risk Management

- 5.6 There are no risk management factors which have been identified in relation to this report.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - National Developments General Update.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples, SACRE Advisor, katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org, 0117 906 0100

19th March 2013

National Updates on RE

A. New secondary school assessment arrangements

The recently announced back-track on the EBacc Certificate as the main means of measuring secondary schools' performance has been good news for RE. The widening of the measure to include performance across 8 subjects means that it is restored to relatively equal footing on the curriculum. John Keast, Chair of the RE Council, has provided analysis of the new arrangements.

(see separate article : "Michael Gove and Religious Education" attached as Annex A)

Although the national funding for bursaries for those training to teach RE has been removed, Culham St Gabriel's charity are offering bursaries <http://www.cstg.org.uk/2013/01/bursaries-for-re-teacher-training/>

B. New Consultation Framework for National Curriculum (not RE)

The Government has issued a consultation framework for a new national curriculum for England.

The deadline for responses to the consultation is 16 April 2013.

Subject to Ministers' final decisions, and to the approval of Parliament, it is the Government's intention that the final version of this framework will be published in the autumn of 2013, and that the elements that require statutory force will come into effect from September 2014.

<https://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/n/national%20curriculum%20consultation%20-%20framework%20document.pdf>

The introduction to this document reinforces the place of SMSC, the statutory duty have a daily act of collective worship and to teach RE in every key stage:

"2. The school curriculum in England

2.1 Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

All state schools are also required to make provision for a daily act of collective worship and must teach religious education to pupils at every key stage and sex education to pupils in secondary education."

The emphasis and format of this new national curriculum will have an impact on the Religious Education curriculum as it seeks to sit alongside other subjects and have parity of status and the flexibility to be taught in conjunction with other aspects of the curriculum.

C. REC RE curriculum review update

Phase one of the review is now complete and is available here :

http://www.recouncil.org.uk/images/stories/pdf/RE_Subject_Review_Phase_1_Report_Final.pdf

Phase 2 is now underway with interviews taking place for people to be on the writing group to produce materials which will form a basis for a document to inform RE in the future.

Three working groups are being developed:

1. Curriculum: aims, pedagogy and assessment. Core knowledge relative to age, descriptions of achievement are under the remit of the group. This will mirror the National Curriculum documentation.
2. 'Political group'. Building the lobbying capacity with DfE, Ofqual etc. To promote RE broadly.
3. Group to produce a replacement for the National Framework for Religious Education.

This will be the last group as it will consolidate 1 and 2 above.

D. APPG

This is an all parliamentary party group for RE which seeks to ensure that there is an active cross party group lobbying for the place of RE in English schools.

This work continues supported by Dr Barbara Wintersgill and on March 12th 2013 a full report of the Groups findings will be published.

All SACRES were asked for evidence about the state of RE in their LAs and we provided evidence from our completed survey and exam data trends.

A record of the APPGs discussions and findings to date can be found at

<http://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org/content/blogcategory/0/94/>

E. RE Quality Mark

The Religious Education Quality Mark has now been achieved by over 40 schools. Two pilots have been completed and account taken of the feedback from schools and assessors. As a consequence, the criteria have been revised and the processes refined.

Subject leaders and head teachers are very enthusiastic: one Year 11 pupil commented on compulsory GCSE, 'It feels a though we have chosen to do RE rather than someone made us do it.' All the schools which have achieved the award are listed on the website www.reqm.org. If schools

are interested in self evaluation and do not wish to apply for the RE quality mark, they can download the criteria as an improvement tool.

The RE Quality Mark is open to all schools and the cost of applying is £475. Schools' school improvement budgets should pay for the application. However, if a school cannot afford to apply and needs financial support, then there is some funding available. Please contact the administrator at admin@reqm.org

If you know of any schools where a teacher would like to become an assessor please contact the project managers Jane Brooke jane.brooke@reqm.org and Mary Myatt (mary.myatt@reqm.org)
This email address is being protected from spam bots, you need Javascript enabled to view it

F. Specialist Leaders of Education for RE

RE is now included in the list of subjects for which the SLE role is available. This means that from now on it will be possible to have Religious Education Specialist Leaders of Education, which is a very positive development because it will provide both support for teachers of RE and good professional development for people who take on these roles.

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MICHAEL GOVE AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: THE GOOD, BAD AND THE UGLY

Comments on Michael Gove's statement in the House of Commons and DfE publication of new arrangements for the national curriculum, GCSEs and school accountability on 7 February 2013 from the Chair of the RE Council

GOOD

- No EBacc certificates but one qualification (reformed GCSE) for all subjects, so no first and second class qualifications
- A new broader performance measure for schools (Performance8) that allows GCSE RS to count towards school performance alongside EBacc subjects; this is good news for schools with successful GCSE provision
- RE was reaffirmed in the new National Curriculum documentation – “all state schools ... must teach RE to pupils at every key stage”
- Not mentioned on 7 February but RE now included in Specialist Leader in Education programme by National College of School Leadership

BAD

- The EBacc still exists and still excludes GCSE RS as a humanity option, despite the recent addition of Computer Science to the science suite
- The EBacc headline measure for school performance remains in place, implying second class academic status to GCSE RS (and other subjects)
- Position of GCSE RS is still precarious and depends on how Performance8 subjects will be determined; RS may lie only in an overcrowded option position, competing with provision for both EBacc and non-EBacc subjects
- The GCSE Short Course RS will not count towards school performance and its future is very uncertain – no indication of how statutory RE in Key Stage 4 can be accredited
- Not mentioned on 7 February but teacher training for RE remains in a dire state with the removal of bursaries for RE PGCE trainees (unlike nearly every other subject) being inequitable and unjustifiable

UGLY

- Some probably irreversible damage to RE has already happened, with reduced time, staffing and fewer exam entries
- ‘Bridge too far’ metaphor obscures the minimal change in Gove's plans; sleight of hand is evident and he will not lose political credibility over any of this
- Whilst mentioning nearly every other subject, he did not mention RE at all

CONCLUSION

- RE is not out of the woods yet; or to put it another way, there are stormy times still to come for the good ship RE

John Keast
Chair, RE Council
8 February 2013

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Update on Network Meetings

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

19 March 2013

Author: SACRE Advisor /
Head of Commissioning - Economy /Attainment

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To update the SACRE on the Network Meetings for RE Teachers and Co-ordinators in Swindon.
- 1.2 The SACRE has a duty to help schools fulfil their statutory obligations with regard to religious education.

2. Recommendations

The SACRE is recommended to:

- 2.1 To note the report.
- 2.2 To consider any actions arising for the SACRE from the Network Meeting.
- 2.3 To consider any issues that the SACRE would wish to highlight to the next meeting of the Secondary Teaching and Learning Group for RE.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The notes of the last meeting of the Humanities Teaching and Learning Group for RE are attached at Appendix '1'. Any members of the SACRE who attended are invited to report back to the SACRE on any issues of note. The SACRE is asked if it wishes to highlight any particular issues to the next meeting of the Teaching and Learning Group.
- 3.2 The planned primary network meeting was unfortunately cancelled due to ill health and has been rescheduled to 22 March 2013. .

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 There are no alternative options for the SACRE.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications relating to this report.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples, SACRE Advisor, katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org, 0117 906 0100

Update on Network Meetings

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

19 March 2013

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 There are no specific legal or human rights implications relating to this report.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 No other implications have been identified.

Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 The work of the SACRE seeks to support the Theme 5 of the Community Strategy, for Swindon to be a place where high aspirations are supported by superb education provision for all ages.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report, as it does not relate to a specific policy or strategy change.

Risk Management

- 5.6 There are no risk management factors which have been identified in relation to this report.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Notes of the last meeting of the Humanities Teaching and Learning Group for RE.

HUMANITIES

Teaching and Learning Group

RE MEETING

16th January 2012 4.00pm- 5.00pm

Thanks to those that attended:

Lydiard Park, The Commonweal , St Josephs, Crowdys, Katy Staples

Apologies from- Dorcan, Isambard, Nova Hreod, Churchfields,
Highworth, Kingsdown, St. Lukes

Suggested outcomes of meetings

- Sharing ideas
- A support network
- Keep up to date with current issues
- Development of RE in our schools

Minutes

Topic : Assessment

A big thank you to Katy for leading our meeting and inspiring us!

1. National Updates , results of the recent local SACRE survey of RE in Swindon, and reminders of other CPD opportunities.

Katy discussed the results from the survey of RE in our schools.

2. Assessment – Why ? for whom? How , when, what? Making assessment make effective learning ?

Katy asked each of us to reflect on who assessment is for? what does bad assessment look like? When is assessment good? It reminded all of us that assessment should be beneficial to the students (as well as for data purposes!)

3. Strategies for Assessment in RE – what works ?

We looked at some examples of assessments and discussed what would make the assessments even better.

4. Fiction title sharing / other useful resources recently found?

We didn't get time to share during this meeting but thanks to Mel for suggesting the following: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

The War of Jenkins' Ear by Michael Morpurgo

Here I am by Russell Stannard

We will discuss in the next meeting any more ideas.

Date of Next meeting : 17th April 2013 Ethics and RE : using the Media – making lessons relevant and rigorous. At Lydiard Park Academy 4pm-5pm