

Swindon Borough Council

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Tuesday, 27 September 2011

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices
(Anticipated meeting room)

At 6.00 p.m.

**Group A:
Christian Denominations
and Other Religions or
Religious Denominations**

Mr Arun Bedi, Sikh Community
Mr David Burbidge, Baptist Church
Mr Mark Cawte, Methodist
Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte, United Reformed Church (tbc)
Reverend David Howell, Swindon Evangelical Alliance
Mr M S Khan, Muslim Community
Mr Tony McAteer, Catholic Community
Mr Dinesh Patel, Hindu Community

**Group B:
The Church of England**

Miss Janet French
Reverend Norma McKemey
Ms Steph Mundin
Mrs Penny Summers
1 vacancy

**Group C:
Teacher Associations**

Mrs Tracy Mason, NUT
Miss Lottie Rowe, NASUWT
Mrs Mandy Sandleton, NASUWT
Ms Sara Crabb, ATL
Ms Judi Kingdon, NUT (tbc)
2 vacancies

**Group D:
The Local Authority**

Councillor Doreen Dart
Councillor Claire Ellis
Councillor Raymond Fisher
Councillor Ellen Osa
Councillor Joe Tray

Support Officers:

Katy Staples, SACRE Advisor
Sarah Foulkes, Primary Link Adviser

Committee Officer: Sarah Lawrence (Telephone 01793 463603)
email: slawrence@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street,
Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

3. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.

4. Chair's Correspondence and Announcements

- The NASACRE Newsletter for Summer 2011 is available from: <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/publications.html> and includes perspectives on the national position of RE and support for SACREs and best practice.
- A letter has been received from the Accord Coalition, asking the SACRE to invite schools to apply for a 2012 Accord Inclusive Schools Award. This can be highlighted to schools via schools online if appropriate.
- A letter has been received from the British Humanism Society about membership of the SACRE. This is included in the Membership Update.

5. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held on 7th June 2011.

In addition, the SACRE is asked to receive the minutes of the last meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 7th June 2011.

6. Membership Update (DLDS-B) (Pages 7 - 24)

7. Understanding Local RE

It has been suggested it might be helpful for the SACRE Agenda to include regular updates from Members of the SACRE who are teachers on what is happening locally in RE and examples of recent projects or work. The SACRE is asked to confirm if they would like this to be a regular item on the Agenda, to sit alongside or alternate with 'Understanding Faith' items.

On this occasion, Lottie Rowe has been invited to report back to the SACRE on the success of a Face to Faith live video link and discussion, which took place during last term.

8. National Developments in RE and Collective Worship (SACRE Advisor - Katy Staples) (Pages 25 - 30)

9. Feedback on the Launch of the Agreed Syllabus (SACRE Advisor - Katy Staples) (Pages 31 - 38)

10. Update on Network Meetings (SACRE Advisor - Katy Staples) (Pages 39 - 42)

11. **SACRE Development Plan Update - September 2011** (SACRE Advisor - Katy Staples) (Pages 43 - 50)
12. **Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the SACRE is on 6th December 2011 at 6 pm. It is likely that this will be held at a local school or place of worship.

Date of Despatch: 19 September 2011

Key: Officers:

GDC – Group Director: Children

DLDS-B - Director of Law and Democratic Services

Public Question Time - *Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and Democratic Services is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.*

Access Arrangements – *The Venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Clerk above, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.*

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

This page is intentionally left blank

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TUESDAY, 7 JUNE 2011

PRESENT:-

Group A:
Christian Denominations and
Other Religions or Religious
Denominations

Mr Arun Bedi (Sikh Community), Mr David
Burbidge (Baptist Church), Mr Mark Cawte
(Methodist), Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte (United
Reformed Church), Reverend David Howell
(Swindon Evangelical Alliance), Mr M S Khan
(Muslim Community) and Mr Dinesh Patel
(Hindu Community)

Group B:
Church of England

Miss Janet French, Ms Steph Mundin and Mrs
Penny Summers

Group C:
Teacher Organisations

Ms Jo Garton, Mrs Tracy Mason, Ms Helen
Miller, Miss Lottie Rowe and Mrs Mandy
Sandleton

Group D:
Councillors

Councillors Doreen Dart (Chair), Claire Ellis,
Ellen Osa and Joe Tray

Also in attendance:

Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor), Paddy Bradley
(Director of Schools and Learning), Sarah
Foulkes (Primary Link Adviser) and Sarah
Lawrence (Clerk to the SACRE)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Raymond Fisher, Reverend
Norma McKemey, Reverend Arthur Woo, David Easter and Mr Tony McAteer

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for Municipal Year 2011/12

Resolved – 1) That Councillor Doreen Dart be appointed as the Chair of the SACRE
for the 2011/12 municipal year.

2) That Ms Jo Garton be appointed as Vice-Chair of the SACRE.

As Councillor Dart (the Chair) had to leave the meeting at this point, Ms Jo-Garton
chaired the remainder of the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Public Question Time

The SACRE received a public question from Mr Paul Sunners relating to the
SACRE's consideration of the current national position of Religious Education (RE),

and the place of spirituality in *One Swindon*.

It was noted that the current position of RE had been discussed at the last meeting and members of the SACRE had made representations to the Government on the inclusion of RE in the English Baccalaureate, and this would be discussed further in Agenda item 'National Developments for RE'.

Resolved – That Mr Sunners receive a written answer in respect of his question.

4. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5. Membership Update

The SACRE considered a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services recommending amendments to its membership. The SACRE noted that since the last meeting Mrs Helen Hancox had stepped down as the representative of the United Reformed Church on Group A, and Mrs Sarah Lane-Cawte had been nominated in her place. In addition, Mr Malkit Singh Virk had stepped down as the representative of the Sikh Community and Mr Arun Bedi, the current deputy, had been nominated in his place. In addition, the SACRE noted that the full membership was due for renewal in September 2011.

Resolved – 1) That the Membership update be noted.

2) That Mrs Sarah Lane-Cawte be confirmed as a member of the SACRE on Group A (Other Christian Denominations and Other Religions) to represent the United Reformed Church for an initial period up until September 2011.

3) That Mr Arun Bedi be confirmed as a full member of SACRE on Group A (Other Christian Denominations and Other Religions) to represent the Sikh Community for an initial period up until September 2011.

4) That the SACRE Advisor continue to seek a suitable representative for the remaining Group C (Teacher Organisation) vacancy to represent the National Union of Teachers (NUT).

5) That the Clerk to the SACRE contact the current representatives for Groups A, B, C and their nominating organisations to confirm if they wish for their memberships to be renewed for a further 4 year term from September 2011 in accordance with the SACRE constitution, and that the revised membership of the SACRE be recommended to the Council for approval to take effect from September 2011.

6. Reaching Out For Change Short Film

The SACRE heard from Ms Charlotte Rowe, that three or four short films have been made by Create Studios in conjunction with Swindon Schools. All the short films were about faith and belief, and were entitled Reaching out for Change, and were a continuation of the Face to Faith Project. The SACRE watched the short film from Ridgeway School, entitled 'Same Difference', which was about a Muslim and Non-

Muslim Girl and what was similar and different between them. Ms Charlotte Rowe advised the SACRE regarding the process for making the film.

Resolved - 1) That the Reaching Out for Change Films be welcomed.

2) That the SACRE Advisor and Director of Schools and Learning consider ways in which the films could be shared with other schools.

7. Celebrating RE Month Further Update

The SACRE received a further feedback from members of the SACRE who had attended events as part of Celebrating RE Month, held since the last meeting. This included a day on Easter at St Francis Church of England Primary on 6th April 2011, which David Burbidge and Steph Mordin reported on, and a question and answer session with Bishop Lee on Medical Ethics and Faith at Swindon Academy on 16th March, which Mark Cawte had attended. Lottie Rowe advised that the video conference for her class with a class in New Delhi scheduled for 16th May had been prevented through a failure of technology, but another attempt was planned with a school in New York in the next week. Lottie Rowe also extended an invitation to SACRE Members to end a Burma Day to be held on 20th June.

Resolved – That the SACRE welcome the feedback on events held locally as part of the national Celebrating RE Month.

8. National Developments for RE

The SACRE received a report from the SACRE Advisor to provide an update on the latest national developments in relation to the provision of RE, including a paper from Mr John Keast. The paper was annotated with questions from the SACRE advisor on particular aspects of the potential provision of RE and the use of the Agreed Syllabus in relation to a) the increase in numbers of Academy schools, b) the new Ofsted Framework's emphasis on provision rather than outcomes, c) the continued national discussions as to whether RE can be included in the new English Baccalaureate. The SACRE discussed these questions in detail.

In relation to the growth in Academies, the SACRE agreed that it would wish for schools to be asked to continue to use the Locally Agreed Syllabus, and for RE teachers to be continue to be supported through network meetings and by the SACRE. The Director of Schools and Learning highlighted how the role of the Local Authority, its capacity, and its relationship with schools would be changing, but this would not reduce its role to champion high quality education.

Resolved- That the report be noted.

9. Update on Implementing the Development Plan 2011-13

The SACRE Advisor presented to the SACRE an update on its Development Plan, which had been agreed at the last meeting. The Plan now indicated how it was anticipated the SACRE budget of £5000 would be used during the year to deliver the plan, and also set out any progress of action to date.

Resolved – 1) That the SACRE note the updates to the SACRE Development Plan

for 2011/13 as attached at Appendix 1 to the Agenda Report.

2) That an update to the Development Plan 2011/13 be reported to each meeting of the SACRE at each meeting in order that progress can be monitored.

10. Feedback from Network Meetings

It was noted that a Primary Network meeting had been held on 12th May 2011 at St Francis Church of England School. This had focused on an enquiry led approach to RE. It was noted that this session had been well supported. Ms Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor) would shortly be publicising the dates for network meetings for the next academic year.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

11. Future Meetings

SACRE meetings had been arranged for the remainder of the 2011/12 municipal year to take place on Tuesday 27th September 2011 at 6 pm, Tuesday 6th December 2011 at 6 pm and Tuesday 27th March 2012. The Clerk to the SACRE invited any members to contact her if they wished to host a meeting at a Faith or School venue.

AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, 7 JUNE 2011

PRESENT:-

- | | |
|---|---|
| Group A:
Christian Denominations and
Other Religions or Religious
Denominations | Mr Arun Bedi (Sikh Community), Mr David
Burbidge (Baptist Church), Mr Mark Cawte
(Methodist), Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte (United
Reformed Church), Reverend David Howell
(Swindon Evangelical Alliance), Mr M S Khan
(Muslim Community) and Mr Dinesh Patel
(Hindu Community) |
| Group B:
Church of England | Miss Janet French, Ms Steph Mundin and Mrs
Penny Summers. |
| Group C:
Teacher Organisations | Ms Jo Garton (Vice-Chair in the chair), Mrs
Tracy Mason, Ms Helen Miller, Miss Lottie Rowe
and Mrs Mandy Sandleton. |
| Group D:
Councillors | Councillors Claire Ellis, Ellen Osa and Joe Tray. |
- Also in attendance: Katy Staples (SACRE Adviser), Paddy Bradley
(Director of Schools and Learning), Sarah
Foulkes (Primary Link Adviser) and Sarah
Lawrence (Clerk to the SACRE)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Doreen Dart (Chair), Councillor Raymond Fisher, Reverend Norma McKemey, Reverend Arthur Woo, Mr David Easter and Mr Tony McAteer.

1. 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.

2. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2011, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. Update to the Swindon Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

The Agreed Syllabus Conference considered a report from Ms Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor) asking for final approval of the Updated Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education to come into effect from September 2011 and to note the arrangements for the launch of the Syllabus to take place on 16th June 2011 at Bridlewood School.

The Conference considered the Update to the Locally Agreed Syllabus attached to the Agenda which had been prepared by the Agreed Syllabus Working Group, together an additional paper circulated subsequently setting out final amendments to the Update and a list of which units the Working Group had been selected for Key Stage 3 to be identified as compulsory or recommended, in order to ensure a breadth of study. It was noted that the Syllabus and all the supporting materials would be made available to schools via the Schools Online website.

The Conference broke into its Constituent Groups in order to vote on the approval of the Syllabus.

Resolved – 1) That the four Groups of the Conference unanimously agree that the Update to the Locally Agreed Syllabus as Appended to the Agenda, be formally approved, together with the amendments that had been made to the supporting materials described in the report.

2) That the SACRE Advisor and the Locally Agreed Syllabus Working Group be thanked for their work on the Locally Agreed Syllabus Update.

3) That Ms Jo Garton and Bridlewood School be thanked for hosting the launch of the Locally Agreed Syllabus update to take place on 16th June 2011.

Membership Update

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 27th September 2011

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To ask the SACRE to note the Membership update and agree any further action required.

Recommendation

- That the SACRE note the Membership update as at Appendix 2, and welcome new members to the SACRE.
- That the Chair of the SACRE write to all out going members to thank them for their contribution to the work of the SACRE
- That the SACRE note the position of Group C (Teacher Associations) representatives in relation to Academy Schools.
- That the SACRE Advisor seek suitable representatives for the two Group C (Teacher Organisations) vacancies and the Group A (Christian Denominations and Other Religions or Religious Denominations) vacancy.
- That the SACRE consider the request from the British Humanist Association for a Humanist to be included in the membership of Group A (Christian Denominations and Other Religions or Religious Denominations), and if it would wish to recommend to the Council that the composition of Group A is reviewed.

1. Reasons

- 1.1. For the SACRE to note the update to the membership, approved by Council on 22 September 2011, and to agree any further changes.

2. Detail

- 2.1 At the last meeting it was agreed that the clerk to the SACRE would contact the current representatives for Groups A, B, C to confirm if they wished for their memberships to be renewed for a further 4 year term from September 2011 in accordance with the SACRE constitution (attached at Appendix 1). Attached at Appendix 2 is the list of memberships recommended for approval to Council on 22nd September 2011, and the outcome will be reported to the SACRE verbally.
- 2.2 This includes several changes to the SACRE Membership since the last meeting. Ms Jo Garton (NAHT), Ms Helen Miller (NUT), Mr David Easter (NUT), and Reverend Arthur Woo (Church of England) have decided to step down from the SACRE. The NAHT (National Association of Head Teachers) have nominated Mr Paul Summers to be their representative on Group C. Ms Judi Kingdon (NUT)

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Sarah Lawrence on 01793 463603, Email slawrence@swindon.gov.uk.

Membership Update

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 27th September 2011

of Westrop Primary School and Ms Sara Crabb (ATL) of Uplands Schools have been recruited by the SACRE Advisor for Group C. Confirmation has been received from ATL for Ms Crabb's membership, but is awaited from NUT for Ms Judi Kingdon. Two further vacancies exist in Group C, and it is recommended that the SACRE Advisor seek suitable representatives in consultation with the relevant teachers associations. A representative for the vacancy on the Church of England Group (Group A) will also be sought from the Diocese.

- 2.3 Mr Mark Cawte has raised a question with the Chair in relation to the membership of Group C, with the growth in the number of schools moving to become academies in Swindon. A full list of schools in Swindon and their status will be tabled at the meeting for information. The SACRE Constitution definition for Group C membership (in paragraph 3.2.2 (iii)), does enable teachers from Academy schools to continue to be represented on the SACRE, and this breadth of experience is welcomed. However, it is recommended that the Group Director, Children and SACRE advisor keep this matter under review taking into account national guidance and the changing picture of school provision in the Borough. It may be appropriate to seek a balance between academy and maintained school representation in the Group.
- 2.4 A letter has been received from the British Humanist Association asking for the SACRE to consider recruiting a humanist to its Group A membership, and is attached at Appendix '3'. The SACRE last considered this matter in June 2010 and agreed at that time that if the legislation changed for a representative to be included in Group A, humanism would need to be considered against the relative size of other faiths or non-faiths in the Swindon area before a representative could be included. This was important as there were already other faith groups, such as Jewish and Ba'hai representatives who were not included in Group A due to a desire not over extend the size of the Group.
- 2.5 It was also previously the view of the SACRE that a review of the membership of Group A should take place when 2010 Census results became available to ensure that it still represents the 'proportionate strength of a denomination or faith in the area' as required by the SACRE constitution. The SACRE is asked to determine if they would wish to recommend to the Council that an amendment is made to the composition of Group A at an earlier point.

Alternative Options

- None.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Sarah Lawrence on 01793 463603, Email slawrence@swindon.gov.uk.

Membership Update

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 27th September 2011

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- This report has no specific legal or human rights implications. The legal requirements for appointment of representatives is set out in the SACRE Constitution.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies

- The work of the SACRE contributes to the Corporate Plan aims to improve the opportunities for children and young people.

Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.
- Paddy Bradley, Director of Schools and Learning
- Sarah Foulkes, Principal Advisor School Improvement

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix 1 – SACRE Constitution
- Appendix 2 – Full Membership List for SACRE recommended to Council 22/09/11
- Appendix 3 - Letter from the British Humanist Association.

This page is intentionally left blank

Swindon Borough Council

Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education

CONSTITUTION

Last Reviewed: March 2004
Updated: June 2010

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A Local Education Authority is required by Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 to constitute a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). The SACRE shall operate in line with legislation and guidance. This Constitution sets out the framework within which the SACRE should operate, in accordance with the Education Act 1996, the School Standards Framework Act 1998 and RE Guidance in English Schools 2010 – Non Statutory Guidance, including the requirement for the SACRE to broadly represent the proportionate strength of local religious groups.

2. Functions of the SACRE

- 2.1 The broad role of a SACRE is to support the effective provision of RE in schools in order to enrich the experience of RE for all pupils, and to support the provision of Collective Worship. SACREs have a range of functions, some of them advisory, and some of them executive.

Advisory Functions:

- a) To advise the Local Authority upon such matters connected with:
 - i) Religious worship in community schools or in foundation schools which are not defined as having religious character.
 - ii) The religious education to be given in accordance with an Agreed Syllabus.
 - iii) Matters the Council may refer to the SACRE or the SACRE itself may think fit, including methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.
- b) To provide advice and support to schools on the effective teaching of the agreed syllabus, and how RE can contribute to the duty to promote community cohesion.
- c) To monitor the provision and quality of the RE taught, and the overall effectiveness of the syllabus and to consider with the Local Authority any changes required to the syllabus or support on the effective teaching of RE.

Executive Functions:

- a) To consider and determine in accordance with Section 394 of the Education Act 1996 applications from the Head Teachers of community schools or foundation schools which are not defined as having religious character in relation to the requirement of Christian collective worship to apply at their school.
- b) To consider whether or not to require a review of the Agreed Syllabus as adopted by the local authority.
- c) To publish an annual report on its actions and on actions taken by its representative groups.

3. Membership of the SACRE

3.1 The SACRE shall include representative members as detailed in 3.2 below and may include co-opted members as set out in 3.3 below. Substitute members can attend in accordance with 3.4 below. The total membership of the SACRE shall not at any time exceed 30, excluding the number of co-opted members.

3.2 Representative Members:

3.2.1 The Council shall determine from time to time the number of representative members of the SACRE and the individual appointments shall be made by the Council after taking all reasonable steps to assure itself that the individual is representative of the denomination or association concerned.

3.2.2 It is suggested that there be four groups of representative members appointed by the Authority and these be constituted as follows:

- i) GROUP A - Eight representatives of such Christian Denomination (other than the Church of England) and other religions and religious denominations faiths as will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in Swindon and the number of representative members reflects broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the area. These are determined as a result of consultation.
- ii) GROUP B – Five representatives of the Church of England.
- iii) GROUP C - Eight representatives of those associations of teachers as, in the opinion of Council, ought, having regard to the circumstances of Swindon, to be represented; to include at least 3 teachers of religious education of whom at least one must be a primary school teacher.
- iv) GROUP D - Five representatives of the Local Authority

3.2.3 The representative members, except the five Council representatives, shall hold office for a period of 4 years expiring in the first instance 4 years from the date of the establishment of the SACRE and every 4 years thereafter. The five Council representatives shall be appointed on an annual basis.

3.2.4 Any representative member appointed to fill a casual vacancy shall hold office only for the unexpired period of office of the member in whose place she/he was appointed.

3.2.5 An individual representative member may be removed from membership by the Council if in the opinion of the Council she/he ceases to be representative, as the case may be, of the denomination or associations which she/he was appointed to represent on the SACRE.

3.2.6 Any individual representative member shall cease to hold membership if failing to attend 3 consecutive meetings of the SACRE or representative group, but may be reappointed.

3.3 Co-opted Members

- 3.3.1 There shall be no more than 4 co-opted members of the SACRE.
- 3.3.2 The co-opted members shall be appointed only by those members of the SACRE who have not themselves been co-opted ('the representative members').
- 3.3.3 Co-opted members shall hold office for a specific purpose, on such terms, and for a period of time as may be determined at the time of co-option by the representative members and shall hold office at the pleasure of, and may be removed at any time by, the representative members.
- 3.3.4 Co-opted members shall not be entitled to vote.
- 3.3.5 No representative group shall be entitled to co-opt additional members.

3.4 Substitute Members

- 3.4.1 A named substitute may attend a meeting in place of a representative member of the SACRE in accordance with the following provisions, but Members of the SACRE are encouraged to use this facility infrequently in view of the need to maintain continuity.
- 3.4.2 The substitute member must have been appointed by Council for a particular body, denomination or association or for a particular representative Group, and can only attend in place of the appropriate representative member. The Secretary to the SACRE shall maintain a list of those named substitutes appointed by the Council. A substitute member shall hold office and may be removed from office in the same way as if she/he was a representative member.
- 3.4.3 The substitute member shall have the same voting rights at a meeting as the representative member in whose place she/he is attending.
- 3.4.4 It shall be the responsibility of the relevant representative member to a) determine whether or not it is necessary for the relevant named substitute to attend a meeting in their place, b) notify the named substitute of the time and place of the proposed meeting, c) brief the named substitute on the proposed meeting and d) notify the Secretary in advance of the meeting that the named substitute will attend the meeting in his/her place.

3.5 Resignation

- 3.5.1 Any member of the SACRE may at any time resign his/her office.

3.6 Persons Ineligible to be Members of the SACRE

- 3.6.1 No person who has not attained the age of 18 years shall be eligible for appointment as a member of the SACRE.
- 3.6.2 A person shall be disqualified for holding, or for continuing to hold, office as a member if, within 5 years before his or her appointment would otherwise have taken

effect, or since his or her appointment, he or she has been convicted in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man of any offence and has had passed on him or her a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months without the option of a fine. Where, by virtue of this paragraph, a person becomes disqualified for holding office as a member that person shall give notice of that fact to the Clerk to the SACRE.

4. Chair and Vice-Chair of the SACRE

- 4.1 The Chair and Vice-Chair of the SACRE shall be appointed annually by the SACRE from among the representative members. The Vice-Chair should not be appointed from the same representative group as the Chair.
- 4.2 The Chair shall preside at meetings of the SACRE. The Vice-Chair of the SACRE shall preside at meetings of the SACRE during the absence of the Chair. In the absence of both the Chair and the Vice-Chair at a meeting of the SACRE, the members of the SACRE shall elect one of their number who is a member of a representative group to preside at the meeting during such absence.
- 4.3 The person presiding at a meeting of the SACRE shall have a second or casting vote only in relation to questions concerning co-opted members in accordance with paragraph 5.4 below.

5. Voting at Meetings of the SACRE

- 5.1 Any question to be decided by the SACRE shall require a majority of the votes cast by those present and entitled to vote.
- 5.2 Only the representative groups shall be entitled to vote on any questions and each group shall have a single vote.
- 5.3 If the question before the SACRE is whether or not to require a review of an Agreed Syllabus (see paragraph 2.1 b(ii)) the representative groups entitled to vote shall not include Group D (Local Authority representatives).
- 5.4 If the question before the SACRE is concerned with the appointment of a co-opted member then the Chair shall be entitled to a second or casting vote in the event of a tie.

6. Representative Groups

- 6.1 Representative Groups shall be free to arrange their own rules for the conduct of business, and may if they wish appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair annually from amongst their number.
- 6.2 Any question to be decided by a representative group shall require a majority of the votes cast by those present and entitled to vote. Each member of a representative group shall be entitled to one vote.
- 6.3 A meeting of any representative group may be convened (on a majority vote of those members of the representative group then present) during the progress of a meeting of the SACRE, for the purpose of determining or reviewing the view of that representative group on a question then before the SACRE and upon which that

group may cast its vote. The SACRE may adjourn its own meeting for a period that it determines when this occurs.

- 6.4 A separate meeting of a representative group may be convened in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 10, or may be requisitioned in writing, specifying the business to be transacted, by such number of members of that group as equals or exceeds the quorum for that group plus one.

7. Validity of Proceedings

- 7.1 The validity of the proceedings of the SACRE or of any representative group shall not be affected:
- i) By any vacancy in the office of a representative member;
 - ii) On the grounds that a member of the SACRE appointed to represent any denomination or associations does not at the time of the proceedings represent the denomination or associations in question;
 - iii) By reason of an individual not having received written notice of a meeting or a copy of the agenda; or
 - iv) By reason of any failure to comply with the provisions of paragraph 11.1.
- 7.2 The validity of the proceedings of the SACRE shall not be affected by the failure of any representative group to agree on how its vote should be cast on any particular issue before the SACRE.

8. Secretary

- 8.1 The Chief Education Officer or his/her representative shall be Secretary of the SACRE and to each of the representative groups. The Director of Education, their representative or any Officer designated by them shall serve as Clerk to the SACRE.
- 8.2 Minutes shall be kept of all meetings of the SACRE. The decisions of representative groups shall be reported to the SACRE.

9. Quorum

- 9.1 The quorum for a meeting of the SACRE shall be not less than two members each of not less than three representative groups.
- 9.2 The quorum for a meeting of a representative group shall not be less than one third (rounded up to a whole number) of the membership of that representative group when complete.
- 9.3 If within a period of ten minutes after the time fixed for the start of the meeting of the SACRE or a representative group a quorum is not present, the meeting shall not be held. If during the course of a meeting, a quorum is no longer present, the meeting shall be terminated. If a meeting is not held or is terminated before all the proposed business has been transacted, a further meeting shall be convened as soon as is reasonably practicable.

10. Agenda

- 10.1 No issue shall be discussed at a meeting of the SACRE or of any representative group, unless notice of the intention to discuss that issue is given in the agenda for the meeting.
- 10.2 Any SACRE Member or Representative Group can at any meeting of the SACRE propose agenda items for the next meeting.

11. Convening meetings of SACRE

- 11.1 A meeting of the SACRE shall be convened by the Secretary (or clerk acting in their place) after consultation with the Chair or in their absence, the Vice Chair. The Secretary shall comply with any direction given by the SACRE at a previous meeting or given by the Chair (if consistent with a direction of the SACRE).
- 11.2 A meeting of the SACRE may be requisitioned in writing specifying the business to be transacted by a representative group, with the agreement of the Chair and Secretary.
- 11.3 Every member (including every named substitute) of the SACRE shall be given, not less than 5 clear days before the date of the meeting, written notice of the meeting and a copy of the agenda for the meeting; provided that where the Chair, in their absence, the Vice-Chair, so directs on the grounds that there are matters demanding urgent consideration, it shall be sufficient if the written notice convening a meeting and a copy of the agenda, are given within such shorter period as (s)he specifies.

12. Attendance of the Public and Media at meetings

- 12.1 The attendance of the general public and representatives of the news media at meetings of the Agreed Syllabus Conference or Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education are subject to the Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils) Regulations 1994.
- 12.2 The public and media may not attend meetings of any representative group.

13. Approval and Amendment of Arrangements

- 13.1 The arrangements for the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education were approved by the Swindon Education Committee at its meeting on Thursday 20 February 1997, and have been amended by the SACRE subsequently in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- 13.2 These arrangements may not be amended so as to make them inconsistent with the provisions of the 1988, 1996 and 1998 Acts.
- 13.3 To the extent that these arrangements may be amended, those arrangements that relate to the SACRE may only be amended by a decision of the SACRE and those arrangements that relate to a representative group may only be amended by the representative group concerned.

- 13.4 In order to ensure a consistent approach to meetings and that changes to these arrangements are not made without full notice and proper consideration of the implications of any proposed change, any change shall only be made as follows:
- i) in case of the SACRE, only a representative group may propose a change to these arrangements;
 - ii) in the case of a representative group, only a member of that representative group may propose a change to these arrangements;
 - iii) at the first meeting when a proposal to change the arrangements is made there shall be no debate, and the proposal shall stand adjourned to the next meeting of the SACRE (or appropriate representative group) for determination.

SACRE Membership Renewal

Groups A –C membership recommended for appointment by Council for 4 year terms from September 2011 with any interim vacancies to be filled by the SACRE following nominations from representative organisations:

Group A – Christian Denominations and Other Religions or Religious Denominations

1	Reverend David Howell	Swindon Evangelical Alliance Group of Churches
2	Mr David Burbidge	Baptist Church
3	Mr M S Khan MBE	Muslim Community
4	Mr Dinesh Patel	Hindu Community
5	Mr Mark Cawte	Methodist Church
6	Mrs Sarah Lane-Cawte	United Reformed Church
7	Mr Tony McAteer	Catholic Church and Diocese
8	Mr Arun Bedi	Sikh Community

Group B – Church of England Group (5 Members)

1	Reverend Norma McKemey	Nominated by the Church of England Diocese.
2	Mrs Penny Summers	
3	Ms Steph Mordin	
4	Miss Janet French	
5	1 Vacancy	

Group C – Teacher Associations (8 Members)

1	Mrs Tracy Mason	Special	NUT representative
2	Mrs Mandy Sandleton	Primary	NASUWT representative
3	Miss Lottie Rowe	Secondary	NASUWT representative
4	Mr Paul Sunners	Special	NAHT representative
5	Ms Sara Crabb	Special	ATL representative
6	Ms Judi Kingdon (tbc)	Primary	NUT representative (Subject to confirmation by NUT)
7	1 Vacancy	TBC	To be appointed by the SACRE for the remainder of the 4 year period on nomination from relevant Teachers' Unions / Association(s).
8	1 Vacancy		

For Information Only - Representatives appointed at Annual Council May 2011 to represent the Local Authority:

Group D – The Local Authority (5 Members)

1	Councillor Doreen Dart (Chair)	Conservative Group
2	Councillor Claire Ellis	Conservative Group
3	Councillor Ray Fisher	Conservative Group
4	Councillor Ellen Osa	Labour Group
5	Councillor Joe Tray	Labour Group

This page is intentionally left blank

Letter from National Humanist Association

Dear Mrs Lawrence,

I am emailing you to ask if you would grant full membership to, or at least co-opt, a humanist representative to Committee A of your SACRE.

As you may be aware, in January 2010 the government published Religious Education in English Schools: Non-statutory Guidance 2010 which solidified many positive improvements that have been made in recent years. Importantly, it deleted the explicit prohibition on humanists serving as full members of SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASCs), which had appeared in the previous guidance (Circular 1/94). It also observed that SACREs could co-opt members to represent non-religious views (p.13) and noted how this could be done in the interests of inclusion (p.21).

Following on from this, we believe that humanists should be full members of Committee A, and have obtained legal advice which confirms that it is illegal to refuse humanists such admittance. I append a summary of that advice to this email (the full advice is available upon request), but in brief, the Human Rights Act sections 3 and 6 and the Equality Act 2006 section 52, when read together, mean that references in law to 'religions' should be read as 'religions and beliefs'.

With regards to RE syllabuses the 2010 guidance also reaffirmed the government's view that RE should examine both religious and non-religious perspectives. It noted that:

- 'Religious education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human. It can develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, of other principal religions, other religious traditions and worldviews that offer answers to questions such as these' (p.7).

The Government had already set out that RE should examine non-religious perspectives in:

- the new secondary curriculum published in 2007, which noted that RE should study a 'secular world view' (p.7 of the KS3 programme of study)
- the new RE programme of learning for the primary curriculum published in September 2009, which recommended that 'over the primary phase as a whole, children should draw on both religious and non-religious world views' (p.2)

- the 2004 national framework for RE, which recommended that there should be 'opportunities to study secular philosophies such as humanism' (p.14). The framework was endorsed by a wide range of RE professional and religious groups, including the Church of England, the Catholic Education Service and the Muslim Council of Britain.

We are emailing all those SACREs in England that do not currently have a humanist representative on their Committee A, to urge them to admit one. We believe the new guidance has removed any sound reason that SACREs may have had about not admitting a humanist, while we believe there are compelling reasons why you should admit one, whether as a full or co-opted member of Committee A.

Firstly, given that non-religious views should be taught in RE lessons, it follows that humanists should have a role in monitoring how their views are taught. This is a right only extended to religious representatives. Admitting a humanist will ensure that your SACRE is both inclusive and also acting fairly.

Secondly, the addition of a humanist will make a positive contribution to the work of your SACRE and help ensure that the RE in your area remains broad and accurate. Humanists have had a long history of contributing towards and improving RE. The British Humanist Association has been a member of the Religious Education Council for over thirty years, while some of our representatives have served on SACREs throughout this period with distinction, including as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of both SACREs and ASCs.

Thirdly, we question the legality of excluding a humanist, as the appended advice corroborates.

We hope that you will agree that your SACRE should admit a humanist representative as a full member and we would be very happy to help find a suitable humanist for you if you are not already in touch with one. If you would like any more information or would like to explore how to find a humanist to nominate please contact me by email or on 020 7462 4993.

Periodically we discover SACREs that have appointed a humanist representative by going through a local humanist group. If you have already granted full or co-opted membership to a humanist we would be very grateful if you could let us know so we can update our records accordingly. We would also be grateful if we could have their contact details so we can send them useful material. Again please contact me with any of this information.

Yours sincerely,

Richy Thompson
Campaigns Officer (Faith Schools and Education)
British Humanist Association

Humanist membership on a SACRE:

The legal situation

Not only is the extension of full membership of SACREs and ASCs to include humanists required on educational grounds: it is also what the law demands.

The present guidance (Religious Education in English Schools: Non-statutory Guidance 2010) fails to fulfil the Department for Education's (DfE's) obligations under the Human Rights Act sections 3 and 6 and the Equality Act 2006 section 52.

The latter prohibits the DfE from doing "any act which constitutes discrimination", and the exception at subsection (4)(k) plainly does not apply to membership of SACREs and arguably not to the scope of the syllabus.

More particularly the Human Rights Act at section 6 prohibits the DfE from "act[ing] in a way which is incompatible with a Convention right". By virtue of reading Article 9 with Article 14, this encompasses discrimination between religions and beliefs.

Moreover, section 3 positively requires that "so far as it is possible to do so, primary legislation and subordinate legislation must be read and given effect in a way which is compatible with the Convention rights." That this section needs to be given a wide and powerful interpretation has been underlined by the House of Lords (*Ghaidan v. Godin-Mendoza* (FC) [2004] UKHL 30)[1].

However, to bring the law on RE and on membership of SACREs and ASCs into compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights requires no serious or violent re-interpretation of the legislation. If section 3 means anything at all, it must mean that discrimination between religious and non-religious worldviews or lifestyles should be eliminated by reading references to 'religions' in the present law on RE as references to 'religions or beliefs' in the new guidance.

In particular, in references to membership of SACREs and ASCs, 'religions' must be read as 'religions or beliefs', giving humanists the right to be full members alongside the religious representatives.

Not only is such a reading of the law now required by the Human Rights Act – as, of course, it was not in 1994 – but it is wholly in line with the developing consensus in the Council of Europe, the OSCE and other international bodies to which the United Kingdom is committed. We refer, for example to the OSCE's Toledo Guiding Principles and the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers recommendation CM/Rec (2008)12) and the fact that even the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief has singled out the UK's discriminatory approach in RE as an issue of concern.

Further justification for our argument here and further advice on the question is available upon request.

The Legal Situation explained

The BHA believes that the Human Rights Act (HRA) and Equality Act (2006) support the inclusion of humanists on SACREs as full members. Section 3 of the HRA requires that legislation previous to the HRA be interpreted to meet its requirements; so that, for example, references to "religion" should be interpreted to mean "religion and belief". Thus a case could be made for humanists to be full members of Committee A (which includes "other religions").

Education in English Schools: Non-statutory Guidance 2010 is the most up to date non-statutory guidance on SACREs. This document replaced Circular 1/94.

Circular 1/94 (which is no longer applicable) stated that "The inclusion of representatives of belief systems such as humanism, which do not amount to a religion or religious denomination, on Committee A of an agreed syllabus conference or Group A of a SACRE would be contrary to the legal provisions referred to at paragraph 103."

Education in English Schools: Non-statutory Guidance 2010 does not state this however appears to recommend co-opted, non-voting membership of Standing Advisory Councils for RE (SACREs – the local committees that oversee RE) for humanists and no membership at all of Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASCs – the local committees that set the RE syllabus).

However

- DfE Circulars are guidance only, and do not have legal authority, unless there has been a court ruling on a particular aspect. To our knowledge, there has been no legal challenge to the inclusion of humanists in Group or Committee A.
- In the past a few SACREs have ignored the DfE circulars and allowed humanist representatives to retain full membership of Group A. They have taken the (correct) view that Circular 1/94 is only advice and that the matter has not been tested in court. These SACREs include Westminster and Oxford.
- Humanist representatives have been elected as Chairs or Vice-Chairs of SACREs including in Hounslow, Brent, Camden, Hammersmith and Fulham, Oxford and York. In particular, Humanist representatives have been the chair of the SACRE in Brent and in York
- In addition, Humanists have been invited to serve on ASCs and have taken a full part in conference proceedings and/or they have participated in syllabus working groups. However, because of the ambiguous legal position they are sometimes listed officially as 'observers'.

National Update on Religious Education and Collective Worship

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 27th September 2011

Author: SACRE Advisor

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To update the SACRE on national developments in relation to the provision of RE and Collective Worship.

Recommendation

SACRE is requested -

To note the report and to consider any actions required as a result, in particular in relation to the SACRE's role to support schools.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The SACRE has a duty to help schools fulfil their statutory obligations with regard to religious education.

2. Detail

- 2.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is a summary from the SACRE Advisor of the current national developments in Religious Education.
- 2.2 The SACRE is asked to discuss the questions raised in the Appendix and to consider any action that is required to support schools in relation to these developments.

Alternative Options

- The alternative options, where applicable, are set out in the body of this report.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- This report has no specific financial or procurement implications. Any costs of support to schools from the SACRE will be met from its annual budget of £5000.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- Any legal implications are set out within the body of the report. There are no specific human rights implications.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples on 0117 927 7454 or katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

National Update on Religious Education and Collective Worship

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 27th September 2011

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies

- The work of the SACRE contributes to the Council's aims to improve the opportunities for children and young people, and to support local communities by empowering people to participate in local decision-making and overcoming social exclusion.

Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.
- Paddy Bradley, Director of Schools and Learning.
- Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Adviser

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Summary from the SACRE Advisor of the National Developments in relation to RE and Collective Worship.

National Update on Religious Education and Collective Worship

Swindon SACRE

27th September 2011

RE and the EBacc

On the last day before recess, the 20th July 2011, the Secretary of State for Education quietly published the statement of intent making it clear that RE would not be included as a Humanities subject in the EBacc. It was the last week of term for most schools.

David Cameron and the EBacc on 10th September 2011

In a question and answer session at the Free School Norwich, Mr Cameron was asked whether RE should be included in the Baccalaureate.

1. What are the responses of Swindon SACRE to the news about RE and the EBacc?
2. Is there any point in further campaigning on this issue ?

He replied: "There's been a concerted write-in campaign to Members of Parliament from churches, charities and others suggesting this. I don't have a closed mind on this, and I'm sure Education Secretary Michael Gove never has a closed mind.

"The balance here is to have something in the EBacc that's this set of subjects that colleges really want to know about and that employers are enthusiastic about, to have a sort of quality benchmark going through the system."

He added: "I think we can keep an open mind, but it's right to start with a pretty strict list of subjects that both colleges and employers say 'those are the absolutely essential ones I want to know about'."

John Keast, chairman of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, said: "We welcome the reassurance from David Cameron that he and Michael Gove continue to keep an open mind on the question of including RE in the EBacc.

"RE is an academically rigorous and inspiring subject that equips young people with valuable skills for living and working in a diverse society. We look forward to working constructively with the Education Secretary to achieve good provision of RE in our schools."

RE Council expresses its concern in light of exam numbers

Religious Education is vital to a healthy society RE experts argued this week as GCSE results showed an 8 per cent fall* in numbers taking the short course version of the subject following its exclusion from the EBac, in contrast to a 17 per cent increase* in pupils taking the full course they would have begun before the EBac was introduced.

The drop in numbers is for the course which is the compulsory minimum whilst the rise is for the course that students generally choose. This means whilst students are more interested than ever before in matters of religion and belief, government policy is set to severely reduce the chances that every student will leave school properly educated in this vital area.

Last week's RE A-Level results showed a year on year increase in students taking the subject. This, may be directly affected in future by fewer schools offering RE at GCSE, including the short course, and cutting back the resources committed to a subject not included in the EBac.

1. Do SACRE members share the RE Council's concerns about the future of healthy RE exam numbers?

2. Is there anything we can do locally?

RE has been an important part of our education system for many years, says the Council, but we fear that the subject will start to lose its key role due to the latest changes. The popularity of the A-Level course, particularly philosophy and ethics, illustrated in the latest results shows that pupils enjoy the opportunity to think around their subject and have the chance to consider wider issues in our society. Many only go on to study at A-Level due to the enthusiasm they picked up at GCSE level and we fear this will be very different over the next few years. Despite the EBac decision, we hope that the Government will come up with a constructive way forward for the future of RE.

"Good education includes good religious education. GCSE in the subject is a basic building block towards becoming not just literate and numerate but also 'religiate' and so equipped with an understanding of the religions and beliefs found in our diverse world. The Coalition Government will do well to find means to strengthen RE provision in schools colleges and academies for children and young people of all ages," says Professor Brian Gates, Chair of the RE Council

BBC Poll about Collective Worship

The Comres survey for BBC local radio found 64% of the 500 parents questioned said their child did not attend daily acts of collective worship.

This poll raised debate about the place of Collective Worship in our schools

Comres spoke to 1,743 adults during the survey, including 500 parents, and found 60% believe the daily act of collective worship should not be enforced

It is therefore timely and appropriate that Collective Worship is a target on our Swindon SACRE Development plan for 2010/11

Government changes to education that will impact on SACRES

The drive to support academies and free schools will inevitably have an impact on the work of SACREs. A letter from the DfE to NATRE in February 2011 made it clear that Academies funding agreements are expected to set out how they will teach religious education. If they have a religious designation it will be in line with the tenets of their faith. Academies without a religious designation are expected to teach in accordance with a locally agreed syllabus. Although it is unclear if this will be the position in practice. There is the possibility, that future LAs and SACREs will produce an Agreed Syllabus that no school in the LA will need to use because they are all academies.

Although academies are, clearly, individual independent entities, it is vital that SACREs maintain links with academies and encourage the use of the local Agreed Syllabus.

The financial impact on LAs has been considerable and has a knock on effect in terms of the levels of professional and administrative support for SACREs to function effectively.

Katy Staples

11th September 2011

1 In what ways can Swindon SACRE ensure strong links with its academies?

2. Have we transparent and clear communication about the future financial provision for SACRE so we can plan?

This page is intentionally left blank

Feedback from the Launch of the Agreed Syllabus

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 7th June 2011.

Author: SACRE Advisor

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To provide a summary of the feedback received on the Launch of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE and agree next steps.

Recommendation

- To note the feedback and evaluation of the Launch of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.
- To determine if there is any further support which the SACRE can offer to schools in relation to the Agreed Syllabus.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 To support the teaching of RE through supporting the dissemination of the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

1. Detail

- .1 The launch of the Locally Agreed Syllabus was held at Bridlewood School on 16th June 2011.
- .2 Attached at Appendix '1' is a summary of the feedback received from the day, and participants from the SACRE are invited to comment on their impressions of the event.
- .3 The SACRE is asked to consider how it would wish to build on the launch of the Syllabus, and how schools might continue to be supported in its use. To assist this the SACRE is asked to consider:
 1. Are there any conclusions to be made from these evaluations or from first hand experiences of the launch of the Update of the Agreed Syllabus ?
 2. Is there any further support that needs to be offered to schools following this?

Alternative Options

- There are no alternative options.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples on 0117 927 7454 or katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

Feedback from the Launch of the Agreed Syllabus

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 7th June 2011.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- Any costs of supporting of schools to use the Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE will be met from within the SACRE's Annual Budget of £5k.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- This report has no specific legal or human rights implications.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies

- The work of the SACRE contributes to the Councils aims to improve the opportunities for children and young people, and to support local communities by empowering people to participate in local decision-making and overcoming social exclusion.

Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.
- Paddy Bradley, Director of Schools and Learning.
- Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Adviser

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Summary of Feedback from the Agreed Syllabus Launch.

Evaluation of Swindon Agreed Syllabus Launch and training



Initial Talk for Teachers

54 Teachers attended

24 Evaluation forms were returned

What has changed and what is the Same Katy Staples

Unacceptable 0 Poor 0 Good 4 Very Good 12 Excellent 8

Comments

Very Informative

Mention of Special Needs Schools? How do we fit in?

P-levels for level descriptors?

Would have been useful to receive a copy of the power point.

Love the fact it is online.

Clear and informative.

Great at outlining the changes.

Helped to refocus

Clear information

Good involvement of audience

Very informative and helpful

Useful to know what is going on

Informative

Very clearly explained

Thanks for a really clear introduction to the new syllabus with ideas for disseminating to staff

EYFS Workshop

Penny Summers



Unacceptable 0 Poor 0 Good 1 Very Good 2 Excellent 3

Comments

Penny is so softly spoken – the whole delivery of the session was super.

Calming and spiritual.

Very good and including multi- sensory work

Thank you

Fab ideas and discussions.

Good to know about FS curriculum.

Very clear, good ideas

I also found the EYFS useful as I hadn't met the Solihull scheme before-and as I may be taking EYFS next year for RE then it will be incredibly useful

KS1 workshop

Janet French



Unacceptable 0 Poor 0 Good 3 Very Good 6 Excellent 2

Comments

Very good resource ideas.

Lots of good resources

Great ideas to make lessons more exciting.

Useful look at prayer unit.

Great ideas. Inspirational!

I could adapt many ideas for lower KS2.

Great Ideas

Useful ideas that I will definitely use in the classroom

Super resources

Lots of useful ideas to get children thinking and resources too

KS2 Workshop Emma
McCarthy



Unacceptable 0 Poor 1 Good 3 Very Good 4 Excellent 7

Comments :

Food for thought, good ideas,

Further work on assessment and ph 5 .

Good ideas shared . Good contact ideas.

Good explanation of how to assess and achieve higher levels.

Some super ideas to take back to the classroom.

Inspiring ideas and great ideas for lessons.

Good ideas to challenge the older children in KS2.

Great ideas for level 5.

Got me thinking – lots of ideas..
Fantastic ideas – practical ideas which can be used in school lots of examples given.
Excellent resources to take away.
Very useful to see how a series of lessons developed in KS2.
Ideas to support non-specialist teachers too.

KS3 Workshop

Lottie Rowe and Helen Miller



Unacceptable 0 Poor 0 Good 1 Very Good 1 Excellent 1

Comments

Good to network
Good to share ideas
Lots of useful ideas

Enquiry Approach workshop

Katy Staples



Unacceptable 0 Poor 0 Good 0 Very Good 2 Excellent 7

Comments

Excellent practical delivery of idea.

Something different . Fab!

Very thought provoking – an excellent approach.

Got me thinking – lots of ideas

Excellent to “experience” enquiry – good for thinking about questioning.

Interesting discussion

Inspiring

Really enjoyed the whole session – going to do it in class.

This session was particularly useful as it will help us to deliver RE in a more exciting way than we have been doing before

Governors Head teachers, SACRE members, and members of the Faith Community Launch



26 people attended this session.

Only 4 evaluation forms were returned.

What has changed and what is the same? Katy Staples

Unacceptable 0 Poor 1 Good 2 Very Good 1 Excellent 0

Comments

Really helpful to know changes and to meet with others in similar situations.

Loved Bishop's cake analogy!

Activities to break up talking helped on a Thursday late afternoon.

Buzz groups are tedious and some seemed artificial. When you're going to use a presentation with sound make sure it's set up and working before you start.

Please start on time.

However session was informative and interesting.

It's important for All children to learn about different faiths

1. Are there any conclusions to be made from these evaluations or from first hand experiences of the launch of the Update of the Agreed syllabus ?
2. Is there any further support that needs to be offered to schools following this?

Update on Network Meetings

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 27th September 2011

Author: SACRE Advisor

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To update the SACRE on the Network Meetings for RE Teachers and Co-ordinators in Swindon

Recommendation

SACRE is requested -

- To note the report.
- To consider any actions arising for the SACRE from the Network Meetings.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The SACRE has a duty to help schools fulfil their statutory obligations with regard to religious education.
- 1.2 It is important that the SACRE be kept informed about the provision for religious education and collective worship in schools in the Borough and the support being provided to schools.

2. Detail

- 2.1 The SACRE Advisor meets with teachers of religious education in both primary and secondary schools through regular network meetings.
- 2.2 A list of the meetings planned for 2011/12 is attached at Appendix '1'.
- 2.3 The first secondary network meeting took place on 14 September 2011 at Swindon Academy, in relation to the subject of an Enquiry based approach to RE, and this went well, although attendance was low. Through the meeting it was understood that all the secondary academies have set up a teaching and learning group to support the teaching of RE, and this will begin to meet at the end of September. As it is anticipated that all Secondary Schools in Swindon will become academies during this year, the SACRE Advisor is exploring if it would be better for the SACRE to seek to establish a link to this group, rather than continue to provide separate

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples on 0117 927 7454 or katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org.uk

Update on Network Meetings

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 27th September 2011

secondary cluster meetings. The SACRE Advisor will provide an update to the meeting on any progress.

- 2.4 The first primary network meeting will have taken place on 22nd September at Oliver Tomkins CE VA Infant School in relation to Early Years and Foundation Stage and RE. The participants are invited to provide feedback on the session.

Alternative Options

- None

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- The costs for the SACRE Advisor meeting with the secondary and primary network meetings is met from within the SACRE budget, which is £5000 per annum.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- This report has no specific legal or human rights implications.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies

- The work of the SACRE contributes to the Council's aims to improve the opportunities for children and young people, and to support local communities by empowering people to participate in local decision-making and overcoming social exclusion.

Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.
- Director of Schools and Learning
- Sarah Foulkes, Primary Link Adviser

Background Papers and Appendices

- None

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples on 0117 927 7454 or katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org.uk

Network Meetings - 2011-2012

Primary Clusters

3.45 pm – 5.15 pm

22 September 2011 - Oliver Tomkins CE VA Infant School, SN5 8LW
EYFS and RE

19 January 2012 - Orchid Vale Primary School, SN25 1UG (TBC)
Developing Spirituality in RE

10 May 2012 - Liden School, SN3 6EX
RE and the New National Curriculum

Secondary Clusters

3.45 pm – 5.15 pm

14 September 2011 - Swindon Academy, Beech Avenue, SN2 1JR
More ideas for an Enquiry based approach to RE

25 January 2012 - The Commonweal School, SN1 4JE
Developing Spirituality in RE

13 June 2012 - Crowdys Hill Special School, SN2 7HJ
RE and the New National Curriculum

This page is intentionally left blank

Update on Implementing the SACRE Development Plan 2011/13

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 27th September 2011

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services / SACRE Adviser

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- For SACRE Members to discuss the delivery of the SACRE Development Plan for 2011/13

Recommendation

- That the SACRE note the updates to the SACRE Development Plan for 2011/13, as attached at Appendix '1', and agree any additional actions arising.
- That the Development Plan 2011/13 be reported to each meeting of the SACRE in order that progress can be monitored.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The SACRE's Development Plan enables it to plan the delivery of its statutory role.

2. Detail

- 2.1 The SACRE approved its Development Plan for 2011/13 meeting in March 2011. At the last meeting it was agreed that the Development Plan be updated and reported at each meeting to set out how the SACRE budget of £5000 is being spent, and to show progress against its agreed priorities.

- 2.2 The amended document is attached at Appendix '1'.

Alternative Options

- The SACRE could choose to amend its Plan or change the way in which it will be delivered.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- Costs of delivering the SACRE's Development Plan must be contained within the £5k annual budget provided to support the SACRE's work, which includes funding for support from the SACRE Advisor.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples on 0117 927 7454 or katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org or from Sarah Lawrence on 01793 463603, Email slawrence@swindon.gov.uk.

Update on Implementing the SACRE Development Plan 2011/13

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 27th September 2011

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- This report has no specific legal or human rights implications.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies

- The work of the SACRE contributes to the Council's aims to improve the opportunities for children and young people.

Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.
- Paddy Bradley, Director of Schools and Learning
- Sarah Foukes, Principal Advisor School Improvement

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix 1 – SACRE Development Plan 2011/13 as at September 2011

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples on 0117 927 7454 or katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org or from Sarah Lawrence on 01793 463603, Email slawrence@swindon.gov.uk.

Swindon SACRE Development Plan 2011 – 13

Area for Improvement: Increasing the effectiveness of SACRE in developing the standards of teaching and learning in Religious Education, and in advising about collective worship

Success criteria

A. Developing teaching and learning in RE

1. The quality of pupil's learning in RE is improved through the implementation of the advice and training offered in the programme to introduce the new Agreed Syllabus Update 2011
2. Strategies to inform schools about statutory legal duties and compliance will be developed.
3. The quality of teaching and learning at EYFS is reviewed and advice offered

B Ensuring adequate advice and training is given concerning effective Collective Worship

1. Advice offered about Collective worship is informative , current and helpful
2. All Schools have been offered training about Collective Worship that will help them ensure the impact and effectiveness of this element of school life

C. SACREs effective partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders

1. SACRE itself , Swindon LA and all schools are informed as to the work and function of Swindon SACRE
2. Members of SACRE visit schools and see RE happening

Monitoring How and When	Sarah Foulkes meetings with RE Adviser	Evaluation How and when	SACRE SACRE meetings
4 SACRE meetings a year			
Lead Person	Katy Staples	Others involved	SACRE members

Area of development	Start	Finish	Resources needed	Link to Budget	Update / Progress
A. Teaching and Learning in RE 1. Introducing the Agreed Syllabus Update – offering advice and training	June 2011	June 2013	Through Network meetings and ½ day training for secondary and ½ day for primary schools	Launch Day – 16/06/2011 Network meetings – 3 per year per phase – cost 3 days adviser time. Training offered at Nythe at cost to schools (no SACRE budget consideration)	A successful launch day took place on 16/06/2011 and the Agreed Syllabus Documents are available via on Schools Online. Network meetings have been arranged for 2011/12.

2. Strategies to ensure compliance with statutory duty	March 2011	July 2013	Letter to accompany the Annual report to ask Secondary Schools about their compliance particularly at KS4	Adviser time to write letter (1/2 hr - £25) and Electronic / paper distribution	This letter was written in March 2011 and circulated in May 2011. Results from surveys of schools on provision to be reported back. Further feedback awaited.
3. Reviewing the quality of provision offered for Early Years and Foundation Stage	January 2011	Spring 2012	Primary Network meeting January 2011 given for a discussion –and review (led by Mrs Penny Summers) –included in new AS Primary Network meeting Spring 2012 – sharing best practice.	Adviser support at Network meetings	Discussion took place at January 2011 meeting. A link to the Solihull Foundation Stage material for purchase is available to teachers online alongside the updated Agreed Syllabus.
B. Ensuring effective Collective worship	Autumn 2011	June 2012	Review SACRE advice currently offered about Collective worship. Issue updated advice to schools	Adviser time to re-write / amend advice if necessary (£50 per hour - £200 per day) Electronic/ paper distribution of new advice	To be undertaken during 2011/12. This has yet to start.
2. Offer training to all schools in Swindon about Collective Worship	June 2012	June 2012	Venue , materials and Adviser time	Costs to be met by schools and training offered – one afternoon at Nythe	

<p>C. Effective SACRE and partnership</p> <p>1. Developing the role of SACRE and its partnership with the LA and stakeholders</p>	<p>March 2011</p>	<p>July 2013</p>	<p>LA officer attending SACRE meetings</p> <p>SACRE members raising issues in other forums (SAPH)</p> <p>SACRE annual report in a format which is more attractive to a wider readership- to be sent to all schools and Governors</p> <p>As part of Celebrating RE month SACRE members will visit schools who are celebrating their excellent RE with visits or special days etc.</p> <p>Final report presented June 2011 to SACRE</p>	<p>Electronic/paper distribution of Annual Report to a greater readership.</p> <p>None – the goodwill and kindness of SACRE members</p>	<p>Annual report was sent to teachers via Schools Online. Next Annual Report will be prepared early 2012.</p> <p>Successful Celebrating RE Month activities attended in March 2011 and reported to SACRE in March and June 2011.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to follow up activities in March 2012.</p>
<p>2. SACRE members visiting and engaging in RE in schools</p>	<p>March 2011</p>	<p>June 2011 onwards</p>			

Budget Proposed Allocation to Support the Development Plan Implementation

The table below sets out the anticipated spend on the £5k support grant for the SACRE in 2011//12:

Activity	Development Plan Reference	Anticipated Total Costs
1. Advisor support for four SACRE Meetings a year	C	£928
2. Preparation of SACRE Annual Report	C	£700
3. Advisor support for RE Network Meetings	A	£1080
4. Invoice for March 2011 SACRE support activities	A, C	£1112
5. Preparation of Collective Worship Guidance.	B	£300
6. Repeat of Celebrating RE Month Activities (if agreed by SACRE Members at meeting in June 2011)	C2	£350
7. Subscription to NASACRE for national advice and support.	C	£100
8. Essential Training (if required)	A,B,C	£250
9. Contingency	A,B,C	£180
	Total:	£5000

As at 1 September 2011 - **£1,664.00 of the Budget has been spent.**

This page is intentionally left blank