

**Swindon SACRE REC RE Review working party - 19/11/12**

**Those present:**

Mark Cawte – Methodist representative and Vice Chair of Swindon SACRE

Paul Sunners –National Association of Head Teachers

Katy Staples – Adviser to Swindon SACRE

**Apologies:** Lottie Rowe, Janet French, Tracy Mason.

**Summary**

The group felt this was a well constructed and logical review which displayed an accurate understanding of the context of RE in England at this time.

We felt the four foci and the 9 recommendations were very clear and pertinent

The group felt the report was well worded and in places was very heartening.

Many of our concerns were raised in the Addendum

All of which was most reassuring for the future health of RE.

**Focus 1 - The Aims of RE**

The group strongly concurred with the reviews' finding about the need for greater articulation and communication about the aims of RE and support Recommendation 1.

**Focus 2 - The RE Curriculum**

It was felt this also was an accurate understanding and supported the recommendations, although the group felt it was important that an allowing for diversity of pedagogy and learning methods (Recommendation 3) was vital and any over prescriptive "one way" of teaching RE should be resisted strongly.

**Focus 3 - Exemplification of good RE**

Again the group was supportive of this focus and we were pleased to see the emphasis being about promoting high standards of RE.

Paragraph 3.11 - Thhe group was rather concerned that eclectic learning methods were being typified as negative instead of potentially rich and skilful in meeting pupil's needs. They found the example of the boxer and pop star as a substitution for relevance over quality of learning, entertaining but overplayed.

The group were supportive of recommendation 4 but were unsure as to what recommendation 5 would look like in practice.

#### **Focus 4 - Assessment (including Qualifications)**

The group concurred with the review's findings – particularly the critique of learning at KS4 and the shift towards Philosophy and Ethics at both KS4 and 5 at the expense of the thorough exploration of religion(s)

Both recommendations 6 and 7 .rely on the government clearly communicating its descriptors for English, Mathematics and Science and on there being a landscape of credible public examinations for the subjects not included in the EBacc

#### **Two further recommendations - 8 and 9**

The group also supported these recommendations

It was expressed that the NS Framework included some confusing definitions and over ambiguous difficult grade descriptors for assessment that have needed reviewing for some time.

In particular it was reported that many non-specialist staff struggle to accurately place learning within the 6 strands and will often conflate Practices and Ways of Life with Expression of Meaning when exploring places of worship – for example

However it has given RE a common language and shared expectations.

#### **Concluding remarks**

Swindon SACRE is very grateful to the work of the Review group and would encourage you in your work and we support your findings and the direction in which you are heading.