

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TUESDAY, 3 MARCH 2020

PRESENT:-

Group A: Christian Denominations and Other Religions or Religious Denominations	Jo Backus (Buddhist Community) David Burbidge (Baptist Church) Clare-Marie Burchall (Roman Catholic Community) Reverend David Howell (Swindon Evangelical Alliance)
Group B: Church of England	Ruth Williams
Group C: Teacher Organisations	Emma McCarthy Tracy Mason Helen Redhead
Group D: Councillors	Councillor Bazil Solomon

Also in attendance: Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor), Gareth Cheal (Education Place Planning and Admissions Manager), Sarah Stewart (Head of Religious Education at the Deanery Academy).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fay Howard, Matthew Courtliff, Carol Shelley, Roger Smith, Oladapo Ibitoye and Garry Perkins. Michelle Howard, Reverend Clive Deverell, Reverend Norma McKemey, Malkit Babbra, Dinesh Patel, Lottie O'Brien, Fidelma Meehan, Atiff Ghafar and Jo Garton.

22. The Chair's Announcements

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair (Emma McCarthy) took the Chair.

23. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interest in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

24. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

25. Presentation from Sarah Stewart about RE at The Deanery CE Academy

The Chair welcomed members of SACRE to the Deanery Church of England Academy and advised this was the last meeting of this Municipal year. She introduced Ms Sarah Stewart, Head of Religious Education at The Deanery, Church of England Academy. Ms Stewart gave a presentation and drew attention to the

implementation of Key Stage 3 religious education at the Deanery. She advised that topics included a mixture of Christianity topics and exploring different world views.

She spoke about her experiences and challenges as the Head of RE at a new Academy. As the school had twenty five feeder schools, the pupils starting at the Deanery in Year 7 held a wide range of different religious views and understanding.

Ms Stewart confirmed that currently, part of her remit included teaching RE and English but with the next intake in September 2020, she would be leading solely on RE at the school. She circulated pupil's RE workbooks for members to review the work they were undertaking and advised that, as part of their "Enrichment" work, pupils also had to complete on-line knowledge organisers.

The Chair thanked Ms Stewart for her informative presentation.

26. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

27. Matters Arising not on the agenda

Mr David Howell confirmed that he was now representing Good News 4 Swindon. He advised that Good News 4 Swindon now represented 30 churches with a strong focus on working to serve the local community.

28. Draft SACRE Annual Report 2018/19

The SACRE received its draft Annual Report covering the period September 2018 to August 2019.

The Annual Report provided information in relation to the following areas:

- Introduction to SACRE
- Funding and administration issues
- Introduction to the SACRE Advisor including a synopsis of her work.
- Agreed Syllabus for RE in Swindon
- Support for schools
- Key events during the academic year 2018/19
- Support for schools through Governor training
- Monitoring of RE provision in Swindon schools
- Attendance by SACRE members at outside events
- Membership
- Funding and administration issues
- Meetings held
- Examination results data

In considering the Annual Report, the SACRE agreed to:

- a) Include further information regarding the monitoring of schools' website for RE content
- b) Include names of the schools that received the WIRE award during the 2018/19 scholastic year.
- c) Review membership list to reflect the departure of Norma McKenny from the SACRE after twenty four years of supporting the group and advise on work being undertaken to find her replacement.
- d) Review data statistics pertaining to St Joseph's Catholic College.

Resolved – 1) That the draft SACRE Annual Report is approved, subject to the amendments as stated above.

2) That the SACRE Advisor be authorised to finalise the report and to submit it to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

3) That the draft Annual Report be forwarded to the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee and all schools and academies in Swindon to heighten the awareness within the Council of the work of Swindon SACRE.

29. Annual Report - Actions for the new Development Plan

The SACRE Advisor confirmed that the Swindon SACRE Development Plan 2020/21 was due to be updated to take into account the suggested vision statement and goals for Swindon SACRE. The points to be reviewed were:

- a) Improving standards in RE.
- b) Ensuring the effective management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders.
- c) Monitor schools' provision for the RE and Collective Worship as well as the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- d) Encourage schools, academies and colleges to celebrate religious and cultural diversity found in Swindon.

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. This included the following:

- Requesting members of the Senior Leadership Team to attend a SACRE meeting.
- Promotion of Governors training across schools.
- Improving the relationship with academies.
- The need to encourage take up of the WIRE award.
- Improve website scrutiny

The SACRE Advisor confirmed that the information provided would be collated into a workable draft Development Plan.

Resolved - That the SACRE Advisor collates the points raised and responses received in relation to the draft Development Plan 2020-21 and produce a workable draft document for further consideration at the next meeting in June 2020.

30. Agreed Syllabus Review 2021 - Suggested timeframe

The SACRE Advisor stated that since it was five years since the adoption of the Agreed RE Syllabus, this would have to be reviewed by July 2021. She set 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 2021. She referred to the process to be undertaken over the next five school terms that included:

- Securing a budget for the legal obligation and to fund the process of an Agreed Syllabus review.
- Circulate a survey regarding the current Agreed Syllabus to schools.
- After June 2020 SACRE meeting, convene an Agreed Syllabus Committee (ASC).
- ASC to review responses.
- Determine level of support needed by schools.

The SACRE Advisor confirmed that the review would include the establishment of a Steering Group that would analyse 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 agreed, any 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 a Steering Group be established at the next SACRE meeting.

3) That the results of the Agreed Syllabus survey of schools in Swindon be considered at the next meeting.

31. Website Reviews - Round 2

The SACRE Advisor referenced to the annual review of website to be undertaken and proposed that the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) system was utilised to determine the amount of RE content on schools' website, with "Green" sites having comprehensive information. She thanked those SACRE members who reviewed schools' websites last year to determine RE content and referred to the feedback she received from schools and how the RE profile was enhanced.

The SACRE Advisor asked for volunteers to review the schools and rate them using the RAG system (guidance and criteria attached to minutes). The Committee discussed the criteria and content of the letters pertaining to each criteria as reviewed utilising the RAG system and agreed that they should be sent out to Headteachers with the Chair of Governors also being made aware of the review.

Resolved – That, at the next meeting of the SACRE, the SACRE Advisor be requested to update members on the proposed timeline for undertaking the website reviews.

32.

Verbal Feedback

The SACRE Advisor referred to the agenda that included written feedback from the Bristol and Gloucestershire SACRE Teachers Conference that was held on the 31st January 2020. Members at the meeting who attended the conference all agreed that it was a positive and very informative experience providing them with ideas to adopt at their schools.

Jo Backus gave verbal feedback on the Dillington Conference. She confirmed that it was a constructive session that included discussions on how the curriculum was monitored, tracking student learning trajectories and the implementation of the Ofsted framework and its inspection regime.

The Chair confirmed that a high number of primary and secondary teachers had signed up to attend the Hub meeting on 19th March 2020. It was noted that due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the meeting might be postponed. It was further noted that all those confirming attendance would be advised if the meeting was to be postponed. Topics to be discussed included the Ofsted framework – implementation and impact. Members noted that this years' Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE) conference was to be held on 26th June 2020.

33.

Training Offers

The SACRE Advisor confirmed that a training sessions entitled, "Making Assemblies Work: Character Development at the Centre" would be held at the Deanery CE Academy on the 5th May. (Poster attached to minutes).

34.

Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Resolved - That the timetable of meetings of the SACRE in 2020/21 would be:

- 21st July 2020
- 24th November 2020
- 16th March 2021

Members of the SACRE were asked to suggest venues or indicate where this and future meetings of the Panel should be held.