

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2014

PRESENT:-

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) and Mr Tony McAteer (Catholic Community)

Group B:
Church of England

Reverend Clive Deverell, Miss Janet French, Reverend Norma McKemey, Ms Steph MUNDIN and Mrs Penny Summers

Group C:
Teacher Organisations

Mrs Lottie O'Brien - Vice Chair in the Chair and Paul Sunners

Group D:
Councillors

Councillors James Robbins and Alan Bishop

Also in attendance: Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Tracy Mason, Mrs Mandy Sandleton, Mrs Mel Shepherd, Ms Catherine Lomax, Mr Dinesh Patel, Councillor Fionuala Foley, Freddy Pound, Councillor Cindy Matthews and Councillor Gemma McCracken

56. Minutes Silence

The SACRE took time at the start of the meeting to remember Mark Cawte, who had served as the Chair of the SACRE since December 2012. The Vice-Chair led the tributes to Mark. Members of the SACRE also paid tribute to Mark for his passion, encouragement, determination, strength of character, authenticity and commitment to SACRE. The SACRE then had a few moments of silence in remembrance.

57. Appointment of Chair

Resolved: To defer appointing a Chair until early 2015 and that the Vice-Chair be asked to take on the responsibility of Chair for the next meeting on 2 December 2014.

58. 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.

59. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

60. Chair's Announcements

The Chair made the following announcements:

- a) Welcomed the Reverend Clive Deverell to his first SACRE meeting as representative of the Church of England on Group B.
- b) That SACRE members consider nominating a school to apply for the Accord Inclusive Schools Award that they think had done the most in the last year to promote inclusion, cohesion and the growth of mutual understanding, particularly on the grounds of religion and belief.
- c) Reported that Funding was available for Postgraduate teacher training for eligible graduates who were starting their training in the 2015/16 academic year on postgraduate routes including the non-salaried School Direct programme. It was noted that the numbers of places available had drastically increased especially in RE
- d) Reported that there was a new NASACRE website log-on password and that the Clerk would circulate details by email after the meeting.
- e) Reported that there was a one day conference in Birmingham on 27 November 2014, called 'The Trojan Horse aftermath - implications and opportunities' to explore the impact on RE, SMSC and collective worship. Further details could be obtained from the Clerk.

61. Minutes and Matters Arising

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

62. SACRE Website

The SACRE were reminded that Freddy Pound had volunteered to set up a working example of a website that would explain the role of SACRE in Swindon and contain information and useful links from SACRE members.

The SACRE Advisor asked all members to forward the following information to Freddy Pound for uploading to the SACRE web page:

- A profile of themselves, including picture
- Details about their role and experiences in relation to RE
- Useful resources for teachers
- Relevant information to be included in the locally Swindon pages
- Documents that would be useful for teachers

Resolved:

1. That Freddy Pound be thanked for the tremendous work already undertaken on the SACRE website.

2. That SACRE members be asked to forward the information detailed above to Freddy Pound for the website pages

63. New Ofsted Framework and Implications for RE

The SACRE received a report from the SACRE Advisor about guidance for Headteachers and Governors on Ofsted September 2014 criteria for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, Religious Education and Collective Worship.

The SACRE noted that the guidance supported the Ofsted Inspection Handbook July 2014 for inspections, written in the light of the Ofsted enquiry which highlighted issues to do with protecting students from possible extremism and ensuring that the curriculum was sufficiently broad that pupils would be well equipped to live in modern Britain.

The SACRE Advisor spoke about the importance of schools offering students a broad, balanced and rich curriculum that would ensure that pupils understood core British values and learned to live with difference well. She referred to the five suggestions for outstanding practice detailed in the document.

The SACRE split into group for an exercise and discussion activity based on a number of questions for governors and headteachers to check how effective their school was at Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, Religious Education and Collective Worship. It was suggested that governing bodies should use the diagnostic tool in the guidance to check their current practice.

Resolved:

To note the report and SACRE members to encourage governing bodies to use the diagnostic tool to check the effectiveness of their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, Religious Education and Collective Worship.

64. Progress Reports SACRE Working Parties

The SACRE Advisor spoke about the Distinctively Local RE Working Party and reminded members that the Working Party was looking for examples of units of work that were distinctive to Swindon to resource the Swindon Agreed Syllabus RE Units. One of the units recently being worked on was in relation to the work undertaken by Swindon foodbank.

The SACRE received a presentation from Janet French about a recent visit to the Swindon Foodbank and The Gateway Furniture Project, both run by Gateway Church in Swindon. Both projects were set up by local Christians to serve those in need in their community.

SACRE noted that the presentation could be used to help resource Key Stage 1 and Lower and Upper Key Stage 2.

The SACRE Advisor explained that more examples of Distinctively Local Swindon Units were required and the issue would be raised at the next Primary teachers Network meeting. Enquiries had been made with the local mosque about a visit and

a distinctive unit. Other examples of possible distinctive Units included Lydiard and Remembrance, free English language lessons, Year 9 Holocaust lessons, Swindon Humanism.

Resolved:

1. That Janet French be thanked for a very informative presentation
2. That the work of the Working Group be noted

65. Feedback from RE Teachers' Network Meetings

The SACRE Advisor explained that there had not been any RE teacher's network meetings since the last SACRE meeting.

66. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of SACRE would be held on 2nd December 2014, commencing at 6:00pm at Commonweal School 6th Form Centre.