

# Swindon Borough Council

## Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

**Tuesday, 6 December 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  
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  
Reverend Beth Brown (TBC)

**Group C:  
Teacher Associations**

Mrs Tracy Mason, NUT  
Miss Lottie Rowe, NASUWT  
Mrs Mandy Sandleton, NASUWT  
Ms Sara Crabb, ATL  
Ms Judi Kingdon, NUT  
Mr Paul Sunners, NAHT  
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 Adviser  
Sarah Foulkes, Primary Link Adviser

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

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Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

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# **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. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

The SACRE is asked to appoint a Vice-Chair for the remainder of the 2011/12 municipal year.

In accordance with the SACRE Constitution, the nomination cannot come from the same Group as currently holds the position of Chair (Group D).

**5. Minutes** (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

**6. Membership Update** (DLDS-B) (Pages 5 - 6)

**7. Understanding Local RE** (Miss Janet French)

It was agreed at the last meeting it might be helpful for the SACRE to receive regular updates from Members of the SACRE who are teachers on what is happening locally in RE and examples of recent projects or work.

On this occasion, Janet French will give a short presentation to the SACRE on examples of Key Stage 1 Religious Education.

**8. National Developments for RE** (Ms Katy Staples) (Pages 7 - 18)

**9. SACRE Development Plan 2011-2013** (Ms Katy Staples) (Pages 19 - 26)

**10. Feedback from Network Meetings** (Miss Lottie Rowe / Ms Katy Staples)  
(Pages 27 - 30)

**11. Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the SACRE is on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 6 pm at a venue to be confirmed.

**Date of Despatch:** 28 November 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.

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**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 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 Tony  
McAteer (Catholic Community) and Mr Dinesh  
Patel (Hindu Community)

**Group B:**  
Church of England

Miss Janet French and Mrs Penny Summers

**Group C:**  
Teacher Organisations

Miss Lottie Rowe, Mrs Mandy Sandleton and Ms  
Sara Crabb.

**Group D:**  
Councillors

Councillors Doreen Dart (Chair), Claire Ellis and  
Raymond Fisher

Also in attendance: Ms Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor).

Apologies for absence were received from Reverend Norma McKemey, Ms Steph  
Mundin, Mrs Tracy Mason and Mr M S Khan.

**12. 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.

**13. Public Question Time**

Representatives of the Swindon Interfaith Forum attended and did not ask a public  
question, but circulated with the permission of the Chair, copies of leaflets regarding  
“Restorative Justice – A Conversation with Tony Aldridge” and “Mind Matters  
October to November 2011” for Members’ information.

**14. Chair's Correspondence and Announcements**

The Chair reported the receipt of the following correspondence:

(a) The NASCRE Newsletter for Summer 2011 which included perspectives on the  
national position of Religious Education and support for SCAREs and best practice;

(b) A letter received from the Accord Coalition seeking nominations for the 2012  
Accord Inclusive Schools Award;

(c) A letter received from the British Humanist Society about membership on the  
SACRE; and

(d) An invitation to the London and South East SACREs Annual Meeting to be held in London on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

Resolved – (1) That the correspondence be noted.

(2) That the letter received from the British Humanist Society about membership on the SACRE be considered as part of Agenda Item No. 6 (Membership Update).

(3) That the letter received from the Accord Coalition seeking nominations for the 2012 Accord Inclusive Schools Award be highlighted to schools via Schools Online.

## **15. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **16. Membership Update**

The SACRE considered (a) a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services setting out issues relating the SACRE's membership (b) an oral report from the Clerk advising the SACRE that Swindon Borough Council had approved the SACRE membership at its meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011, and (c) the current vacancy of Vice Chair of SACRE.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Membership of SACRE as appended to the Report be noted and new Members to the Council be welcomed.

(3) That the SACRE formally records its appreciation to those members who did not seek reappointment for their work on behalf of the SACRE.

(4) That the position of Group C (Teacher Associations) in relation to Academy Schools be noted.

(5) That the SACRE Advisor be authorised to seek appropriate representatives to fill vacancies in the SACRE membership.

(6) That no action be taken at this time in respect of the request from the British Humanist Society for representation on the SACRE.

(7) That, further to (6) above, the British Humanist Society be advised that their request for representation on the SACRE will be further considered following the release of the Census results which will help inform the discussion on the wider make-up of Swindon SACRE.

(8) That further to the receipt of a list of secondary schools and primary schools in the Borough the Clerk to the SACRE be requested to forward to all members of the SACRE, a list of junior schools within the Borough.

(9) That the Chair, on behalf of the SACRE, be requested to write to all Academies

within the Borough indicating that the SACRE would welcome their continued representation on the SACRE and advising them that (a) the Agreed Syllabus continues to be available to all schools, and (b) the SACRE advisor is available to continue working with all secondary schools for the remainder of the financial year.

(10) That the appointment of Vice-Chair of SACRE be considered at the next meeting.

## **17. Understanding Local RE**

The SACRE received an oral report from Miss Lottie Rowe setting out the successful work undertaken in her school in respect of the Face to Faith live video link and discussion that took place during the previous term. The SACRE discussed the work undertaken and the benefits arising for the school and pupils.

Mr. Mark Cawte gave a brief summary of his attendance at the “Burma Day” event on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011 (Minute 7).

Resolved – (1) That Miss Lottie Rowe be thanked for her presentation to SACRE.

(2) That updates on events such as Face to Faith or other good Religious Education good practice be reported to future meetings of the SCARE.

## **18. National Developments in RE and Collective Worship**

The SACRE received a report of the SACRE Advisor setting out national developments in relation to the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship.

The SACRE debated (a) the role of Religious Education in the English Baccalaureate in the light of comments attributed to the Prime Minister, David Cameron, and the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, in relation to the possible inclusion of Religious Education and the English Baccalaureate, (b) the number of pupils taken examinations in Religious Education, (c) Government changes to education that would impact on SACREs, and (d) the wider role of religious education within the community.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Chair, on behalf of SACRE, write to the Prime Minister, Secretary of State for Education, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Multi-Faith leaders in the House of Lords setting out this SACRE’s view as to the importance of religious education in the community and in particular, following recent riots, the positive role of religion and religious education in providing young people with a moral compass.

## **19. Feedback on the Launch of the Agreed Syllabus**

The SACRE Advisor submitted a report setting out a summary of the feedback received from the launch of the locally Agreed Syllabus held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

The SACRE considered (a) feedback set out in the report together with an oral update from members attending the launch, and (b) the benefits and cost

implications of another event promoting the launch of the locally Agreed Syllabus for those not able to attend the event on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2011.

Resolved – (1) That the SACRE Advisor be requested to consider the benefits and cost implications of another event promoting the launch of the locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

(2) That the SACRE's appreciation to all teachers contributing to workshops at the launch of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011, be recorded.

## **20. Update on Network Meetings**

The SACRE considered (a) a report of the SACRE Advisor updating members on Network Meetings for Religious Education co-ordinators in Swindon, (b) an oral report from the SACRE Advisor regarding the last meeting, (c) the possibility of the establishment of a central resource centre for Religious Education teaching, and (d) the current position of the meetings resulting from the role of Teaching and Learning Academy Group meetings.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

## **21. SACRE Development Plan Update - September 2011**

The Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a report setting out the current position on the delivery of the SACRE Development Plan for 2011/13. The SACRE was informed that the SACRE Advisor had written to secondary schools regarding provision but had not received any response.

Resolved – (1) That the updates to the SACRE Development Plan for 2011/13, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

(2) That the Development Plan 2011/13 be reported to each meeting of the SACRE for monitoring.

(3) That the SCARE Advisor be requested to re-circulate her letter and guidance to secondary schools.

## **22. Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

Resolved – That the next meeting of the SACRE be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011, commencing at 6:00 p.m. at a venue to be confirmed.



## Membership Update

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011

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**Author:** Director of Law and Democratic Services

**Parish / Wards Affected:** All

### Purpose

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

### Recommendation

- That the SACRE endorse the appointment of Reverend Beth Brown to Group B (Church of England), for a four year term to the end of September 2015.
- That the SACRE Advisor continue to seek suitable representatives for the two Group C (Teacher Organisations) vacancies.

### 1. Reasons

- 1.1. The Council appoints the membership of SACRE every four years and last formally appointed the membership in September 2011. The SACRE is asked to approve mid-term changes to memberships.

### 2. Detail

- 2.1 It was reported at the last meeting that Reverend Arthur Woo (Church of England) had decided to step down from the SACRE. The Church of England Diocese has nominated a replacement representative from the Swindon Deanery, Reverend Beth Brown, who is the Associate Minister of Dorcan. The SACRE is asked to endorse this appointment.
- 2.2 Two vacancies remain in the Teachers Association Group (Group C). It is recommended that the SACRE Advisor continue to seek suitable representatives in consultation with the relevant teachers associations.

### Alternative Options

- None.

### Risk Management

#### *Financial and Procurement Implications*

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

#### *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

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

## Membership Update

### Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011

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Constitution.

*Links to Swindon 2010, Plans and Policies*

- The work of the SACRE contributes to the objectives 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

- None

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

## National Developments in RE

### Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011

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Author: SACRE Advisor

Parish / Wards Affected: All

#### Purpose

- To update the SACRE on National developments in Religious Education (RE).

#### Recommendation

SACRE is requested -

- To note the report.
- To consider any actions required as a result of the feedback from the National RE Conference and ARIEAC Conference.
- To consider the NASACRE guidance on the roles of SACRE Advisor and Clerk, and to consider if to recommend any changes to the operation of the Swindon SACRE as a result.

#### 1. Reasons

- 1.1 The SACRE has a duty to help schools fulfil their statutory obligations with regard to religious education and to do so needs to keep up to date on the latest national developments in RE.

#### 2. Detail

##### *National RE Conference*

- 2.1 A National RE Conference was held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October, drawing together a range of national bodies which have an interest in RE. The SACRE Advisor attended (as did Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte) and a copy of her bullet point notes of the Key Note Speech from Mr John Keast, Chair of the RE Council of England and Wales, are attached at Appendix '1'. One of the key proposals from the Conference was to discuss a new central role for the RE Council to act as the key co-ordinating national body for the promotion of Religious Education.
- 2.2 The SACRE Advisor will report back on the conference and highlight any issues of which the SACRE needs to take account. The SACRE is asked to consider:
- Does the SACRE agree with the assessment of the current threats and opportunities for RE?

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

# National Developments in RE

## Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011

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- Does the SACRE think the proposal that the RE Council should be the main central forum for the RE voice nationally is a positive step?

### *ARIEAC Conference*

- 2.3 The SACRE Advisor has also attended a day conference with ARIEAC (Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisors and Consultants), at which the future of assessment was discussed. It was anticipated that the Government may replace the current levels of attainment with end of key stage statements in the forthcoming National Curriculum. The conference discussed if RE adopted the same approach for assessment, then what end of key stage statements could look like for the teaching of RE. The SACRE Advisor will provide further information at the meeting on the Conference and the potential implications for the teaching of RE.

### *Best Practice for SACREs*

- 2.4 The NASACRE has issued guidance for SACREs and Local Authorities on best practice for SACRES in relation to the roles for the SACRE Advisor and the SACRE Clerk. These are attached for information at Appendix '2'. The SACRE is asked to consider if it wishes to recommend any changes to the way in which it operates in the light of these documents.

## 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.

#### *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.

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

## **National Developments in RE**

### **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

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#### **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 Key Note Speech from John Keast at the National RE Conference.
- Appendix 2 – NASACRE guidance on the roles of the SACRE Advisor and Clerk.

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**St Gabriel's RE Community Conference 1/2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2011**

**Wokefield Park, Reading.**

**Key Note Speech: John Keast**

Chair of the RE Council of England and Wales

**Threats to RE** – critical situation but also a unique opportunity

**Opportunity and Challenge**

Failure to grasp this will set it back – but grasp it and greater opportunity and success.

RE is an essential component in English Education, since the 1970s - widen to all religions + CW declined

Dual system – LAs and Voluntary schools –supported by L.A.s (and diocese)

Nat. Curriculum + NS framework – Ofsted Short Course all have improved provision within context of 1944

**Changes now – Possible threats**

Academies +Free Schools – undermines statutory requirement – by virtue of their funding agreements RE must be taught.

Ofsted no longer endorses entitlement

LAs and SACREs – could become redundant and impotent

ITT – fewer trained teachers

Review of the Nat Curriculum –no RE

EBacc – no RE

No Nat RE adviser

Government impervious to advice about decisions made and consequences of decisions made and the decline of RE.

**Positives**

RE offers an essential and unique contribution to Education

Legal Requirement – re-affirmed by Govt

RE mostly taught by trained professionals

Quality and commitment of RE teachers and at an all time high

Public exam system – better than 20 yrs ago

RE community more organised and better committed than other times-

EBacc campaign – a swell of support

**Opportunity and Challenge**

Education changing – provision changing – choice led – training will be led by HTs in context

Professionalism lies within the RE subject community – which comprises all teachers and lecturers and bodies

Turn current changes into opportunities – ( the EBacc swell of support needs capitalising)

No longer dependent on Govt or LAs – but working with

**RE community should be the custodian of its own standards and success**

Must look forward not back – cannot turn the clock back

Ofsted – no subject reports – no resurrection of 2004 framework

RE community needs to be more confident – we are not used to working together – used to Nat initiatives – standards which the RE community has worked out parallel version.

Work together – providing a lead not following other's footsteps

Need to demonstrate we can work in a united and professional way – working more closely together in a climate of competitive bidding

All RE department interests – children's needs must be of paramount.

Agreed structure –we must handle our differences well

### **Serious threats**

Biggest risk fracture and fragmentation

- different pedagogies and faiths power bases etc
- Potential to set the subject back decades.

### **Analogy of an orchestra**

Together making good music

All groups are members of the RE council – RE council is the conductor – all the instruments playing to make great music.

Using the first person plural

“RE Council are Us”

### **RE Council – role**

Commonality of purpose – working through its member bodies

A national forum

A clear Nat. voice

Influence policy

Positive image + public understanding

Represent collective interests

### **Now has a 5 year plan for RE**

Which aims to restate and reinvigorate RE

- High quality of teaching + assessment curriculum and qualifications
- Public policy - relations
- Professional development
- Resources
- Structures and operation – governance



# **NASACRE**

## **LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT FOR SACREs**

1. As part of their responsibilities to ensure high quality RE and collective worship for all pupils the Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to establish a SACRE and an agreed syllabus conference (ASC), and also has statutory responsibilities in supporting both bodies
2. 'The L(E)A's duty to convene a conference or to establish a SACRE implies providing sufficient funds for these bodies to perform their duties.' ERA 1988 s11 (1)
3. 'Sufficient funding' for the SACRE may vary depending on factors such as the size and faith diversity of different LAs but should not be less than:
  - Clerking support for 3-6 SACRE meetings per year,
  - Specialist RE advice and back up support for 3-6 SACRE meetings per year,
  - Specialist RE advice and back up support for preparation and publication of the SACRE annual report.

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that the agreed syllabus is reviewed every five years. The LA is responsible for providing satisfactory funding for this task, including writing, consulting, publishing and providing necessary training. In addition, the SACRE has the power, rarely used, to require the LA to review its agreed syllabus within the five year period as stated in ERA 1988 s11 (7).

4. Sufficient funding for the ASC within a five year cycle may vary for reasons similar to those leading to variation in funding of SACREs in different LAs but should not be less than:
  - Clerking support for 3-6 ASC meetings,
  - Specialist RE advice and back up support for the 3-6 ASC meetings,
  - Specialist RE advice and back up support for reviewing the agreed syllabus, and preparing, and publishing the reviewed syllabus and disseminating it across the LA schools. 5-10 days within a five year cycle.
5. The statutory duty is reaffirmed in the *Religious Education guidance in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010* which states, "An LA should fund and support a SACRE and an ASC satisfactorily in line with the duty to constitute or convene each of these bodies and to enable them effectively to carry out their function."

6. In addition to these central statutory duties an effective SACRE should

- Monitor standards and achievement in RE in the LA through agreed school visits and analysis of appropriate data including external examination results,
- Have a clear, realistic development plan which raises both the profile of, and achievement in RE,
- Enrich the quality of RE through specific projects e.g. raising boy's attainment,
- Build strong and positive partnerships with schools, colleges and universities, local faith and belief communities and keep informed of key national developments in RE,
- Provide effective support on the effective teaching of RE including planning, methods and resources.

All of these require that a specialist RE professional is in place; is well informed and qualified and has the capacity to manage these actions with the SACRE.

7. As with members of school governing bodies, some provision should be made for the induction, training and development of SACRE members and for expenses to attend meetings.

#### KEY QUESTION FOR Las

- Does the professional, administrative and financial support for SACRE enable it to carry out its duties effectively and improve learning and achievement in RE?

#### KEY QUESTION FOR SACREs

- How does the work of SACRE improve learning and achievement in RE?

# APPENDIX A

## TASKS OF THE SACRE CLERK

- Arrange, attend and clerk meetings of the SACRE;
- Produce and circulate minutes and agenda in a timely manner in accordance with the Council's standard format;
- Arrange, attend and clerk meetings of the ASC during the review period;
- Ensure that all papers from working parties or consultants are circulated to the ASC members in advance of meetings;
- Advise on dates of meetings; particularly in relation to religious holidays or other council meetings which may clash and affect quoracy;
- Arrange venues for meetings of both the SACRE and ASC;
- Liaise with the relevant personnel to establish when necessary good relationships;
- Organise and if necessary transport equipment (e.g. ICT, digital projector) to meetings;
- Organise catering for the meeting with due sensitivity towards the religious sensibilities of the particular faith communities;
- Remind and if necessary chase members/other attendees about reports for meetings and circulation deadlines;
- Circulate additional papers or conference invitations from relevant bodies;
- Alert the Chair and RE Professional Adviser/Consultant to any communications from relevant bodies;
- Ensure that regular communications are circulated to members;
- Working with the Chair, the local RE Professional Adviser/Consultant and other SACRE Officers, produce reports to the Mayor and Cabinet e.g. when changes to the SACRE constitution or membership are required;
- Work closely as a team member with the Chair, the local RE Professional Adviser/Consultant and other SACRE Officers (this includes regular phone contact, e-mail, and agenda planning meetings);
- Be the first point of contact for SACRE members, faith community members, members of the public and officers of NASACRE and other relevant bodies;

National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education [NASACRE]

[www.nasacre.org.uk](http://www.nasacre.org.uk)

- Respond to enquiries alerting the Chair and RE Professional Adviser/Consultant when necessary;
- Maintain the SACRE (and ASC) membership list, keeping it up to date, chasing members whose attendance is poor and identifying any membership issues for the attention of the Chair;
- Contact the nominating bodies for each interest group represented on the SACRE when membership lapses and arrange for replacements;
- Contribute information for the Annual Report of SACRE (e.g. membership and attendance details);
- Assist in the production, publication and distribution of the Annual Report;
- Issue Welcome/Induction Packs for new members and ensure that new members have sufficient information to prepare them for their first meeting;
- Maintaining a filing system (electronic and paper) of relevant and up to date information;
- Liaise with other LA departments and keep the Chair, the local RE Professional /Adviser and other SACRE Officers informed of any LA initiatives which may be relevant to the work of the SACRE;
- Ensure that all SACRE publications are circulated to the relevant bodies;
- Liaise with the LA's Legal/committee section regarding governance issues;
- Undertake administrative work relating to the meetings of sub groups of the SACRE e.g. working parties for particular initiatives;
- Help organise events such as the launch of the new agreed syllabus, SACRE open evenings;
- Be responsible for the payment of invoices relating to SACRE work e.g. payment for attendance at national conferences, catering for meetings or training;
- Maintain oversight of the SACRE budget, advising the Chair of issues relating to this budget.

# APPENDIX B

## **TASKS OF THE SPECIALIST RE PROFESSIONAL ADVISER/CONSULTANT**

- Attend all SACRE meetings, helping to prepare Agendas and key papers;
- Advise SACRE on issues relating to its work;
- Ensure SACRE is up to date with local, regional and national initiatives and issues related to RE and collective worship, e.g. Ofsted subject reports, DfE funded initiatives;
- Relate SACRE's work to wider community issues, including partnerships with faith and belief communities;
- Lead on areas related to the Agreed Syllabus, RE and collective worship;
- Manage and deliver the training of SACRE members and, where appropriate, teachers and other groups interested in RE;
- Produce reports to meet the deadlines agreed for distribution of papers for the meetings;
- Support individual SACRE members' development including their ability to provide a bridge between their sponsoring body and the full SACRE;
- With relevant administrative support and the SACRE clerk, manage and advise meetings of sub groups e.g. working parties for particular initiatives;
- With the SACRE clerk ensure that all SACRE publications are circulated to the relevant bodies;
- Working with the Chair, the clerk and other SACRE Officers, produce reports to the Mayor and Cabinet e.g. when changes to the SACRE constitution or membership are required;
- Draft and edit the SACRE Annual Report and all SACRE materials and publications;
- With administrative support, update any relevant RE / ASC / SACRE website and SACRE's presence on the LA website;
- Take the lead on the monitoring aspects of SACRE, especially agreed school visits and analysis of examination results in RE/RS.

BG/10/11

National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education [NASACRE]

[www.nasacre.org.uk](http://www.nasacre.org.uk)

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### Update on Implementing the SACRE Development Plan 2011/13

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011

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**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 proposal to offer support to schools on the delivery of the Agreed Syllabus be endorsed, and the SACRE Advisor make arrangements with the Group Director of Children for provision at Nythe training centre.
- That a SACRE Sub-Group be set up to prepare guidance for schools on Collective Worship, and report back with recommended guidance to a future meeting.

#### **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 and the Development Plan is reported at each meeting for the SACRE to review how its budget is being spent, and to show progress against its agreed priorities. The latest document is attached at Appendix '1'.
- 2.2 Target A (1) of the Development Plan, relates to the introduction of the Agreed Syllabus and the provision of training for teachers. At the last meeting it was agreed that there was a need to offer additional training to teachers on the Update to the Locally Agreed Syllabus. The SACRE Advisor is proposing to provide this via the Nythe training centre, and offer schools the opportunity to pay for some training for RE teachers.
- 2.3 One of the key targets for the current year (Target B (1)), was for the SACRE to review the Collective Worship Guidance for schools. The SACRE has previously provided some guidance for schools, but this needs to be updated, taking into account the latest best practice. It is

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

# Update on Implementing the SACRE Development Plan 2011/13

## Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011

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recommended that a small Sub-Group of the SACRE be set up to carry out a review of the existing guidance, and recommend amendments or a new document to a future meeting of the SACRE. SACRE Members are invited to volunteer to be part of the Sub-Group to develop the guidance.

- 2.4 As part of Target C (1), the SACRE Advisor will be drafting the SACRE Annual report for the period September 2010 to September 2011, to be presented for approval to the next meeting. As part of reviewing the last Annual Report, it was agreed that the next edition should be made more accessible for schools, with exclusion of examples of RE work from the year. There is a great deal of information available from the Celebrating RE events that took place early in 2011 and from the events launching the Agreed Syllabus. However, members of the SACRE are invited to provide any additional information on RE in local schools from the last year to the SACRE Advisor, which could be included in the report.

### 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.

#### *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 December 2011

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## **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
<b>A. Teaching and Learning in RE</b> 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  Training offered at Nythe at cost to schools (no SACRE budget consideration)  Network meetings – 3 per year per phase – cost 3 days adviser time.	A successful launch day took place on 16/06/2011 and the Agreed Syllabus Documents are available via on Schools Online. Further training is to be made available for teachers.  Network meetings have been arranged for 2011/12. It has been agreed that the Secondary Humanities Teaching and Learning Group RE meeting will merge with the existing network meeting, to better support RE teachers.

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

## 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
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>£5000</b>

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## Update on Network Meetings

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 6 December 2011

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**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.
- To consider any issues that the SACRE would wish to highlight to the next meeting of the Secondary Teaching and Learning Group for RE.

## 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 has arranged regular meetings with teachers of religious education in both primary and secondary. However, it was recognised at the last meeting that the new Humanities Teaching and Learning Group for Academies, focused on RE, would duplicate the role of the Secondary Network, and that it was appropriate to see if both were still required.
- 2.2 The notes of the last meeting of the Humanities Teaching and Learning Group for RE are attached at Appendix '1'. Lottie Rowe and any other attendees are invited to report back to the SACRE on any particular issues of note. The Group did indicate that it would most beneficial for their meeting to merge with the current Network meetings, and there is a regular item on the agenda to report back on issues from SACRE. The

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

## Update on Network Meetings

### Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 6 December 2011

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SACRE is asked if it wishes to highlight any particular issues to the next meeting of the Teaching and Learning Group, to be held on 18th January 2012.

- 2.3 No primary network meetings have taken place since the last meeting of the SACRE. The next meeting will take place on 19 January 2012 at Orchid Vale Primary School and will focus on Developing Spirituality in RE.

### 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

- Appendix 1 – Notes of the last meeting of the Humanities Teaching and Learning Group for RE.

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



# HUMANITIES

## Teaching and Learning Group

### RE MEETING

28<sup>th</sup> Sept 4.00pm- 5pm

**Thanks to those that attended:**

Churchfields, Dorcan, Greendown, Isambard , Kingsdown, Nova Hreed,  
St Josephs, The Commonweal , The Ridgeway, New College

### **Suggested outcomes of meetings**

- Sharing ideas and practice
- A support network
- Keep up to date with current issues
- Development of RE in our schools

### **Minutes**

1. Name Change: Teaching and Learning Group- Jon Young explained why groups had been created.
2. How would you like this meeting organised for Jan and April?- It has been decided that we will merge the meetings with the current RE network meetings to make them a more valuable experience for all of us. Michele Greenwood will contact Katy Staples to see if she can facilitate the next meeting.
3. Agenda Items suggested by Heads of subject to Jon Young Deputy Head Greendown.
  - i)Key Stage 3 Syllabus and ideas- We looked at the 'Update for the Agreed Syllabus' and Lottie discussed the compulsory units.

- ii) Revision Techniques Ks3 and Ks4 – A variety of ways in which we approach GSCE questions was discussed. We also discussed how we use revision guides. Thanks to Laura for the ideas suggested.
- iii) Raising the profile of RE – We discussed ways in which we can raise the profile of RE in schools and in particular how can we improve numbers for GCSE. The following ideas were suggested:
  - A) Most importantly make RE an enjoyable experience.
  - B) Trips- some ideas were suggested.

#### 4. Date of next meetings 18<sup>th</sup> Jan and 18<sup>th</sup> April

Things for us to do/consider:

- 5) Lottie discussed the idea of AN RE bank of artefacts and DVDs which would be funded and then borrowed. Suggestions to Lottie at the next meeting please.
- 6) Fiona asked for any ideas about Meditation lessons. Perhaps we could forward any ideas [fpayne@stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:fpayne@stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk)
- 7) Lottie mentioned that SACRE have sent a questionnaire to our Head teachers again after a limited response. Please can we ask Head teachers to look into this?

#### **Agenda for the next meeting -18<sup>th</sup> of January**

- Developing Spirituality**
- RE bank of artefacts**
- Any ideas to share**
- Updates from SACRE**