

Swindon Borough Council

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Tuesday, 25 September 2012

St Francis Church of England Primary School, Aiken Road, Taw Hill,
Swindon, SN25 1UH

At 5.30 p.m.

(A tour of the school and refreshments will be available from 5.15 pm).

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

Mr Arun Bedi, Sikh Community
Mr David Burbidge, Baptist Church
Mr Mark Cawte, Methodist (Vice-Chair)
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

**Group C:
Teacher Associations**

Mrs Tracy Mason, NUT
Miss Lottie Rowe, NASUWT
Mrs Mandy Sandleton, NASUWT
Ms Sara Crabb, ATL
Mr Paul Sunners, NAHT

**Group D:
The Local Authority**

Councillor Doreen Dart (Chair)
Councillor Claire Ellis
Councillor Russell Holland
Councillor Fay Howard
Councillor James Robbins

Support Officers:

Katy Staples, SACRE Advisor
Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Advisor.

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. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2012.

5. Religious Education at St Francis C of E Primary School

Steph Mordin and Mark Tidey will give a presentation.

6. National Developments in RE (Katy Staples) (Pages 7 - 14)

7. SACRE Self-Assessment (Katy Staples) (Pages 15 - 16)

8. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SACRE is on 4 December 2012.

Date of Despatch: 17 September 2012

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.

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TUESDAY, 17 JULY 2012

PRESENT:-

Group A: Mr David Burbidge (Baptist Church), Mr Mark Christian Denominations and Cawte (Methodist), Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte Other Religions or Religious (United Reformed Church), Reverend David Denominations Howell (Swindon Evangelical Alliance), Mr M S Khan (Muslim Community) and Mr Dinesh Patel (Hindu Community)

Group B: Miss Janet French and Reverend Norma Church of England McKemey

Group C: Mrs Tracy Mason, Miss Lottie Rowe and Mr Paul Teacher Organisations Sunners

Group D: Councillors Doreen Dart, Russell Holland, Councillors Fay Howard and James Robbins

Also in attendance: Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor) and Sarah Foulkes (Primary Link Adviser)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Claire Ellis, Ms Steph Munding, Mrs Penny Summers, Reverend Beth Brown and Mr Tony McAteer.

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Resolved – 1) That Councillor Doreen Dart be appointed as Chair of the SACRE for 2012/13.

2) That Mr Mark Cawte be appointed as Vice-Chair of the SACRE of 2012/13.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded members of the SACRE of the need to make any declarations of interest. Councillor Robbins advised that he was a teacher at Churchfields School, but that this did not amount to a personal or prejudicial interest in respect of any of the items on the agenda.

3. Public Question Time

No public questions were submitted at the meeting.

4. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting on 27th March 2012 be approved.

Matters Arising -

- The SACRE noted the appointment of new local authority representatives on Group D since the last meeting. It was asked that thanks be sent to the former

Councillor Fisher for his service on the SACRE over many years.

- Further to minute 42, Lottie Rowe reported that the interfaith workshop on 23 May had gone well with an excellent facilitation from a Muslim woman who was working for a Jewish Charity. Lottie Rowe agreed to provide contact details for the charity to the next secondary network meeting.

5. Religious Education at Crowdys Hill - Introduction to the school from Tracy Mason

Mrs Tracy Mason welcomed the SACRE to Crowdys Hill school and to her classroom. Mrs Mason advised on the way in which RE was taught in the school, pointed out examples of work, and invited members of the SACRE to participate in some example activities and questions which the pupils would be asked to explore. It was noted that the pupils followed the Agreed Syllabus for Key Stage 2 and 3, but that it was adapted for their specific needs and learning outcomes.

The SACRE thanked Tracy Mason for hosting the meeting and for her presentation.

6. Collective Worship Guidance

The SACRE considered a report of the SACRE Advisor requesting that the SACRE endorse the final Collective Worship and asking for the SACRE to agree how it should be disseminated to schools. The SACRE thanked the working group and SACRE Advisor for their work on the Guidance, and discussed its content.

The SACRE welcomed the training that the SACRE Advisor had already provided to some teachers on the draft guidance and discussed how it should be publicised to schools.

It was suggested that members of the SACRE might make themselves available to be involved in collective worship in schools, and schools should be encouraged to share the guidance with those outside the school who regularly contribute to Collective Worship sessions.

Resolved – 1) That the new Swindon Collective Worship Guidance, attached at Appendix 2 to the Agenda report be endorsed, subject to the SACRE Advisor:

- Double-checking the balance of faith groups represented in the quotes which are included in the document.
- Adding a contents page.
- Writing a digest / summary to be made available online alongside the full guidance on the website.

2) The Guidance be highlighted to schools via Schools Online, the Governors newsletter, Headteachers' briefing meetings, and the RE network meetings.

7. Provision of RE in Schools

The SACRE received a report on representations to be made to Swindon Schools about RE provision as agreed at the last meeting, taking into account the recommendations of the Children's Trust Board.

It was agreed that any letters to schools should make it clear that there were a variety of ways that RE could be taught in schools, but that it was important that

access to RE was maintained in accordance with statutory requirements. It was suggested that in addition to writing to Secondary schools, a survey could be sent to all schools at the beginning of the new term to ask them to provide information to the SACRE on how they teach RE. This would enable the SACRE to fulfil its statutory responsibilities to monitor RE provision.

Katy Staples had set out in the report potential questions for the survey, which the SACRE discussed. It was suggested that the question about time allocated to RE be amended to ask the number of hours RE provided per week for each academic year. Schools could also be asked what syllabus they would use, if a faith-based school or academy, if they are not using the locally agreed syllabus.

It was agreed that any questions with regard to Collective Worship might be better deferred to a future survey until schools have had a chance to use the new guidance.

Resolved – 1) That the SACRE welcomes the endorsement of the Swindon Children's Trust Board to its work and the proposal to write to schools in relation to the provision of Religious Education.

2) That the Chair of SACRE, in conjunction with the Head of Commissioning – Economy / Attainment and SACRE Advisor, write to all Secondary Schools in the Borough to highlight Religious Education results and to support statutory teaching of Religious Education.

3) That the SACRE Advisor invite all schools in the Borough to complete a survey to provide information to the SACRE on how they are providing RE and teaching the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

4) The SACRE give consideration to a survey of the provision of Collective Worship later in the academic year once the new guidance has been in place for 6 months or more.

8. Update to SACRE Development Plan 2011/2013

The SACRE gave consideration to the update to its Development Plan for 2011/13. It was agreed that the Plan could be further updated to reflect new work of the SACRE, such as use of the survey to monitor RE provision.

Resolved – 1) That the Development Plan update for 2011/13 be endorsed.

2) That the SACRE Advisor and School Improvement Advisor give consideration to drafting the next edition of the Development Plan and report back to the SACRE at an appropriate time.

9. Update on Network Meetings and RE Training Sessions

The SACRE received an update on the meetings of the Primary Network and the Secondary Humanities Teaching and Learning Group for RE, which had taken place since the last meeting. The SACRE were pleased to see the increased uptake from schools to these meetings and the mutual support being provided to teachers.

The SACRE welcomed the training that had been undertaken by the SACRE Advisor since the last meeting in relation to the Agreed Syllabus and draft Collective Worship guidance. Katy Staples advised that the South West Conference training would also be offered to Swindon schools. It was highlighted that it was important to open training up to Teaching Assistants who might be involved in teaching RE. Katy Staples confirmed that the Diocese offered an RE for Teaching Assistants course which was well supported.

In response to a question from the SACRE, Sarah Foulkes advised on the Teaching School arrangement run in Swindon by the White Horse Federation. The SACRE also discussed the changing role of the Local Authority in relation to education.

The SACRE reiterated their wish to continue to support the teaching of RE across all schools in Swindon, and it was confirmed by teachers present that this was of great assistance. It was agreed that it would be helpful for the SACRE to re-visit the Effective SACREs Audit tool to assess its own role and performance.

Resolved – 1) That the SACRE note the Report.

2) That the Effective SACRE Audit Tool be brought back to the SACRE at the next suitable meeting to assess its role and performance.

10. National Developments in Religious Education

Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor) presented a detailed report on national developments in relation to Religious Education since the last meeting. This included information on:

- The New Ofsted Framework
- The review of RE syllabus being carried out at the request of the Government by the RE Council.
- The new RE Curriculum for Methodist Schools.
- The introduction of a new RE Quality Mark (REQM) which schools could apply for to recognise good practice in RE.
- Holocaust memorial day arrangements.
- The Day- a new resource for RE based on news analysis.
- Minutes of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) AGM.
- NASACRE leaflet for Academies on the role of SACREs.
- Notes from the RE South West Conference.
- Information on Trusts which give grants for supporting RE.

Resolved – 1) That the update on national developments be noted.

2) That the new leaflet for Academies from NASACRE be made available to schools via on Schools Online and on the Governor online newsletter.

11. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SACRE was scheduled for 25th September 2012 at 6 pm.

It was noted that Bishop Lee was delivering a lecture on Science and Religion at St Francis School at 7.30 pm on the same night which many members of the SACRE would want to attend.

It was agreed that SACRE Clerk should approach the school to see if the SACRE could be hosted by St Francis School and the time of the SACRE meeting be moved to 5.30 pm.

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National Developments in Religious Education (RE)

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

25 September 2012

Author: SACRE Advisor /
Head of Commissioning - Economy /Attainment

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To update the SACRE on national developments in relation to Religious Education since the last meeting.
- 1.2 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. Recommendations

The SACRE is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the update on national developments and to consider any response which might be required by the SACRE in relation to these developments.
- 2.2 Consider if a Working Group should be set up to review the Preliminary Report of the RE Curriculum Review when published.

3. Detail

RE Council Review of RE

- 3.1 At that last meeting the SACRE was informed that the RE Council for England and Wales (REC) had been asked by the Government to carry out a review of the RE curriculum.
- 3.2 Information on the review has been sent to each SACRE and is attached at Appendix 1. This includes the timetable and content for the first phase.
- 3.3 The SACRE will be invited to comment on the preliminary report when it has been drafted and it is anticipated that this will be published in early November, with comments requested by early December prior to its review by the REC Board on 6th December. The SACRE is asked to agree if it would wish for this to be considered by the full SACRE meeting on 4th December or if a Working Group be set up to undertake this work on the SACRE's behalf.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples, SACRE Advisor, katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org, 0117 906 0100

National Developments in Religious Education (RE)

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

25 September 2012

NASACRE Newsletter

- 3.4 A copy of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) Newsletter for Autumn 2012 is enclosed with this agenda as Appendix 2 for information.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Any alternative options for the SACRE are set out above.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications relating to this report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 There are no specific legal or human rights implications relating to this report.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 No other implications have been identified.

Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 The work of the SACRE seeks to support Theme 5 of the Community Strategy, for “Swindon to be a place where high aspirations are supported by superb education provision for all ages”.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report, as it does not relate to a specific policy or strategy change.

Risk Management

- 5.6 There are no risk management factors which have been identified in relation to this report.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples, SACRE Advisor, katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org, 0117 906 0100

National Developments in Religious Education (RE)

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

25 September 2012

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Information from the RE Council of England and Wales on the RE Curriculum Review.
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – NASACRE Autumn 2012 Newsletter (enclosed not attached)

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To all SACRE Chairs and Clerks,

As you are probably aware, the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC) has initiated a national Subject Review of Religious Education, to parallel the review of other subjects on the curriculum that is currently being undertaken.

I attach for your consideration an overview of the RE Review process which is intended to take place over the next academic year as well as a timeline for the first phase of the review. We very much hope that you will want to be actively involved in this process.

Currently a small group is meeting to prepare a preliminary report on the current state of play. We have invited two members of the NASACRE Executive to offer that panel of Experts in RE an overview of the current state of play from a SACRE perspective. We will also ensure representation from one or two individual SACREs at the second (and final) meeting of that group.

Once the preliminary report has been drafted we will circulate this for wider public consultation. Our aim is for it to go on-line on the REC website in early November. At this stage we will be inviting all other SACREs to download and discuss the report and return feedback to us by early December. We are looking to you to tell us whether we have painted the picture accurately; what we have got right as well as any constructive criticism you wish to offer us.

Further information about the process, including monthly updates, is available on the REC website at www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk

All good wishes and thanks in anticipation for your contribution to this important initiative for the future of our subject.

Janet Orchard
Project Manager, REC RE Review

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RE Subject Review: Phase One (Preliminary)

June

Agree criteria for selection + proposed panel
Project Manager (PM) & Expert Panel Chair (EPC) agree key documents
(Background info + terms of ref + documentation list + expert witnesses + formats for response)



Steering Group meeting (10th July)

Notify Expert Panel (EP) members (if ratified)
Send out key documents to EP members
Encourage general email communication between EP members



EP meeting 1 (10th August, London)

Hear from expert witnesses
Formulate initial ideas & hunches



10th August – 19th September

EP read key documents & record reactions
Response forms sent out to expert witnesses
Receive submissions + record
General email communication between EP group members (e.g. exploring ideas)



EP meeting 2 (19th September, Birmingham)

Hear from further expert witnesses
Agree format & key ideas of report
Progress report to Steering Group on 26th September
Circulate draft report to Steering Group 24th October



Meeting with Steering Group (31st October)

Presentation of first draft report
Responses & discussion
Small matters addressed in second draft
Second draft circulated to Reference Group



Meeting with Reference Group (7 November)

Presentation of second draft report
Amended approved third draft published on REC website for wider consultation by proforma & blog



Report considered by REC Board (6 December)
(Final approval to be given by Steering Group in late December/ early January)

Phase 1
 Appoint expert panel members and agree terms of reference
 Produce evidence bundles and invite expert witnesses to speak to panel
 Panel produce report for Steering Group with key findings and recommendations for Phase 2
 Consultation and approval of report by Reference & Steering Groups

Phase 4
 Evaluation report submitted to Steering Group & REC board
 Final budget submitted for approval and review signed off

Phase 2
 Constitute working groups and agree terms of reference; appoint a lead for each group and identify timescale, outcomes & budget/resources available
 Set up tasks modelled on NC review; create proformas for reporting
 Working groups produce interim reports for Steering Group and final reports for Reference & Steering Groups for approval

OVERVIEW: THE RE SUBJECT REVIEW

Phase 3
 Bring together working group leads + expert panel chair to compile final composite report from Phases 1 & 2 and to plan and deliver dissemination of findings
 Identify opportunities for follow up work by appropriate parties and potential sources of funding

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SACRE Self-Assessment

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

25 September 2012

Author: SACRE Advisor /
Head of Commissioning - Economy /Attainment

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To ask the SACRE to consider its role as part of a self-assessment process.

2. Recommendations

The SACRE is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider the SACRE self-assessment documentation from Ofsted and its role, and make any recommendations for changes to the way in which the SACRE operates.

3. Detail

- 3.1 At the last meeting the SACRE discussed its Development Plan covering 2012 / 2013 and it was requested that at the next meeting the SACRE carry out a self-assessment of its role.
- 3.2 A copy of the Ofsted Self-Assessment Toolkit for SACREs published in 2005 is enclosed with this agenda. The SACRE last carried out a self-assessment when this document was published in 2005. Although some of the context in which the SACRE now operates is very different, this toolkit still provides a good starting point for the SACRE to discuss its role.
- 3.3 In addition, the SACRE Advisor will use some information from the NASACE Effective SACREs resource toolkit to explore with the SACRE its role.
- 3.4 The SACRE is asked to consider any recommendations it would wish to make as to ways in which it can be more effective as a result of this self-assessment.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The SACRE can choose not to carry out the Self-Assessment or may not wish to make any recommendations as a result.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 A £5k annual budget is provided to support the SACRE's work, which includes funding for support from the SACRE Advisor. Any activities identified as a result of this report, will need to be funded from this budget.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples, SACRE Advisor, katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org, 0117 906 0100

SACRE Self-Assessment

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

25 September 2012

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 The report has no specific legal or human rights implications.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 No other implications have been identified.

Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 The work of the SACRE seeks to support Theme 5 of the Community Strategy, “for Swindon to be a place where high aspirations are supported by superb education provision for all ages”.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report, as it does not relate to a specific policy or strategy change.

Risk Management

- 5.6 There are no risk management factors which have been identified in relation to this report.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Ofsted Guidance on SACRE Self Assessment (enclosed not attached).