

# Swindon Borough Council

## Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

**Tuesday, 20 October 2015**

The Large Meeting Room, Community Centre @ Christ Church,  
Cricklade Street, Old Town, Swindon, SN1 3HB

At 6.00 p.m.

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

Mr Gurchoran Singh Lyal, Sikh Community  
Mr David Burbidge, Baptist Church  
Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte (Chair), 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  
Vacancy – Methodist Church  
Vacancy – Buddhist Community  
Vacancy – Jewish Community

**Group B:  
The Church of England**

Reverend Clive Deverell  
Miss Janet French  
Reverend Norma McKemey  
Ms Steph Mundin  
Vacancy

**Group C:  
Teacher Associations**

Mrs Tracy Mason, NUT  
Mrs Lottie O'Brien (Vice-Chair), NASUWT  
Mrs Mandy Sandleton, NASUWT  
Mrs Mel Shepherd, NASUWT  
Ms Catherine Lomax, NASUWT - Deputy  
Paul Sunners, NAHT  
Vacancy  
Vacancy

**Group D:  
The Local Authority**

Councillor James Robbins  
Councillor Alan Bishop  
Councillor Fionuala Foley  
Councillor Carol Shelley  
Councillor Gemma McCracken

**Co-Opted:**

Fidelma Meehan, Baha'i Community  
Freddy Pound, Swindon Humanists

**Support Officers:**

Peter Nathan  
Katy Staples, SACRE Advisor  
Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Adviser

**Committee Officer:** Stuart Figini (Telephone 01793 463612)  
email: [sfigini@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:sfigini@swindon.gov.uk)  
Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street,  
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. Chair's Announcements**
- 5. Minutes** (Pages 5 - 8)  
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015.
- 6. School to School Support**  
To receive a presentation from Steph Mordin about the help she offers schools through school to school support and why this is an effective model for RE support in Swindon.
- 7. SACRE Membership**
- 8. Website Update**
- 9. The Agreed Syllabus Review** (Pages 9 - 10)  
To consider a suggested procedure and timetable for the review of the Agreed Syllabus.  
  
SACRE Members are reminded that the proposed survey can be viewed at this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/73R9PKS>
- 10. Learn Teach Lead RE - Update** (Pages 11 - 14)  
To receive an update from the SACRE Advisor. SACRE Members will have an opportunity to formulate and ask questions about the repercussions for RE in Swindon of this project.
- 11. CPD Offered and Feedback from Teachers Network Meetings**  
To receive feedback from recent Primary and Secondary RE Teachers meetings.

**12. Feedback from SACRE Representatives**

To receive feedback from SACRE representatives attending Swindon Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny meetings.

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

The next meeting of the SACRE is on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016. Members of the SACRE are asked to suggest venues or indicate where this and future meetings of the Panel should be held.

**Date of Despatch:** 12 October 2015

**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, 23 JUNE 2015**

**PRESENT:-**

**Group A:** Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte (Chair), Mr David  
Christian Denominations and Burbidge (Baptist Church), Mr M S Khan (Muslim  
Other Religions or Religious Community) and Mr Dinesh Patel (Hindu  
Denominations Community)

**Group B:** Miss Janet French, Reverend Norma McKemey  
Church of England and Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte

**Group C:** Mrs Tracy Mason and Mrs Lottie O'Brien (Vice-  
Teacher Organisations Chair)

**Group D:** Councillors Fionuala Foley, Carol Shelley and  
Councillors Gemma McCracken

Also in attendance: Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor), Sarah Foulkes  
(School Improvement Adviser) and Peter Nathan  
(Head of Education) and Natalie Dent (RE Co-  
ordinator, Haydonleigh Primary School)

Apologies for absence were received from Reverend Clive Deverell, Mr Gurchoran Singh Lyal, Councillor James Robbins, Ms Steph Mundin, Mrs Penny Summers, Mrs Mandy Sandleton, Mrs Mel Shepherd, Ms Catherine Lomax, Paul Sunners, Reverend David Howell, Mr Tony McAteer, Councillor Alan Bishop and Freddy Pound

**90. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2015/16**

**Resolved:**

1. That Sarah Lane Cawte be appointed as Chair of the SACRE for the municipal Year 2015/16.
2. That Lottie O'Brien be appointed as Vice-Chair of the SACRE for the municipal Year 2015/16.

**91. Welcome from Haydonleigh Primary School**

The Chair welcomed the SACRE to Haydonleigh Primary School and explained that she was a Governor at the School.

The Chair introduced Natalie Dent, who co-ordinated RE throughout the school. Natalie spoke about her experiences and challenges as a new Primary School lead for RE. In particular an audit of RE teaching within the school, arranging release time to undertake the co-ordinating role, leading staff meetings and discussion in relation to RE, monitoring children's expectations and the use of Teaching Assistants to deliver RE in classrooms.

The Chair thanked Natalie for her informative presentation.

## **92. Proposed Appointment of Co-Opted Representative**

The Chair welcomed Fidelma Meehan, representative of the Baha'i community. The Chair suggested that SACRE consider appointing Fidelma as a co-opted member to broaden the scope and knowledge base of SACRE.

**Resolved:** That Fidelma Meehan, Baha'i community be appointed as a co-opted member of SACRE.

## **93. 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.

## **94. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

## **95. Chair's Announcements**

- **Letter from the SACRE Advisor to Lord Nash and his response**  
The Chair referred to a letter from the SACRE Advisor to Lord Nash about the role of SACREs in promoting the teaching of Religious Education. The SACRE noted the letter and the response received from James Brazil from the Ministerial Correspondence Team on behalf of Lord Nash.
- **A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools**  
The Chair referred to a report from Charles Clarke and Linda Woodhead about religion and belief in schools. The SACRE were encouraged to examine the report, which contained a lot of information about SACRE's and their future and it was agreed that there would be further discussion about this document at the next meeting.
- **RE and EBacc**  
The Chair reported on a recent speech from Nick Gibb MP setting out the government's plans to reinforce the importance of a core academic curriculum for all pupils. It was agreed that the SACRE would note further developments in respect of the place of RE.
- **Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
The SACRE were informed that they had previously nominated a co-opted representative to attend the Health, Adult and Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This Committee had now been replaced by the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Adult's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The SACRE were asked to nominate a representative to attend the next

meeting of the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015.

**Resolved:** That the Director of Law and Democratic Services contact SACRE members to assess interest in attending meetings of the above Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a co-opted representative of SACRE.

## **96. Minutes**

**Resolved :** That the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **97. Discovery RE**

The SACRE received a presentation from Jan Lever, Director of Discovery RE on the work undertaken by Discovery RE.

Jan told the SACRE that Discovery RE provided an *enquiry-based approach to Religious Education that consistently delivers excellent learning outcomes*.

Jan gave an overview of a typical lesson for Year 6 pupils and explained that Discovery RE was a comprehensive set of detailed medium-term planning for Religious Education for the whole primary school from Foundation to Year 6. It contained enquiry-based modules on Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. Christianity was taught in every year group, with Christmas and Easter given fresh treatment each year, developing children's learning in a progressive way.

SACRE were informed that up to 15 schools in Swindon were using Discovery RE to help with the teaching of RE. It was noted that once a school had purchased Discovery RE updates were free.

Jan left the SACRE with a copy of the Discovery RE folder which was available through the Chair, for members to examine.

The Chair thanked Jan for a very thorough overview of the work of Discovery RE.

**Resolved:** That Jan Lever be thanked for her presentation and the work of Discovery RE be noted.

## **98. Preparation for the Agreed Syllabus Conference**

The SACRE considered a report of the SACRE Advisor setting out details of how the Agreed Syllabus should be reviewed.

The SACRE Advisor highlighted the proposed procedure and timetable for the review and explained that the new Syllabus should be complete and ready for use in schools by September 2016. The review would include an analysis of the current Agreed Syllabus in relation to national, regional and local developments, consultation, and development of appropriate materials for Swindon. Once the appropriate approvals had been achieved the new materials would be uploaded to a suitable website with publicity and training for teachers.

**Resolved:**

1. That the proposed procedure and timetable for the review of the Agreed Syllabus be agreed.
2. That the Chair and SACRE Advisor meet with Peter Nathan, Head of Education to discuss securing appropriate extra funding for the Agreed Syllabus Review and launch.
3. That the SACRE Chair to discuss with Peter Nathan, Head of Education the most appropriate ways to publicise the Agreed Syllabus and a launch training event.

**99. Feedback from RE Teachers' Network Meetings**

The SACRE Advisor reported on the recent Secondary and Primary RE Teachers' Network meetings held since the last SACRE meeting.

The SACRE noted that seven schools attended the Secondary meeting which considered life beyond levels and an increase in the allocation of time to RE. Ten school representatives attended the Primary meeting which considered core beliefs of Judaism and Sikhism.

SACRE expressed a concern about the low attendance at the Primary Network meetings and felt it was an issue that needed to be examined further.

**Resolved:**

1. That the comments of the SACRE Advisor be noted.

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

It was noted that the next meeting of the SACRE would be held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015, commencing at 6.00pm. Following the meeting the Rev McKemey offered the use of the Community Centre at Christ Church, Cricklade Street, Old Town, Swindon, SN1 3HB.



Swindon Agreed Syllabus Review 2015 -17 Proposal and Update

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE AND TIMETABLE FOR

REVIEW OF AGREED SYLLABUS

Author: Katy Staples

Contact Details: Katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

## **1. June to July 2015**

1.1 Conduct analysis of current syllabus in relation to national, regional and local developments and prepare questionnaire for consultation

*A questionnaire has been devised and bought to SACRE but not yet sent to all schools analysis has been conducted.*

*ACTION - some has been conducted.*

*The adviser can analyse that further guidance is needed with relation to assessment (Beyond Levels) and to offer guidance about RE, British Values and the Prevent Strategy. However she does not feel equipped to offer a comparative analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the current agreed syllabus as compared to others.*

## **2. September 2015 to March 2016**

*ACTION for the October meeting to establish a steering committee*

2.1 Establish steering group conducts and analyses consultation results:

And makes recommendations to SACRE

2.2 SACRE appoints Agreed Syllabus Committees (ASCs) to review the current syllabus in the light of consultation findings

2.3 In the light of ASC suggestions, the steering group develops appropriate materials for Swindon AS and presents them to SACRE

## **3. March to May 2016**

3.1 ASCs review new materials

3.2 Steering Group amends material as required and assures quality

3.3 ASCs approve new syllabus and recommend to LAs for adoption

LAs inform Secretary of State

## **4. Spring and Summer Terms 2016**

4.1 Upload new materials to appropriate website

4.2 Publicise the launch of the new syllabus in schools and at special network meetings  
and conduct training for teachers

## **5. September 2016**

5.1 New Agreed Syllabus to be in use in schools.

6. Budget Implications (If review conference decides that some amendments are  
required)

6.1 Financial Year 2015-16: Costs of steering group conference, consultations and  
analysis.

Costs of any new writing, editing and artwork for  
website: working parties/advisers.

Publicity costs.

Agreed Syllabus Conferences meetings.

Financial Year 2016-17: Syllabus teacher conferences or meetings.

<http://ltlre.org/>



Learn Teach Lead Religious Education Area 2

We have successfully appointed a Project Director for this initiative.

Ed Pawson is a Local Authority/SACRE Adviser, a recently appointed Diocesan Primary RE/Collective Worship education officer and the Assistant to the Chair of NATRE (the National Association of teachers of RE). This equips him with skills and experience at both a local and national level.

He has been a secondary RE teacher since 1992 and for the last 16 years he has headed up a highly successful RE Department, with a record of attracting large numbers of students who achieve outstanding GCSE and A Level grades. The department also contributes significantly to students' spiritual, moral, social, cultural and emotional development. In recognition of this, his school was awarded the RE Quality Mark Gold certificate in 2014.

As Adviser to Devon SACRE he takes a lead role in Agreed Syllabus reviews, schools monitoring visits and faith and belief visitor training. At a national level, as former Chair of NATRE; a role he held for 6 years (until earlier this year), he is a prominent voice for RE teachers, representing the views of the classroom with Government ministers, MPs, APPG, DfE, Ofqual, Exam Groups etc, pushing RE to the fore and propelling RE issues into the media through articles, interviews and press releases. He has a good profile on social media and at national RE conferences, raising the professional and public understanding of the subject, offering vision and leadership.

The area covered in this part of the project is from Taunton to Swindon: the geographical area covered by the Diocese of Bath and Wells and Bristol.

### **Main Duties**

The project Director will have overall responsibility for the identification and support of training needs for teachers of RE across the Primary and Secondary phase in this area.

### **The Vision of the Project**

To identify the unmet needs with regards to the teaching of Religious Education; in the Taunton to Swindon area (The geographical area covered by Bath and Wells and Bristol Diocese). And from this develop a project to improve the quality of teaching and learning outcomes, and leadership.

**The Aims of the Project:**

- To identify and prioritise training and resource needs for Primary and Secondary teachers of RE (including TAs and HLTAs in the Primary Sector) in the Southwest that are currently not being met effectively elsewhere
- To create plan and deliver a range of strategies to meet these needs such as:
  - Relevant training which includes: core knowledge; academic input; sharing good practice
  - Dissemination of good practice through the LTLRE website and other appropriate websites
- To set up and strengthen established support networks for RE across the region in Regional Network Group Hubs led by lead RE teachers (with a view to them applying to become SLEs towards the end of the project and/or working towards the Masters Teaching Standards). To develop a coherent and sustainable approach to the teaching and learning in RE.
- To support the established LTLRE Web based on line community to facilitate the dissemination of good practice and availability of resources and provide regular RSS feeds

**Intended beneficiaries:**

- Pupils in all schools across the region
- Teachers of RE ( particularly non-specialists) and subject leaders in the Taunton to Swindon area
- Trainee teachers and Teaching Assistants (particularly non-specialists) and those new to teaching/leading RE

**Accountability:**

The Project Director will report to the Steering group which is chaired by the Project Lead, Katy Staples. The Steering group will:

- Provide guidance and support in terms of shaping the key priorities in the project and monitor the development of the project
- Actively contribute to the conferences, training sessions for hub leaders and development of support materials
- Attend steering group meetings (twice yearly)
- Where practicable support the hub sessions
- Support the project director in the effective leadership of the project

**Key Elements of post:**

- Overall management of the project
- Oversee selection and support for lead RE practitioners
- Prepare and deliver high quality RE input to project participants to enrich learning and improve standards in the subject
- Liaise with hub leaders so that hub sessions are purposeful, focussed and lead to improved learning in RE, addressing the identified areas of weakness in the subject
- Liaise regularly with the Project Lead and report to the Steering Group on the project's progress
- Provide the trust with annual reports of the project's progress and a final summative evaluation of the project and its impact on participants
- Plan training in conjunction with local SACREs provision and in partnership with the steering group and hub leaders
- Liaise with the LTLRE website so it is effectively utilised to enhance the quality of the project and resources developed during the project are shared effectively and promoted nationally
- Liaise with the administrator in ensuring all aspects of the project (training, hub sessions, training for hub leaders, steering group meetings) are clearly and effectively administered

While certain tasks will be clearly defined in advance, the role is a fluid one requiring a flexibility of approach

This is a free lance post on a self- employed basis for 20 days in the first year at £350 per day to be worked by mutual agreement with the Project Lead and Steering Group.

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