

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TUESDAY, 7 MARCH 2017

PRESENT:-

Group A:
Christian Denominations and
Other Religions or Religious
Denominations

Jo Backus (Buddhist Community), Mr David
Burbidge (Baptist Church), Mrs Sarah Lane
Cawte (United Reformed Church), Reverend
David Howell (Swindon Evangelical Alliance), Mr
M S Khan (Muslim Community), Mr Tony
McAteer (Catholic Community) and Mr Dinesh
Patel (Hindu Community)

Group B:
Church of England

Miss Janet French and Reverend Norma
McKemey

Group C:
Teacher Organisations

Mrs Tracy Mason and Mrs Emma McCarthy

Group D:
Councillors

Councillors Fionuala Foley, Fay Howard,
Teresa Page and Barbara Parry

Also in attendance:

Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor) and Sarah
Foulkes (School Improvement Adviser)

Apologies for absence were received from Teresa Clerck, Fidelma Meehan, Peter Nathan, Reverend Clive Deverell, Ms Steph Mundin, Mrs Lottie O'Brien and Councillor Gemma McCracken.

22. Welcome from Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

The Deputy Headteacher, Robin Christian welcomed the SACRE to Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, and offered SACRE an interesting explanation about how Collective Worship is planned in the school.

23. 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.

24. Public Question Time

Mr Brian Cockbill, a local resident, asked a question about homelessness in Swindon. The Chair explained that the question was not within the remit of the SACRE and suggested that the question was referred to a more appropriate Council committee.

Mr Cockbill, asked an additional question about Homelessness in Swindon. The Chair explained that the question was not within the remit of the SACRE and

suggested that the question was referred to a more appropriate Council committee.

25. Minutes and Matters Arising

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2016, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

26. The Agreed Syllabus Launch and Feedback from SACRE Members

The SACRE Advisor reported that the launch of the new Agreed Syllabus for Swindon had taken place at Tadpole Farm C of E Primary School on 8th November 2016 and had proven very successful.

The conference launch was attended by 82 people and was considered by many of whom attended to be an excellent event, providing relevant training and resources and an opportunity for networking. The SACRE Advisor thanked Tracy Mason for stepping in at the last minute to open the conference and welcome the delegates.

The SACRE noted that although a large number of schools attended the launch, there would have been a number of schools that were unable to attend. It was suggested that the SACRE Advisor approaches the Chair of the Head Teachers Association with a view to attend a future Association meeting to discuss the Agreed Syllabus.

The SACRE Advisor reminded members that the Agreed Syllabus needed to be hosted on a website that would allow it to be password protected, and provide Swindon schools with the ability to download it. Discussions were on-going between the SACRE Advisor and Swindon Borough Council to resolve the issue and in the interim, Bristol Diocese would be hosting the Syllabus on its website.

27. Annual Report 2015/16

The SACRE received its draft Annual Report covering the period September 2015 to August 2016.

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

- Support for schools
- Key events during the academic year 2015/16
- Best Practice Forum
- Learn Teach Lead Religious Education
- SACRE website
- Agreed Syllabus for RE in Swindon
- Monitoring of RE Provision in Swindon
- Public Exam Results
- Attendance by SACRE members at outside events
- Statutory Matters
- Membership
- Funding and administration issues
- Meetings held

In considering the Annual Report, the SACRE noted that Swindon no longer had the lowest percentage of entries nationally for their Key Stage 4 RE exams, mainly due to Lydiard Park Academy (LPA) entering all of its RE students to undertake the GCSE RE exam. The SACRE Advisor had been informed that LPA would not be offering GCSE RE in future years as a consequence of the school not achieving good results in the subject this year. This was due to entering a full cohort (not all of whom are choosing to study the subject) and being only offered a small allocation of curriculum time rather than the 5 hours a fortnight that is recommended for an option GCSE. It was noted that the SACRE would consider how to address these issues in its Development Plan 2016/18.

The SACRE was informed that the Annual Report, once finalised, would be submitted to the National Association of SACREs along with a copy to all schools and academies.

Resolved – 1) That the draft SACRE Annual Report is approved, subject to typographical amendments and that the SACRE Advisor be authorised to finalise the report and submit it to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

- 2) That the draft Annual Report be forwarded to all schools and academies in Swindon to heighten the awareness within the Council of the work of Swindon SACRE.
- 3) That the SACRE Advisor be thanked for the work undertaken in the preparation of the Annual Report.

28. Development Plan - 2016/18

The SACRE received the updated Swindon SACRE Development Plan 2016-18, which was due to be developed further taking 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 Person Responsible and expected timescales for 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 June/July 2017.

29. Feedback from Hub Meetings

The SACRE received an update from Emma McCarthy, Hub Leader, about the recent RE Hub meeting. The Hub Leader explained that both primary and secondary schools attended the meeting and many activities were held during the meeting to help energise and grow RE teachers in Swindon.

The next meeting was arranged for 23rd March 2017 at the Hindu Temple and all SACRE members were invited to attend.

30.

Date and Time of the Next Meeting

That the timetable of meetings of the SACRE in 2017/18 would be:

- 27th June 2017
- 5 December 2017
- 26th March 2018