

Swindon Borough Council

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Tuesday, 1 November 2016

Tadpole Farm C of E Primary School, Tadpole Garden Village, Green Street, Blunsdon, Swindon SN25 2QS

At 6.00 p.m.

Please Note:

1. SACRE Members have been asked to park at the side of the school rather than the front, as access to the meeting room will be via the side entrance.
2. Refreshments will be available from 5.45pm
3. SACRE Membership forms will be available from 5.45pm for those who have not had an opportunity to complete them.

Group A: Christian Denominations and Other Religions or Religious Denominations

Teresa Clerck, Jewish Community
Jo Backus, Buddhist Community
Mr Gurchoran Singh Lyal, Sikh Community
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 Community

Group B: The Church of England

Reverend Clive Deverell
Miss Janet French
Reverend Norma McKemey
Ms Steph Mundin
Vacancy

Group C: Teacher Associations

Mrs Tracy Mason, NUT
Mrs Lottie O'Brien, NASUWT
Mrs Mandy Sandleton, NASUWT
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy

**Group D:
The Local Authority**

Councillor Fionuala Foley
Councillor Fay Howard
Councillor Gemma McCracken
Councillor Teresa Page
Councillor Barbara Parry

Co-Opted:

Jo Garton, Swindon Humanists
Fidelma Meehan, Baha'i Community

Support Officers:

Peter Nathan
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. **6.00pm - Welcome from Tadpole Farm C of E Primary Academy**
2. **6.05pm - Apologies for Absence**
3. **6.06pm - 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.
4. **6.07pm - 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.
5. **6.15pm - Minutes and Matters Arising** (Pages 5 - 14)
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2016.

Matters Arising –

- (i) SACRE Website
- (ii) Curriculum Offer – Responses received
- (iii) Membership Update

6. **6.30pm - Development Plan 2016-18** (Pages 15 - 20)
7. **6.55pm - Launch of the Agreed Syllabus**
8. **7.05pm - National Updates** (Pages 21 - 28)
9. **7.25pm - Date and Time of the Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the SACRE is on Tuesday 7th March 2017. 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: 24 October 2016

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

WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY 2016

PRESENT:-

Group A: Mr David Burbidge (Baptist Church), Mrs Sarah Christian Denominations and Lane Cawte (Chair and United Reformed Other Religions or Religious Church), Mrs Teresa Clerck (Jewish Denominations Community), Mr Tony McAteer (Catholic Community) and Mr Dinesh Patel (Hindu Community)

Group B: Reverend Clive Deverell, Miss Janet French, Church of England Reverend Norma McKemey and Ms Steph Mundin

Group C: Mr Paul Sunners
Teacher Organisations

Group D: Councillors Fionuala Foley, Gemma McCracken, Councillors Fay Howard, Teresa Page and Barbara Parry.

Also in attendance: Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor) and Sarah Foulkes (School Improvement Adviser)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Jo Backus, Reverend David Howell, Mr M S Khan Ms Catherine Lomax, Mr Gurchoran Singh Lyal, Mrs Tracy Mason, Mrs Fidelma Meehan and Mrs Lottie O'Brien.

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2016/17

Resolved – (1) That Sarah Lane Cawte be appointed Chair of the SACRE for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

(2) That Councillor Gemma McCracken be appointed Vice-Chair of the SACRE for the remainder of 2016.

2. Welcome from the Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre

Dinesh Patel welcomed the SACRE to the Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre. Following a tour of the Centre, including the Temple, Mr Patel explained that the Temple and Cultural Centre had recently opened and was the first Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre in Swindon, which gave Hindus in the Swindon area a place to meet socially and celebrate their faith. The SACRE noted that the ground floor was arranged into a number of separate meeting rooms to encourage community use of the premises and the Temple and meditation room was located on the first floor.

The Chair thanked Mr Patel for the tour of the facility and for his very warm and hospitable welcome.

3. 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.

4. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

5. Minutes and Matters Arising

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2016, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Minute 121 – Website Update

The Chair reminded SACRE members of the need to submit their profile details to Mr Freddy Pound for inclusion on the new SACRE website. A template was available from Mr Pound if required.

6. Membership Update

The SACRE Clerk reminded members of Groups A, B and C of the need to respond to a request seeking confirmation of their willingness to serve on the SACRE for a further four year period and the completion of a contact details form.

The SACRE noted that the Council would be asked to confirm the membership of the SACRE Groups A, B and C at their meeting in September 2016.

7. Feedback from Conferences and Meetings

NASACRE AGM 2016 – Shaping the Future

The SACRE received a report from Mr Derek Jay, South Gloucester SACRE on the NASACRE AGM held at Central Hall, Westminster, London on 17th May 2016.

Keynote speakers included The Rt Hon Baroness Elizabeth Butler Sloss GBE and Professor Alan Dinham.

Secondary Cluster Meetings

The SACRE noted that a secondary cluster meeting was held on 19th May 2016 when 6 schools attended and considered the new Religious Education GCSE requirements and new Humanism materials.

Primary Cluster Meetings

The SACRE noted that 7 schools attended the recent primary cluster meeting, which considered subject specialism in Christianity and materials that could be used to teach Humanism.

Learn, Teach Lead RE

The SACRE welcome Mr Ed Pawson, Programme Director for Learn, Teach, Lead RE for the South West region and Mrs Emma McCarthy, Primary Hub leader for Swindon.

Mr Pawson spoke about his role as a SACRE Advisor to both Torbay and Devon Councils and the benefits of Religious Education (RE) teachers networking with other RE teachers in their area. He reminded the SACRE that the Learn, Teach Lead RE project aimed to support all teachers of RE irrespective of their experience or qualifications through practical support at hub meetings and the opportunity to participate in projects that developed their teaching skills and the learning experiences of those they teach. A successful project was running in the Devon / Cornwall area and this model was being replicated for the Taunton / Swindon area.

The SACRE noted that Mrs McCarthy had been appointed as the Primary Hub Leader for Swindon. Mrs McCarthy highlighted the main aspects of her role, in particular to identify unmet needs in relation to the teaching of RE and support the development of the project to improve the quality of teaching and learning outcomes and leadership. She explained that Hub Leaders received 2 days training each year to help them in their role. There were 7 RE Hubs in the South West of England with discussions taking place about potential for an additional Hub in Chippenham. A successful Annual Conference was held in early July 2016 where about 60 teachers attended.

Mrs McCarthy commented on the exciting opportunity to act as Hub leader and that it was her desire to enthuse and inspire the next generation of primary and secondary RE teachers. She responded to a number of queries in relation to the implications of her role as Hub leader in working with school Governors and the opportunities for teachers to be involved with Learn, Teach, Lead RE.

Ms Katy Staples, SACRE Advisor, explained that she would be working closely with Mrs McCarthy in launching the first Hub meeting on 17th November 2016 and that Mrs McCarthy would be involved in the implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus. The SACRE noted that it was very important to build strong relationships and the need to build bridges between primary and secondary RE teachers.

The SACRE Advisor also commented on additional funding for Learn, Teach, Lead RE from the St Matthias Trust and Bristol University.

Mrs McCarthy agreed to inform the SACRE of future Hub meetings in Swindon.

8. High Court Ruling about Humanism and NASACRE and AREIAC Response

The SACRE Advisor reported on a recent High Court Ruling on Religious Education (RE) and the inclusion of Humanism, as a non-religious world view, in the study of RE at Key Stage 4 and subsequent advice of Dr Satvinder Juss, King's College, University of London.

The SACRE were advised that the Agreed Syllabus for Swindon included an element of teaching Humanism at Key Stage 2 and that guidance was being planned for Key Stage 4. The SACRE were satisfied that the Swindon Borough Council newly Agreed Syllabus complied with the Department for Education guidance issued in July 2016.

Resolved – That the guidance received from Dr Satvinder Juss be noted and the position monitored for further advice and guidance.

9. Response from Letter and Survey about Poor Exam Entry Data

The SACRE Advisor referred to a letter that had been circulated to all schools and academies in Swindon about the 2014/15 examination data for entries for public examinations in Religious Education, in which it was reported that Swindon had the lowest numbers of entries for GCSE Religious Studies nationally at 17%. The SACRE noted that this information had been drawn to the attention of all schools and academies in Swindon along with details of the Agreed Syllabus.

In order to highlight the importance of the provision of RE for all registered pupils at school Councillor Fionuala Foley explained that she would be visiting Secondary schools during September 2016 and would raise this issue and remind schools of their responsibilities in relation to the teaching of RE. In addition Mrs Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Advisor agreed to include the issue in her discussions with schools at the upcoming Subject Network Day.

Resolved – (1) That the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Fionuala Foley, (i) highlights the importance of schools teaching RE during her visits to Secondary schools during September 2016, and (ii) circulates a letter prepared by the SACRE Advisor about the level of Religious Education being taught in schools at Key Stage 4 to all secondary schools and all Chair of Governors in Swindon.

(2) That Mrs Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Advisor includes the issue of teaching RE in her discussions with schools at the upcoming Subject Network Day.

10. Launch of the Agreed Syllabus

The SACRE Advisor confirmed that Mr Stephen Pett and Mrs Fiona Moss from RE Today would be launching the Swindon Agreed Syllabus on 8th November 2016 at Tadpole Farm C of E Primary School.

The Chair encouraged SACRE members to attend the launch of the Agreed Syllabus and agreed that the programme and format for the launch would be circulated to SACRE members in due course.

Mrs Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Advisor asked for details of the schools invited to the launch and agreed to encourage their attendance. The SACRE Advisor commented on the Syllabus and that it would be tailored to meet Swindon needs. The SACRE were asked to provide a number of appropriate images of children from Swindon schools to include in the Syllabus.

11. SACRE Representation on Other Committees

The Chair advised the SACRE that, following a review of the Co-opted members of Swindon Borough Council committees, the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee had agreed to streamline the number of co-optee's on their Committee. As there were already five members on the Committee who would be able to represent the views of SACRE it was agreed not to appoint a co-optee from the SACRE at this time.

The Chair thanked Paul Sunners for representing the SACRE on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and for the sterling work he has undertaken on behalf of the SACRE over the years.

12. Paul Sunners

The SACRE was informed that this would be Mr Paul Sunners (Group C) last SACRE meeting representing the NAHT and that a new NAHT representative was being sought.

The Chair, on behalf of the SACRE thanked Mr Sunners for his commitment, contribution, support and engagement as a member of SACRE over the years. The Chair wished Mr Sunners all the best for the future and explained that his contribution at SACRE meetings will be sorely missed.

13. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the SACRE would be held on Tuesday, 1st November 2016, commencing at 6:00pm. It was suggested that Tadpole Farm C of E Primary School be considered as a potential venue for this meeting.

Mr Tony McAteer offered the use of Holy Cross Primary School for the meeting of the SACRE on Tuesday 7th March 2017.

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Good Curriculum Offer for Religious Education at your School/Academy

Summary of Responses Received

Page 11

School/Academy	KS4 – RE Provision	GCSE Offer	Religions	Exam Boards	Curriculum Time Offered	How it is Offered	Religions/topics covered
The Dorcan Academy	Short course GCSE following Eduqas Specification for current year 10s, AQA short course offered as optional for current year 11s	Year 10 – Compulsory – all 160 students to sit short course GCSE Students receive 2 lessons of 1 hour per fortnight. Year 11 – 35 students – students receive 1 lesson of 1 hour per fortnight	Christianity and Islam	Eduqas (Year 10) AQA (Year 11)	All year groups receive 2 lessons of 1 hour per fortnight.	Students are taught a range of areas under 'key concepts'	Year 7: Sikhism and Looking for God, The Island – Christianity, Global issues – animal and human rights. Year 8: Islam, People who put their faith into action, Religion in literature. Year 9: Islam, Moral issues and ultimate questions, Introduction to GCSE – Issues of relationships module. Year 10 – Educas short course GCSE Year 11 – AQA short course GCSE
Ridgeway School and Sixth Form College	AQA Religious Studies B	All students offered it as part of their options. 8 Hours a fortnight teaching time, usual class over	Christianity and Islam	AQA	2 hours a fortnight	on timetable	All topics and religions are covered, including non-faith perspectives and new-age religions. We also cover a large number of ethical debates and religious contributions to them as well as a

		25 students.					topic on the Media and its portrayal of religion in the modern world.
Highworth Warneford School	All pupils follow a full GCSE RE course Year 11- WJEC GCSE Syllabus B Year 10 – Eduqas (WJEC) Religious Studies	Whole year group (about 180 pupils) 1 hour per week on timetable	Christianity and Islam	WJEC, Eduqas (from September 2016)	Syllabus based on SACRE at KS3 1 hour per week for all pupils	Taught in mixed ability tutor groups – by a specialist teacher or another member of staff (not form tutors)	Christianity plus five other major world religions.
Lydiard Park Academy	All students study a full course GCSE RS across year 9,10,11	All students 1 hour a week over 3 years	Christianity Buddhism	OCR	1 hour a week over 3 years	-	Christianity – the beliefs Buddhism – The beliefs Philosophy and Ethics based units
Churchfields Academy	1 class in Y9. The aim is get the provision up and running across the whole of KS4 again.	1 Class – 10 at present (it is anticipated that more will be added as the academic year progresses). 4 lessons a week.	Christianity and possibly Islam	AQA Specification A	1 Lesson each week.	It is delivered as RPE, 'Religion, Philosophy and Ethics'	6 main religions are looked at in relation to the following topics: <u>Year 7</u> What is belief? What does it mean to be human? Suffering Ethics <u>Year 8</u> What is a person? Film and Faith

							Prejudice and Discrimination Holocaust Response
The Riverside centre (EOTAS)	Yr 11 RS 1 class Yr 10 RS 2 classes	Yr 11 RS (4 students) 1 hour a week Yr 10 RS 2 classes (9 students in each class) 1 hour a week per class	Yr 11 – Religion and Morality: The specification allows for the study solely of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, or for a combination of any of these specified religions. Yr 10 – The study of religions: Beliefs and teachings. The specification studies Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Judaism.	Yr 10 AQA GCSE Religious Studies, Short Course – over 2 years, (8061) For teaching from Sept 2016 onwards, for exams in 2018 onwards. Yr 11 AQA Religious Studies B, Short Course, for exams 2014 onwards and certification June 2014 onwards (4056).	Yr 11 RS (4 students) 1 hour a week Yr 10 RS 2 classes (9 students in each class) 1 hour a week per class	Lessons taught in 1 hour lessons per week. Homework is set for students to complete related to the classwork. There is a mixture of content taught lessons and applying knowledge to GCSE style questions and past GCSE questions. There is a variety of group and individual tasks where learners of all different types can show progress.	Yr 11 – Religion and Morality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacred texts • Contemporary religious leaders • Voluntary groups • Diversity of viewpoints • Secular responses • Legal viewpoints • Relationship between religious beliefs and teachings <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Religious attitudes to matters of life 2. Religious attitudes to the elderly and death 3. Religious attitudes to drug abuse 4. Religious attitude to crime and punishment 5. Religious attitudes to rich and poor in British society

							<p>6. Religious attitudes to world poverty</p> <p>Yr 10</p> <p>Section A: The study of religions: beliefs and teachings of 2 religions from the following: Christianity, Islam, Judaism</p> <p>Section B: Thematic studies: religious, philosophical and ethical studies</p> <p>Theme A: Relationships and family</p> <p>Theme B: Religion, peace and conflict</p> <p>Christianity: Key beliefs, Jesus Christ and Salvation</p> <p>Islam: Key beliefs, Authority</p> <p>Judaism: Key beliefs, the covenant and the mitzvot</p> <p>Relationships and families</p> <p>Sex, marriage and divorce</p> <p>Families and gender equality</p> <p>Religion peace and conflict</p> <p>Religion, violence, terrorism and war</p> <p>Religion and belief in 21st C conflict</p>

Swindon Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Development Plan 2016-18

Vision Statement

Swindon SACRE Aims to:

- Enhance the quality of Religious Education and Collective Worship in Swindon Schools / Academies through supporting teachers.
- Ensure the effective management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders.
- Monitor schools' provision for RE and Collective Worship as well as the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- Encourage Schools, Academies and Colleges to celebrate the religious and cultural diversity found in Swindon.

Improvement Plan 16 - 18

Goals

1. To improve standards of pupil attainment in Religious Education to equate with national expectations of performance levels in other core subjects through offering high quality CPD and monitoring outcomes
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of SACRE's partnership with the Local Authority and to assess the impact of the new locally agreed syllabus launched November 2016
3. To develop and enhance the possibilities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) offered through Collective Worship (Assemblies).
4. To enhance the vital role that RE must play in contributing to understanding diversity, including through offering direct opportunities for engagement events for pupils.

Goal I To improve standards of pupil attainment in Religious Education to equate with national expectations of performance levels in other core subjects through offering high quality CPD and monitoring outcomes

Team Leader

What needs changing/ developing/ Sustaining?	What Actions are needed?	Time/ Cost	Persons responsible	KPI Key performance indicators	2017	2018
A Better monitoring of the quality of Religious Education in Schools Public Exams Other data?						
B More Effective support offered to schools to improve the quality of Religious Education						

5. Goal 2

To evaluate the effectiveness of SACRE's partnership with the Local Authority and to assess the impact of the new locally agreed syllabus launched November 2016

Team Leaders:

What needs changing/ developing/ Sustaining?	What Actions are needed?	Time/ Cost	Persons responsible	KPI Key performance indicators	2017	2018
A Improve the working relationship between SACRE and the Local Authority.						
B Ensure the effectiveness of the New Agreed Syllabus as it is taught in schools from September 2017						

Goal 3

To develop and enhance the possibilities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development offered through Collective Worship (Assemblies)

Team Leader:

What needs changing/ developing/ Sustaining?	What Actions are needed?	Time/ Cost	Persons responsible	KPI Key performance indicators	2017	2018
A The quality of pupils' access to high quality SMSC through well led Collective Worship/ Assemblies across the Local Authority needs greater consistency.						
B						

Goal 4 To enhance the vital role that RE must play in contributing to understanding diversity, including through offering direct opportunities for engagement events for pupils

Leader

What needs changing/ developing/ Sustaining?	What Actions are needed?	Time/ Cost	Persons responsible	KPI Key performance indicators	2017	2018
A Pupils need to have greater access to a Religious Education that will help them engage with local and regional, national and global diversity						
B						

Swindon SACRE 1st November 2016

Digest of National RE Updates for SACRE

A. New proposed Constitution for NASACRE

Proposed constitution 2016

Below is the proposed constitution to be discussed at the 2016 AGM. The current constitution page can be found from the menu on the NASACRE website.

1. The Name of the Association:

The name of the Association shall be the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE).

2. The Aims of the Association:

The aims of the Association shall be:

2.1 To assist the Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs) to fulfil their responsibilities

2.2 To represent their common concerns to other bodies

2.3 To assist in the training and mutual consultation of SACRE members

2.4 To encourage the development of SACREs

2.5 To undertake such other activities, appropriate to SACREs, as may benefit RE and collective worship

3. Basis of membership and duties:

3.1 Each SACRE shall be invited to join the Association, membership being renewable annually on payment of the annual subscription in place at that time. These member SACREs constitute the Council.

3.2 The Council shall meet at least once annually; this meeting shall be known as the Annual General Meeting (AGM). It will be deemed to be quorate when one quarter of member SACREs is represented.

3.3 Each member SACRE shall be entitled to send any number of representatives to the meetings of the Council, but on any matter on which the Council takes a vote, each member SACRE shall be entitled to cast one vote only.

3.4 The Council shall be responsible for review and amendment of the Constitution, as appropriate.

3.5 A majority of one half plus one of the Council shall be necessary for any amendment to the Constitution.

4. The Honorary Officers:

Honorary Officers shall be nominated by a SACRE and must be an officer to, or a member or co-opted member of, that SACRE.

These shall be elected for a period of two years and shall comprise:

4.1 The Chair

4.2 The Vice Chair

4.3 The Assistant to the Chair

4.4 The Secretary

4.5 The Treasurer

The Vice Chair / Chair / Assistant to the Chair is a 6 year term of office with 2 years in each Officer role, the Vice Chair being elected to automatically move into the next role after two years. At any one time, 3 officers will be on the Executive at different stages of these roles. If at any time, one of these Officers is unable to continue, the Executive may appoint a temporary substitute from the other two post holders until the next AGM, when the position will be regularised.

An Honorary Officer may relinquish their office at any time. If an Honorary Officer is absent from three consecutive Committee meetings they shall be deemed to have relinquished their office and would need to seek re-election at the next Council AGM if they so desired.

5. The Executive Committee (the Committee):

Committee members shall be nominated by a SACRE and must be an officer to, or a member or co-opted member of, that SACRE. Similarly, a person co-opted by the Committee would normally be an officer to a SACRE or a member of a SACRE, but in some cases their specific area of expertise might be deemed more significant than the aforementioned criteria.

The Committee shall comprise the elected Honorary Officers together with no more than eight other members elected by the Council. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to three additional members. The Committee shall include the following:

5.1 The Assistant to the Chair who shall be the previous Chair and shall assist for a period of two years

5.2 A Membership Secretary who shall monitor the membership, keep up to date records and work with the Treasurer to ensure members have paid their fees on time

5.3 A Communications Officer who shall have oversight of the Association's communications strategy and communications, including the NASACRE briefings sent to member SACREs

5.4 A Conference Organiser who shall have oversight of the Annual Conference in partnership with the Secretary and the Treasurer

5.5 A Development Officer who shall oversee the production of a development plan and report to the Executive and Council on its progress

With the agreement of the Committee, the roles set out in 5.1 – 5.5 may be shared between members of the Committee. Members of the Committee shall serve for a period of three years, at which time they must seek re-election by the Council at the appropriate AGM. Normally, members of the Executive Committee should not serve more than six years consecutively. Co-opted members shall normally serve for two years when a review by the Committee will take place; they may serve as a co-opted member for up to six years consecutively.

If a member of the Committee misses three consecutive Committee meetings they shall be deemed to have left the Committee.

The Committee shall be responsible for the planning of other activities and events in fulfilment of the aims of the Association.

6. Subscriptions and Finance:

There shall be a membership fee, which shall be fixed from time to time by the Council. This fee shall not be deemed as the payment for the Annual Conference for that part of the Conference that is not the Council.

7. Winding-up:

If for any reason the Association were to be dissolved, any assets remaining in the Association's bank account(s) shall be divided equally between those SACREs which were members at the time of the dissolution of the Association, once all other debts outstanding had been cleared.

Action: to vote

Our SACRE has been asked to vote :

Does your SACRE agree to the new NASACRE constitution?

Yes

No

Date of SACRE Meeting at which this was agreed.



B. The REC launches independent Commission on RE

An independent Commission has been established by the Religious Education Council (REC) to make wide-ranging recommendations in relation to Religious Education (RE) in schools.

The Commission has been asked by the REC to review the legal, education and policy frameworks for RE in all primary schools, secondary schools and further education colleges in England. The establishment of the Commission comes at a critical time for RE, and its work may well be influential.

Further information and discussion will occupy SACRE time later in the year.

Action : to note

C Post BREXIT hate crimes :

The place RE can play in trying to prevent hate crimes

A letter sent to Justine Greening <http://nasacre.org.uk/file/nasacre/1-74-crpvcollagreedstatement.pdf>

Bristol local unit of work about preventing hate :

<http://www.bristol.anglican.org/2016/educating-to-challenge-hate-crime/>

Action : to note and to ask what can SACRE suggest through its remit in advising and supporting RE in Swindon Schools to challenge hate crime in the area?

D. Tell MAMA Annual Report 2015

The [Tell MAMA Annual Report](#) was launched in Parliament on 29th June this year. It highlights hate crime against Muslims in the UK. The report, entitled: *The Geography of Anti-Muslim Hatred*, looked at where Muslims reported hate crime against them. A number of interesting things were revealed:

- The majority of hate crimes were directed at women who were visibly Muslim
- The majority were perpetrated by white males
- The majority occurred on or near an A Road or transport hub

There was no correlation between places that Muslims were attacked and places of high unemployment or social deprivation.

11% of attacks were in places of education. In relation to this one of the comments in the report is: It is important that headteachers, teachers, and safeguarding leads in schools are trained to deal with Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate (page 29).

The report also noted:

Given that schools are an important place for educating and socialising young people in multicultural settings, the fact that there are more incidents in educational institutions than took place against Muslim institutions is troubling. (page 39).

SACREs may wish to look at this [report in full](#)

http://tellmamauk.org/wpcontent/uploads/pdf/tell_mama_2015_annual_report.pdf and ask the local authority what it is doing in light of the report. It may also want to ask how the local authority is working with transport providers to ensure that pupils who are identified as Muslims are being kept safe from bullying, intimidation and hate crime. What is clear is that girls and young women are much more vulnerable than their male counterparts so the question arises: what is the local authority and schools within the authority's area doing to ensure that these pupils are kept safe.

Of course there is a further question worth asking: if so much time is being given in many schools to the teaching of Islam in RE, why isn't this having a more positive impact on the lives of Muslims in Britain? If RE teachers are proud of their contribution to promoting shared values and community cohesion why is the percentage of hate crime against Muslims so high in schools?

David Hampshire

E. APPG on Religious Literacy

<http://nasacre.org.uk/file/nasacre/1-971-appg-on-re-improving-religious-literacy-full-report.pdf>

Action : to note

Action : How should this report inform the support we offer schools in teaching Islam ?

F Accord Award for SACRE

Get recognition for your SACRE's work in national Award

I am writing to you as RE Advisor to the Swindon Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education to urge that it consider applying for the [2017 Accord Inclusivity Award](#), which is seeking to reward those SACREs that work hardest in their area towards boosting the

growth of inclusion, cohesion and mutual understanding between those of different religions and beliefs. If your SACRE takes these aims seriously then please don't miss out on this rare opportunity for it to be recognised for its work. Until now the Award - which has run every year since 2010 - has rewarded schools in England and Wales that excel on these grounds. For the 2017 Award however judges have decided to only invite nominations for SACREs, given the important role SACREs can play through their work in promoting respect, empathy and social cohesion.

Religious Education has always been of key importance for Inclusivity Award judges, who have consistently rewarded schools for excellence in the subject (and often thanks to recommendations from SACREs). For example, the first placed school in 2013, Little Heath School in Redbridge, won [strong praise](#) from judges for its approach to RE which was later [highlighted](#) by Ofsted as an example for other special schools to follow. Newbury Park Primary School in Ilford came first [in 2014](#) for its 'Ambassadors of Faith and Belief' scheme that was supported by its SACRE and which served to help improve pupils understanding of the nature of faith and belief as a real life experience. The winning school in the 2016 Award, the Chestnut Grove Academy in Balham, [stood out](#) for the way in which its RE deepened and extended pupils' knowledge and understanding of religion and belief while simultaneously dealing with a range of controversial issues, such as around sexual diversity, homophobia and gender. But this coming year presents a chance for SACREs themselves to shine.

The Award is free to apply for. The full line up of another respected and experienced panel of experts will soon be announced. Previous judges have included former Secretary of State for Education, Lord Baker; the Chair of the Education Select Committee, Neil Carmichael MP; the then Chair of the Religious Education Council of England, John Keast OBE; the Bishop of Buckingham, The Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson, and journalist Polly Toynbee.

RE is subject to many demands and pressures. If your SACRE works hard at trying to ensure local schools provide inclusive and high quality RE and assemblies that take seriously the promotion of the growth of mutual understanding between those of different beliefs and backgrounds, then please make sure someone is mandated to submit a [completed nomination](#) on its behalf.

For more information on the Award please visit Accord's website at <http://accordcoalition.org.uk/inclusivity-award-2017/>. The deadline for entries is Monday

December 12th and prizes will be announced in the New Year. Please contact Accord's National Coordinator, Paul Pettinger, at paul@accordcoalition.org.uk or on 020 7324 3071 with any queries.

Every winner of the Inclusivity Award has received national press coverage for their success. Don't miss this chance to draw attention to you and your colleagues' efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain MBE

Action : Does SACRE feel we should apply for this award - does anyone have the capacity to make the application?