

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TUESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2010

PRESENT:-

Group A: Councillors	Councillors Doreen Dart, Junab Ali, Michael Bray and Raymond Fisher
Group B: Church of England	Rev Norma McKemey, Mrs Penny Summers and Reverend Arthur Woo
Group C: Teacher Organisations	David Easter, Janet French, Jo Garton and Mrs Tracy Mason
Group D: Other Faiths	Reverend David Howell (Swindon Evangelical Alliance), Mr M S Khan (Muslim Community), Mr Dinesh Patel (Hindu Community) and Mr Mark Cawte (United Reformed Church & Methodist - Deputy)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: - Ms Katy Staples (SACRE Adviser) and Sarah Foulkes (Primary Link Advisor)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Janet Heenan, Ms Steph Mundin, Mrs Helen Miller, Mrs Helen Hancox, Mr Malkit Singh Virk and Mr Arun Bedi

14. 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.

15. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

16. Chair's Correspondence

The Chair advised that a letter had been received regarding the 2010 Accord Award, which schools could apply to win, recognising excellence in the promotion of equality and inclusion and the celebration of the diversity of religious and no-religious beliefs in schools and local communities. Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor) advised that a similar award had been launched by the Church of England Diocese Board of Education.

Resolved – That both award schemes be advised to schools via the schools alert.

17. Minutes

Resolved – 1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

2) That further to minute 7, the SACRE advisor contact the members of the SACRE listed on how they can assist with the delivery of the Development Plan.

18. Membership Update

The SACRE received a report recommending changes to its membership.

Resolved – 1) That the Membership update be noted.

2) That Ms Janet French be appointed to the SACRE as a member of Group

B (Church of England Group) to serve until September 2011, unless reappointed at that stage for a further four year term.

3) That the SACRE endorse the appointment of Mr David Burbidge to Group A (Other Christian Denominations and Other Religions) to represent Baptist Churches in Swindon to serve until September 2011, unless reappointed at that stage for a further four year term.

4) That the SACRE Advisor continue to seek representatives to the remaining four vacancies on the SACRE.

19. Report on National Developments for SACREs

Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor) presented the report on the national developments in relation to the provision of Religious Education (RE).

The SACRE noted the Exemplification Materials for RE which had been published by the Department for Education, and the tabled example of the types of material included.

Katy Staples advised on the Agreed Syllabus Collaboration Network which had been set up for SACREs to work together on what should be the core for all Agreed Syllabuses, and what should be locally determined. It was noted that Mark Chater (who is the current lead officer for RE for the outgoing Qualification and Curriculum Authority) might be able to attend the next meeting to talk about the collaboration network.

Finally, it was anticipated that the Coalition Government was expected to include RE in its curriculum review early next year and this could fundamentally change the way in which RE was to be taught.

Resolved – 1) That the report and the national developments in relation to RE be noted.

2) That the Director of Schools and Learning and SACRE Advisor advise schools of the new exemplification materials for RE, via the schools alert and via RE Network Meetings.

3) That the Agreed Syllabus Conference be recommended to take into account the national developments in relation to the Exemplification Materials for RE, the development of the Agreed Syllabus Collaboration Network, and the potential for the inclusion of RE in the Government's curriculum review, when considering the development of the next Locally Agreed Syllabus.

20. Feedback from Network Meetings

Katy Staples advised that two network meetings had been held since the last SACRE. The secondary network had had an excellent visit to the Sikh Temple. The primary network had met and shared how to be a good subject leader and discussed best practice models. The dates of the meetings for the year were advised to the SACRE, and the SACRE Advisor confirmed that SACRE members were welcome to attend, and should contact her for further information if wishing to do so.

21. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next SACRE meeting would be on Tuesday 7th December at 6 pm at St Michael's Church in Highworth. Reverend Arthur Woo had offered to provide refreshments and a tour of the interesting historical aspects of the church building prior to the meeting from 5.45 pm.