

Swindon Borough Council

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Thursday, 16 October 2014

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices
(Anticipated meeting room)

At 6.00 p.m.

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

Mr David Burbidge, Baptist Church
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
Vacancy, Methodist Church
Vacancy, Buddhist Community
Vacancy, Jewish Community

**Group B:
The Church of England**

Reverend Clive Deverell
Miss Janet French
Reverend Norma McKemey
Ms Steph Mundin
Mrs Penny Summers

**Group C:
Teacher Associations**

Mrs Tracy Mason, NUT
Mrs Lottie O'Brien, NASUWT
Mrs Mandy Sandleton, NASUWT
Mrs Mel Shepherd, NASUWT
Ms Catherine Lomax, NASUWT - Deputy
Paul Sunners, NAHT

**Group D:
The Local Authority**

Councillor James Robbins
Councillor Alan Bishop
Councillor Fionuala Foley
Councillor Cindy Matthews
Councillor Gemma McCracken

Co-Opted:

Freddy Pound, Swindon Humanists

Support Officers:

Katy Staples, SACRE Advisor
Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Adviser

Committee Officer: Stuart Figini (Telephone 01793 463612)

email: sfigini@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street,
Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

AGENDA

1. Minutes Silence

A minutes silence will be held at the start of the meeting in remembrance and tribute to Mark Cawte.

2. Appointment of Chair

Nominations are invited for the role of Chair.

The SACRE Constitution requires that the Chair and Vice-Chair are appointed from different representative groups. The Vice-Chair is currently Lottie O'Brien, representing Group C –Teacher Associations.

Voting for the Chair will take place in constituent groups, with each group entitled to a single vote for the role.

3. Apologies for Absence

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Chair's Announcements

- Accord Inclusive Schools Award
- Funding for Postgraduate teacher training
- Update on new NASACRE website log-on details
- Conference - The Trojan Horse aftermath - implications and opportunities – 27 November 2014

7. Minutes and Matters Arising (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2014 and to consider any matters arising from that meeting.

8. SACRE Website

To receive an update from Freddy Pound about the Swindon SACRE new website.

9. New Ofsted Framework and Implications for RE (Pages 5 - 16)

Katy Staples to lead a discussion activity.

10. Progress Reports SACRE Working Parties

To receive updates on the following:

- Working Group looking at developing new distinctively local Swindon RE units of work for Swindon schools and academies.

To receive a presentation from Janet French on the development of the distinctively local RE unit.

11. Feedback from RE Teachers' Network Meetings

To receive feedback from the recent Primary and Secondary RE Teachers' meetings.

12. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SACRE is on 2nd December 2014. Members of the SACRE are asked to suggest venues or indicate where this and future meetings of the Panel should be held.

Date of Despatch: 07 October 2014

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, 17 JUNE 2014

PRESENT:-

Group A: Christian Denominations and Other Religions or Religious Denominations	Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte - (United Reformed Church) – In the Chair
Group B: Church of England	Miss Janet French, Reverend Norma McKemey and Ms Steph Mundin
Group C: Teacher Organisations	Mrs Mel Shepherd, Ms Catherine Lomax and Mr Paul Sunners
Group D: Councillors	Councillors Fionuala Foley and Gemma McCracken
Co-Opted:	Freddy Pound

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor James Robbins, Mrs Penny Summers, Mrs Tracy Mason, Mrs Lottie O'Brien, Mrs Mandy Sandleton, Mr David Burbidge, Mr Mark Cawte, Reverend David Howell, Mr M S Khan, Mr Tony McAteer, Mr Dinesh Patel, Councillor Alan Bishop and Councillor Cindy Matthews

45. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for Municipal Year 2014-15

Resolved:

1. That Mark Cawte be appointed as Chair of the SACRE for the Municipal Year 2014/15.
2. That Lottie O'Brien be appointed as Vice-Chair of the SACRE for the Municipal Year 2014/15.
3. That, in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Sarah Lane Cawte be appointed Chair of the SACRE for this meeting.

46. Welcome from Dorcan Academy

Mel Shepherd welcomed the SACRE to Dorcan Academy and spoke about the Academy and their approach to RE. The SACRE noted the scheduling of RE lessons within the Academy and the exam results achieved.

The SACRE discussed the timetabling of RE within schools, performance tables and the consequences of Government changes within the education system. The SACRE were reminded of the importance of SACRE in resourcing schools and teachers and its role in strengthening RE in Schools.

The Chair thanked Mel for her welcome and informative presentation.

47. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

48. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

49. Chair's Announcements

The Chair made the following announcements:

- a) SACRE members were informed about a Faithful and Free Conference being held in Birmingham on 20 September 2014. As well as an inspiring keynote speaker, Dr Ann Limb, there would be worship, workshops and seminar, a panel discussion and an endnote address by Revd Dr David Cornick. David Hampshire, Vice Chair of NASACRE, would be leading a workshop on "Being a more effective SACRE member".

The day was free to attend and SACRE members were encouraged to attend the Conference and register early for workshops.

- b) The Chair welcomed recently appointed Councillors to their first SACRE meeting and hoped they found the meetings informative and enlightening.
- c) Members were advised that Rev Beth Brown had resigned from SACRE, as her tenure with the Bristol Diocese had ended. The Chair thanked Rev Brown for being an active member of SACRE, particularly for her most recent work on the Localiy Distinctive Group. Rev Brown's contribution to the work of the SACRE would be sorely missed and she was wished all the best for the future.

50. Minutes

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

51. National Updates

The SACRE received the following national updates:

- The NASACRE AGM 2014
- The NASACRE Chair's Report
- Teach RE
- RE and Good Community Relations
- RE and Collective Worship in Academies and Free Schools

Resolved:

1. That the National updates be noted.

2. That the updates for (i) RE and Good Community Relations and (ii) RE and Collective Worship in Academies and Free Schools be circulated to all Schools/Academies, including the Chairs of Governing Bodies to highlight the importance of teaching RE in Schools/Academies and the impact on good community relations.

52. Progress Reports SACRE Working Parties

The SACRE received updates from the following Working Parties:

- Working Party to look at developing new distinctively local Swindon RE units of work for Swindon schools and academies.
- Publicity and Communication Working Group – SACRE Website

Distinctively Local Swindon

The SACRE Advisor explained that (a) in relation to the Distinctively Local RE Working Party she had spent a morning at Gateway Church with Janet French interviewing people about the work of the Foodbank and Furniture Recycling Centre for people in need; (b) there was a vacancy on the group following the resignation of Rev Brown (c) arrangements were being made to visit Gorse Hill Mosque; (d) request for additional ideas for writing other Swindon Distinctive Units.

The SACRE Advisor reminded members about the Promotion of SACRE Working Party and an excellent article written by Steph Munda about 'What is SACRE?' SACRE members were encouraged to circulate the article to all faith leaders and community associations.

SACRE Website

The SACRE Advisor reported on one solution offered by Bristol Diocese for the hosting and design of a new Swindon SACRE website. The SACRE noted that Bristol Diocese would be happy to host the Swindon SACRE website within their own website and arrange for the uploading of materials at an annual cost of £80 a year. Freddy Pound explained that he had experience of setting up blogs and could design a blog for Swindon SACRE which would cater for all their uploading needs. There would be no cost associated with the work and a working example could be available for the next meeting.

Resolved:

- 1) That the work of the Working Parties be noted
- 2) That Freddy Pound be asked to design a working example of a Swindon SACRE blog for the next meeting.
- 3) That the article on 'What is SACRE?' prepared by Steph Munda be re-circulated to SACRE Members
- 4) That all SACRE members be asked to consider circulating the article to all faith leaders and community associations to show the importance of Religious Education to all pupils

53. Feedback from RE Teachers' Network Meetings

The SACRE received a report from the SACRE Advisor on a recent Secondary RE Teachers' Network meeting.

The SACRE Advisor explained that she had prepared a base line RE test for Secondary School teachers which would give a broad idea of the prior learning of pupils from feeder primary schools and the levels that they were currently working at. Examples of GCSE RE exam papers were circulated along with a number of responses to questions asked in the papers.

Resolved:

That the comments of the SACRE Advisor be noted.

54. Governor Training

The SACRE Advisor spoke about a training event for Governors held on 6 May 2014.

The training helped Governors to understand their legal obligations for ensuring the school which they served was meeting their statutory requirements for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural learning, assemblies and Religious Education. 35 Governors from 25 schools attended the training with the majority attending from Primary Schools.

The SACRE Advisor reported that the above Governor training may have fallen outside of her allocated hours and suggested that a more effective use of her hours as a resource could be discussed at the next meeting.

Resolved:

1. That the Governor training update be noted.
2. That further consideration be given, at the next meeting to the use of the resource provided by the SACRE Advisor.

55. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of SACRE would be held on 14 October 2014, commencing at 6:00pm, venue to be agreed.



Guidance for

Headteachers and Governors

on Ofsted September 2014 criteria

for SMSC, RE and Collective Worship

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/school-inspection-handbook>

Cover photo by kind permission of Fishponds Church of England Academy

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Introduction

“The commanding objective must be the achievement of a larger life for the ordinary man and woman.” Roberto Unger

This guidance supports the Ofsted Inspection Handbook July 2014 for inspections from September 2014. This new Ofsted schedule has been written in the light of the Ofsted enquiry into the apparent shortcomings that were highlighted in some Birmingham schools and academies during 2014.

The so-called ‘Trojan Horse’ enquiry highlighted issues to do with protecting students from possible extremism and ensuring that the curriculum is sufficiently broad that pupils would be well equipped to live in modern Britain. Much of this new inspection guidance therefore seeks to ensure that schools are offering students a broad, balanced and rich curriculum that will ensure that they understand core British values and learn to live with difference well.

This new inspection framework also serves to recognise the key role that Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC), Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship (CW) all play in ensuring a security and breadth of education that will offer children and young people a vision and understanding of Britain and the wider world as populated by diverse peoples.

The guidance also serves as a digest of the new Ofsted as it pertains to these areas.

Inspection of Religious Education and Collective Worship

Part 1 of the new Ofsted inspection handbook gives a detailed re-iteration of the legal status of RE and CW for all types of schools and academies, the implication being that RE and CW will be an element of the focus for inspection. (see paragraphs 14-18)

Religious Education

RE in non-faith schools should be based on the agreed syllabus established by the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Academies may follow the locally agreed syllabus or they may devise their own syllabus which must reflect the religious traditions in Britain which are Christian in the main, and must take account of the teachings and practices of the other principal religions represented in Britain.

Collective Worship

Non-faith schools and academies must provide CW that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. (Academies may need to refer to any requirement of their funding agreements.) A school can reflect the religious backgrounds represented in its community in its CW and RE as long as the majority of provision is broadly Christian.

Alternatively, the family backgrounds of some or all pupils may lead the headteacher and governing body to conclude that broadly Christian collective worship is not appropriate. The headteacher can apply to the local SACRE to have the broadly Christian requirement disapplied and replaced by CW distinctive of another faith. The headteacher should consult the governing body before doing so. Academies should apply to the Secretary of State via the Educational Funding Agency (EFA).

Further guidance on CW produced by Bristol, Swindon and South Gloucestershire SACREs is available online here: <http://www.bristol.anglican.org/school-resources/collective-worship-ideas-and-resources/>.

Inspection of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

A school can now be judged as requiring improvement if SMSC is having no impact and is ineffective:

130. In judging the school's overall effectiveness, inspectors consider whether:

- the school requires improvement as it is not a good school because one or more of the four key judgements requires improvement (grade 3) and/or there are weaknesses in the overall provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Defining spiritual, moral, social and cultural development:

131. The spiritual development of pupils is shown by their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- willingness to reflect on their experiences.

132. The moral development of pupils is shown by their:

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong, readily apply this understanding in their own lives and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England
- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues, and being able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

133. The social development of pupils is shown by their:

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; the pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

134. The cultural development of pupils is shown by their:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others
- understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities
- interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity, and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

In this respect, creating the time and space to reflect on, and design approaches to, meeting the statutory requirement to promote SMSC development may also be a path to re-envisioning our schools as first and foremost human places – places that are both stimulating and kind to their constituents, imbued with spirit and soul.¹

¹ Schools with Soul, p30, <http://www.thersa.org/action-research-centre/learning-cognition-and-creativity/education/reports-and-events/reports/schools-with-soul>

Ten top questions: A diagnostic check-list for governors and headteachers

How effective is our school at SMSC, RE and CW?

	Yes	No	Unsure
The quality of education provided in the school			
1. Is your curriculum rich, relevant broad and balanced - is there no unexplained narrowness ?			
2. Is there a teaching of and a support for fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs?			
3. Do pupils have opportunities to engage in extra- curricular activities and volunteering within their local community?			
4. Are pupils being given opportunities to learn how to resolve conflicts effectively?			
5. Is there a balanced approach to the pupil's RE that is broadly Christian but takes account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions in Britain?			
Quality of leadership and management in the school			
6. Does your school include a rounded programme of assemblies that help to promote pupils' SMSC, providing clear guidance on what is right or wrong?			
7. Do governors and the school promote tolerance of and respect for people of all faiths (and those of no faith), cultures and lifestyles – do they support through their words, actions and influence within the school and more widely in the community, to prepare children and young people positively for life in modern Britain?			
The behaviour and safety of pupils at the school			
8. Are there safeguarding arrangements that include keeping pupils free from the dangers of radicalisation and extremism? Do these include checking and monitoring (e.g. of external speakers at school assemblies)?			
9. Does the school have effective systems for ensuring a school culture where pupils conduct themselves with respect courtesy and good manners and do they understand how such behaviour contributes to school life, relationships, adult life and work?			
10. Does the school have effective systems for monitoring and tackling all forms of bullying and harassment? (This includes cyber bullying, prejudice-based bullying related to SEN, sex, race, religion and belief, disability, sexual orientation or gender reassignment.)			

Actions:

Yes = What is your evidence? Are there any further questions to ask about the provision?

No = Then this needs to be an action for development.

Unsure = Investigate further.

Five suggestions for outstanding practice

1. Ensure all members of your school community can articulate what it understands as SMSC and can relate this to the school's overall purpose and ethos.
2. Ensure your school is clear as to where it is planning for and delivering SMSC - avoid a scattergun approach. RE , CW, PSHE and Citizenship are areas that are of key importance.

*"Schools should focus on a limited number of activities or approaches for the implementation of SMSC. Done well, these are likely to be more effective and more open to a critical evaluation than many spread too thinly to make any real difference."*²

3. The responsibility for the leadership of SMSC, RE and CW is clear, shared and held to account. Those responsible are given appropriate support through continuing professional development, and governor scrutiny and challenge.
4. There are clear lines of intelligent accountability and self-evaluation frameworks for SMSC, RE and CW. Ensure your school has a lead governor with responsibility for SMSC who liaises with school leadership, teachers and pupils to develop a system for monitoring and evaluating SMSC with realistic targets and an appropriate framework for analysing the effectiveness of any provision.
5. Build SMSC into the core life and work of your school as a tool for human flourishing. Include SMSC in reporting systems to parents and students and in teachers' performance management systems. Recognise and plan for SMSC as a tool for raising attainment and as a supporting strategy for closing attainment gaps.

² RSA Schools with Soul p25 2014 <http://www.thersa.org/action-research-centre/learning,-cognition-and-creativity/education/reports-and-events/reports/schools-with-soul#download-report>

Further guidance, advice and training

Katy Staples, the author of this guidance is Advisor to SACRE for Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council and Swindon Borough Council and is the Advisor to Church of England schools in the Diocese of Bristol.



Katy leads training for RE across the South West, has led nationally acclaimed projects to promote inter-faith dialogue in schools, and recently produced guidance for the National Society (Church of England) on combatting homophobic bullying. She also sits on the Church of England Religious Education Strategy Group.

Tel.: 0117 906 0100 (Diocese of Bristol)

Email: katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

Details of training and advice are available below and online.

CW: <http://www.bristol.anglican.org/school-resources/collective-worship-training-support/>

SMSC: <http://www.bristol.anglican.org/school-resources/smsc-training-and-support/>

RE: <http://www.bristol.anglican.org/school-resources/re-training-support/>

How to make Collective Worship effective and central to Spiritual Development

/ How

- Full-day training course: [20 November 2014 \(click here for details and booking\)](#)
- School-based: full-day, for some or all staff, or for a cluster of schools sharing costs

/ Outcomes

- Lead and monitor the impact of Collective Worship on the life of the school
- Offer motivating, constructive coaching feedback for others to improve Collective Worship
- Awareness of the different styles of Collective Worship appropriate for different settings
- An understanding of the role that pupils can play in Collective Worship
- Be inspired as to the different strategies for leading effective Collective Worship and the different models for evaluating the impact of assemblies on the lives of pupils and on the school community

Leading Spiritual Development / Spiritual Development across the curriculum

/ How

- Full-day training course: [25 March 2015 \(click here for details\)](#)
- School-based: full-day or ½ day, for all staff or for a cluster of schools sharing costs

/ Outcomes

- Understand the SIAMS and Ofsted criteria for SMSC
- Have a greater definition of the Spiritual Development and the SMSC aspects of learning
- Develop systems to audit current provision
- Plan for improved provision of opportunities throughout the curriculum
- Gain practical and inspirational ideas to take back and implement

Assessment in RE

/ How

- 1.5 hours
- School-based
- Own staff or with cluster of schools sharing costs
- Twilight course / part of INSET day / 1:1 / staff meeting

/ Outcomes

- Understand how to set appropriate challenge in RE to allow progress
- Formulate good monitoring and evaluation systems for tracking progress in RE

New RE Subject Leaders

/ How

- [Full-day training course: 18 September 2014 \(click here for details\)](#)
- School-based ½ day of 1:1 support
- School-based ½ day / 2 twilights for a cluster of schools sharing costs

/ Outcomes

- Understand the aims and purposes of RE
- A basic understanding of the central beliefs of the 6 major world faiths and of non-religious world-views)
- The skills to judge RE teaching and learning using Ofsted (and SIAMS) criteria
- Develop realistic models for assessment and monitoring progress in RE
- Identify key issues arising from pupil workbooks

RE Governance training

For governors in Bristol, South Gloucestershire or Swindon local authorities. - available through your LA Governor services

/ Outcomes

- Appreciate the extent to which RE is a vulnerable subject
- Understand your role in asking challenging questions about RE provision

- Feel confident in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of RE, providing challenge and support

RE for Wider Impact

/ How

- [Full-day training course: 12 March 2015 \(click here for details\)](#)
- School-based ½ day for own staff or with cluster of schools sharing costs

/ Outcomes

- Understanding the importance in RE of ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum that includes an understanding of diversity in the UK and globally
- A skillset to plan RE that can be delivered in conjunction with other subjects, making a broader plan for effective learning
- Plan RE using an enquiry approach, encouraging curiosity and ensuring challenge and progress

Standards in RE

/ How

- ½ day or full day
- School-based
- Own staff or with cluster of schools sharing costs
- 1:1 / small group / all staff / part of INSET day

/ Outcomes

- Learn the theory, using video clips and mock moderation
- Carry out RE lesson observations and judge a lesson against Ofsted / SIAMS criteria
- Identify evidence for judging pace, pitch and progress
- Use data and work scrutiny evidence to accurately judge the quality of RE teaching over time
- Moderate teacher assessment judgements in RE using evidence from lesson observations, pupils' work and data

