

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TUESDAY, 23 JUNE 2015

PRESENT:-

Group A: Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte (Chair), Mr David Christian Denominations and Other Religions or Religious Denominations Burbidge (Baptist Church), Mr M S Khan (Muslim Community) and Mr Dinesh Patel (Hindu Community)

Group B: Miss Janet French, Reverend Norma McKemey Church of England and Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte

Group C: Mrs Tracy Mason and Mrs Lottie O'Brien (Vice-Teacher Organisations Chair)

Group D: Councillors Fionuala Foley, Carol Shelley and Councillors Gemma McCracken

Also in attendance: Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor), Sarah Foulkes (School Improvement Adviser) and Peter Nathan (Head of Education) and Natalie Dent (RE Co-ordinator, Haydonleigh Primary School)

Apologies for absence were received from Reverend Clive Deverell, Mr Gurchoran Singh Lyal, Councillor James Robbins, Ms Steph Mundin, Mrs Penny Summers, Mrs Mandy Sandleton, Mrs Mel Shepherd, Ms Catherine Lomax, Paul Sunners, Reverend David Howell, Mr Tony McAteer, Councillor Alan Bishop and Freddy Pound

90. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2015/16

Resolved:

1. That Sarah Lane Cawte be appointed as Chair of the SACRE for the municipal Year 2015/16.
2. That Lottie O'Brien be appointed as Vice-Chair of the SACRE for the municipal Year 2015/16.

91. Welcome from Haydonleigh Primary School

The Chair welcomed the SACRE to Haydonleigh Primary School and explained that she was a Governor at the School.

The Chair introduced Natalie Dent, who co-ordinated RE throughout the school. Natalie spoke about her experiences and challenges as a new Primary School lead for RE. In particular an audit of RE teaching within the school, arranging release time to undertake the co-ordinating role, leading staff meetings and discussion in relation to RE, monitoring children's expectations and the use of Teaching Assistants to deliver RE in classrooms.

The Chair thanked Natalie for her informative presentation.

92. Proposed Appointment of Co-Opted Representative

The Chair welcomed Fidelma Meehan, representative of the Baha'i community. The Chair suggested that SACRE consider appointing Fidelma as a co-opted member to broaden the scope and knowledge base of SACRE.

Resolved: That Fidelma Meehan, Baha'i community be appointed as a co-opted member of SACRE.

93. 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.

94. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

95. Chair's Announcements

- **Letter from the SACRE Advisor to Lord Nash and his response**
The Chair referred to a letter from the SACRE Advisor to Lord Nash about the role of SACREs in promoting the teaching of Religious Education. The SACRE noted the letter and the response received from James Brazil from the Ministerial Correspondence Team on behalf of Lord Nash.
- **A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools**
The Chair referred to a report from Charles Clarke and Linda Woodhead about religion and belief in schools. The SACRE were encouraged to examine the report, which contained a lot of information about SACRE's and their future and it was agreed that there would be further discussion about this document at the next meeting.
- **RE and EBacc**
The Chair reported on a recent speech from Nick Gibb MP setting out the government's plans to reinforce the importance of a core academic curriculum for all pupils. It was agreed that the SACRE would note further developments in respect of the place of RE.
- **Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
The SACRE were informed that they had previously nominated a co-opted representative to attend the Health, Adult and Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This Committee had now been replaced by the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Adult's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The SACRE were asked to nominate a representative to attend the next

meeting of the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 22nd July 2015.

Resolved: That the Director of Law and Democratic Services contact SACRE members to assess interest in attending meetings of the above Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a co-opted representative of SACRE.

96. Minutes

Resolved : That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2015, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

97. Discovery RE

The SACRE received a presentation from Jan Lever, Director of Discovery RE on the work undertaken by Discovery RE.

Jan told the SACRE that Discovery RE provided an *enquiry-based approach to Religious Education that consistently delivers excellent learning outcomes*.

Jan gave an overview of a typical lesson for Year 6 pupils and explained that Discovery RE was a comprehensive set of detailed medium-term planning for Religious Education for the whole primary school from Foundation to Year 6. It contained enquiry-based modules on Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. Christianity was taught in every year group, with Christmas and Easter given fresh treatment each year, developing children's learning in a progressive way.

SACRE were informed that up to 15 schools in Swindon were using Discovery RE to help with the teaching of RE. It was noted that once a school had purchased Discovery RE updates were free.

Jan left the SACRE with a copy of the Discovery RE folder which was available through the Chair, for members to examine.

The Chair thanked Jan for a very thorough overview of the work of Discovery RE.

Resolved: That Jan Lever be thanked for her presentation and the work of Discovery RE be noted.

98. Preparation for the Agreed Syllabus Conference

The SACRE considered a report of the SACRE Advisor setting out details of how the Agreed Syllabus should be reviewed.

The SACRE Advisor highlighted the proposed procedure and timetable for the review and explained that the new Syllabus should be complete and ready for use in schools by September 2016. The review would include an analysis of the current Agreed Syllabus in relation to national, regional and local developments, consultation, and development of appropriate materials for Swindon. Once the appropriate approvals had been achieved the new materials would be uploaded to a suitable website with publicity and training for teachers.

Resolved:

1. That the proposed procedure and timetable for the review of the Agreed Syllabus be agreed.
2. That the Chair and SACRE Advisor meet with Peter Nathan, Head of Education to discuss securing appropriate extra funding for the Agreed Syllabus Review and launch.
3. That the SACRE Chair to discuss with Peter Nathan, Head of Education the most appropriate ways to publicise the Agreed Syllabus and a launch training event.

99. Feedback from RE Teachers' Network Meetings

The SACRE Advisor reported on the recent Secondary and Primary RE Teachers' Network meetings held since the last SACRE meeting.

The SACRE noted that seven schools attended the Secondary meeting which considered life beyond levels and an increase in the allocation of time to RE. Ten school representatives attended the Primary meeting which considered core beliefs of Judaism and Sikhism.

SACRE expressed a concern about the low attendance at the Primary Network meetings and felt it was an issue that needed to be examined further.

Resolved:

1. That the comments of the SACRE Advisor be noted.

100. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the SACRE would be held on 20th October 2015, commencing at 6.00pm. Following the meeting the Rev McKemey offered the use of the Community Centre at Christ Church, Cricklade Street, Old Town, Swindon, SN1 3HB.