

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2016

PRESENT:-

Group A: Christian Denominations and Other Religions or Religious Denominations	Teresa Clerck (Jewish Community), Jo Backus (Buddhist Community), Mr David Burbidge (Baptist Church) and Mr M S Khan (Muslim Community)
Group B: Church of England	Reverend Clive Deverell, Miss Janet French and Reverend Norma McKemey
Group C: Teacher Organisations	Mrs Tracy Mason and Mrs Lottie O'Brien
Group D: Councillors	Councillors Gemma McCracken (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), Fay Howard and Barbara Parry

Also in attendance: Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fionuala Foley and Councillor Teresa Page, Fidelma Meehan, Ms Steph Mundin, Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte, Reverend David Howell, Mr Tony McAteer, Mr Dinesh Patel, Sarah Foulkes.

14. Welcome from Tadpole Farm C of E Primary Academy

The School Principal, Jane Leo welcomed the SACRE to Tadpole Farm C of E Primary Academy and spoke about the Academy and their approach to RE. The SACRE noted that the School aimed to demonstrate Christian values through roots and fruits in the normal everyday life of the School as they are illustrated by the Christian faith, other faiths and those with no faith.

The Chair thanked the School Principal for her welcome and for her informative presentation.

15. 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.

16. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

17. Minutes and Matters Arising

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2016, be confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

(i) SACRE Website – Minute 5

The SACRE Advisor reported that Freddy Pound had stepped down as the representative for Swindon Humanists, and as a consequence work on the SACRE website had not progressed.

In addition to the need for a SACRE website, the SACRE Advisor highlighted the need for the new Agreed Syllabus to be hosted on a website that would allow the Syllabus to be password protected, and provide Swindon schools the ability to download the Syllabus after the launch date of 8th November 2016.

It was noted that on-going discussions would be held between the SACRE Advisor and Swindon Borough Council to resolve this issue. However, in the short term the Syllabus could be hosted by the Bristol Diocese.

(ii) RE Curriculum Offer at Secondary Schools/Academies – Minute 9

The SACRE were reminded that at the last meeting they had asked the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to circulate a letter and questionnaire prepared by the SACRE Advisor, to secondary schools in Swindon about the level of RE being taught at Key Stage 4.

The SACRE considered the responses received from schools and noted that although RE was offered as a subject few schools provided sufficient curriculum time and as a consequence did not entered pupils for GCSE exams.

It was suggested that opportunities to network with schools was an important issue to be followed up, and links established to enable future SACRE meetings to be held at secondary schools.

(iii) Membership Update – Minute 6

The SACRE were informed that the Borough Council meeting held on 22nd September 2016 had considered a report on appointments to Committees and other Bodies, including appointments to Representative Groups A, B and C of the SACRE.

The Full Council had agreed the appointments to the various Representative Groups detailed above for the period until May 2020 and authorised SACRE to appoint to any interim vacancies during the term of office.

It was noted that there were still a number of vacancies within the Representative Groups A, B and C and attempts would be made to fill these vacancies.

18. Development Plan 2016-18

The SACRE was informed by the SACRE Advisor that the Swindon SACRE Development Plan 2016-18 was due to be updated to take into account the suggested vision statement and goals for Swindon SACRE.

The SACRE divided into groups and considered the vision statements and analysed each of the four goals in relation to the Key Performance Indicators and action required. The SACRE then received feedback from each Group, which would be collated into a workable draft Development Plan.

Resolved - That the SACRE Clerk collates the points raised and responses received in relation to the draft Development Plan 2016-18 and produce a workable draft document for further consideration at the next meeting in March 2017.

19. Launch of the Agreed Syllabus

The SACRE were reminded that the new Swindon Agreed Syllabus would be launched on 8th November 2016 at Tadpole Farm C of E Primary School.

The Chair encouraged SACRE members to attend the launch day and agreed that the programme and format for the launch would be circulated to SACRE members.

20. National Updates

The SACRE received updates on the following national issues and on certain matters were asked to make comments and offer opinions:

- The new proposed Constitution for the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE)
- The Religious Education Council independent Commission on Religious Education.
- Post BREXIT hate crimes and the place Religious Education can play in trying to prevent hate crimes.
- Tell MAMA Annual Report 2015.
- APPG on Religious Literacy.
- Accord Award for SACRE.

- Resolved – (1) That the National updates report be noted.
- (2) That the new proposed Constitution for the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) be agreed.
 - (3) That the updates in relation to (i) the independent Commission on Religious Education, (ii) Post BREXIT hate crimes, (iii) Tell MAMA Annual Report 2015 and (iv) the APPG on Religious Literacy be noted.
 - (4) That the SACRE consider applying for the Accord Award in 2017.

21. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the SACRE would be held on Tuesday, 7th March 2017, commencing at 6:00pm, at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School.