

# Swindon Borough Council

## Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Tuesday, 22 March 2016

### PLEASE NOTE – MEETING VENUE

Isambard Community School - Redhouse Way, Redhouse, Swindon  
SN25 2ND

Please arrive at the School reception to be directed to the meeting room.

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, 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, NASUWT  
Mrs Mandy Sandleton, NASUWT  
Ms Catherine Lomax, NASUWT - Deputy  
Paul Sunners, NAHT  
Vacancy  
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  
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. Welcome from Isambard Community School**

Natalie Chapman will welcome the SACRE to Isambard Community School and respond to the following questions:

1. What are the successes and challenges of RE at Isambard Community School; and
2. How can SACRE offer you better support?

**5. Chair's Announcements**

**6. Minutes and Matters Arising** (Pages 5 - 10)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and consider any matters arising.

**7. Draft SACRE Annual Report 2014/15** (Pages 11 - 22)

A copy of the draft Annual Report is circulated. RE Exam data will be circulated separately.

**8. Making May Matter Initiative** (Pages 23 - 24)

To receive an update from Katy Staples on this initiative.

9. **Better RE Conference - 29th January 2016** (Pages 25 - 32)  
To receive feedback from the Better RE Conference held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in Bristol.
10. **Website Update**
11. **Learn Teach RE - Update**  
To receive a verbal update from Katy Staples.
12. **Feedback from RE Teachers Network Meetings** (Pages 33 - 34)  
To receive feedback from recent RE Teachers meetings.
13. **Feedback from SACRE Representatives on other Committees**  
To receive feedback from SACRE representatives attending Swindon Borough Council Committees.
14. **Date and Time of the Next Meeting**  
The next meeting of the SACRE is on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2016, starting at 6:00pm. 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:** 14 March 2016

**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, 20 OCTOBER 2015**

**PRESENT:-**

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

**Group B:** Reverend Clive Deverell, Miss Janet French and Church of England Ms Steph Mundin

**Group C:** Paul Sunners  
Teacher Organisations

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

Also in attendance: Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor), Peter Nathan (Head of Education), Sarah Foulkes (School Improvement Adviser) Fidelma Meehan (Baha'i Community) and Freddy Pound (Swindon Humanists)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor James Robbins, Reverend Norma McKemey, Mrs Tracy Mason, Mrs Lottie O'Brien, Mrs Mel Shepherd, Ms Catherine Lomax, Mr M S Khan, Mr Tony McAteer and Councillor Alan Bishop

**101. 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.

**102. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

**103. Chair's Announcements**

- **Religious Education and British Values – Issue and Opportunities and Resources**

The Chair referred to a Religious Education and British Values booklet that had recently been published by RE Today. The booklet addressed some of the issues and opportunities arising from the requirement to promote British Values. This included policy ideas, guidance, HMI requirements review and high quality lesson ideas for pupils in every key stage.

SACRE members were encouraged to highlight the importance of the booklet and its contents to their schools.

- **Discovery RE Folder**

SACRE members were reminded that the Chair had a copy of the Discovery RE folder, which was available for any member to examine if they wished.

- **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. SACRE were encouraged to examine the report, which contained information about the future of SACRE's. The SACRE agreed that the report would be considered further at their next meeting.

#### **104. Minutes**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

#### **105. School to School Support**

The SACRE received a report from Steph Mundin about the help she offered schools through school to school support and the reasons why this is an effective model for RE support in Swindon.

Steph, in response to a number of questions, explained that RE Co-ordinators from other schools are referred to her by the SACRE Advisor. In general the RE Co-ordinators sought help, advice and experience in a number of specific areas, some of which include planning units of work, curriculum delivery, observing lessons and sharing resource ideas etc. Steph spoke about the process used when supporting schools and the benefits of that support both for her and the RE Co-ordinator being supported.

The Chair thanked Steph for her very informative presentation.

#### **106. SACRE Membership**

The SACRE received an update report from the Director of Law and Democratic Services about the current SACRE membership. The SACRE also received training presentation slides produced by NASACRE, which responded to the following four questions:

- What is a SACRE?
- How is it composed?
- What is its role? and
- What are the Local Authority's responsibilities?

The Director spoke about the composition of the Swindon SACRE and the 4 representative Groups that made up its membership. He explained that the SACRE Constitution indicated that Groups A (Christian Denominations and other religions or religious denominations), B (Church of England) and C (Teacher Associations) held office for a four year period, whilst Group D (Local Authority) members were

appointed annually by Swindon Council.

The SACRE noted that Group A was representative of the top six religions in Swindon following the 2011 Census on Religious Belief. They were informed that there were a number of vacancies for Groups A, B and C and that the four year period for appointments to these Groups was due to be renewed. In light of this advice and the need to fill Group vacancies, the SACRE suggested that advice be sought from the Council's legal department about extending the timescale for renewing SACRE memberships for Groups A, B and C until June 2016, once the Council elections had taken place and Local Authority members had been appointed to Group D.

The SACRE then split into groups and considered a couple of activities about 'what makes an effective SACRE' and 'what makes a good SACRE member'. Members then discussed their responses to the activities. The Chair encouraged members to think about and reflect upon their contribution to the Swindon SACRE.

**Resolved:** That the Director of Law and Democratic Services seek advice about extending the timescale for renewing SACRE memberships for Groups A, B and C until June 2016 and reports further at the next meeting.

#### **107. Website Update**

The SACRE received an update report from Freddy Pound about the Swindon SACRE website.

Freddy explained that the SACRE Website was available but it required content from SACRE members. The SACRE Advisor suggested that the following documents and information would make the website a useful resource and engage the community:

- The Agreed Syllabus
- Time to Breathe document
- Profile of SACRE members
- CPD of Worship
- Reviews of useful resources
- SACRE Advisor's bi-annual newsletter
- Frequently asked questions
- Contact directory
- Contact forms

**Resolved:**

1. That SACRE members forward the information detailed above to Freddy Pound for inclusion in the Swindon SACRE website by January 2016.
2. The Freddy Pound provide an update on progress at the next meeting.

#### **108. The Agreed Syllabus Review**

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 the establishment of a Steering Group that would analyse 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.

Prior to the meeting SACRE members had the opportunity to view a short survey about the Agreed Syllabus which the SACRE Advisor was proposing to circulate to all Swindon schools during the early part of November 2015. The survey results would be considered at the next meeting.

**Resolved:**

1. That the proposed procedure and timetable for the review of the Agreed Syllabus be agreed.
2. That a Steering Group be established with the following membership:
  - Sarah Lane Cawte – Group A
  - Steph Mundin – Group B
  - Janet French – Group B
  - Rev'd Clive Deverell – Group B
3. That the results of the Agreed Syllabus survey of schools in Swindon be considered at the next meeting.
4. That the SACRE be encouraged to reflect on the NASACRE document about Agreed Syllabus Conferences.

**109. Learn Teach Lead RE - Update**

The SACRE received an update from the SACRE Advisor about a Learn Teach Lead RE (LTLRE) project in the Taunton to Swindon area.

The SACRE were informed that the project aimed to support all teachers of RE irrespective of their experience or qualifications through practical support at hub meetings and the opportunity to participate in projects that developed their teaching skills and the learning experiences of those they teach. A successful project was running in the Devon / Cornwall area and this project would seek to replicate that model for the Taunton / Swindon area. The project would identify unmet needs in relation to the teaching of RE and support the development of the project to improve the quality of teaching and learning outcomes and leadership.

It was noted that the project was in its early stages of development and that Ed Pawson had been appointed as Project Director. He would have overall responsibility for the identification and support of training needs for teachers of RE across the primary and secondary phase for the area, including Swindon. The project would work alongside the support currently offered to Swindon schools.

The SACRE acknowledged that teachers in Swindon were a large resource that suffered from a lack of RE experience and knowledge and this project would aim to respond to this need.



**Resolved:**

1. That the SACRE supports the establishment and future development of the LTLRE project in the Swindon area.
2. That Ed Pawson be invited to a future meeting of SACRE to speak about the work of LTLRE.
3. That the SACRE Advisor provides a regular update on the development of the project.

**110. CPD Offered and Feedback from 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 a smaller number of schools attended the Secondary meeting as there was an issue with the meeting date. However, the meeting was very productive and they considered what an assessment was like at primary, secondary and KS3 and the use of materials for the sanctity of life. Ellen McCarthy led the session for the Primary meeting where they considered and discussed the strategies for being a subject leader and how to make RE lively.

**111. Feedback from SACRE Representatives**

The SACRE confirmed the appointment of Paul Sunners as their representative on the Swindon Borough Council's Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Paul reported on the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015. He highlighted the main issues discussed at the meetings that were of concern for the SACRE.

The Chair thanked Paul for his report.

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

It was noted that the next meeting of the SACRE would be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016, commencing at 6:00pm. The SACRE Advisor would be contacting Isambard Community School RE Department about hosting the meeting.

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## **Swindon's SACRE's Annual Report 2014-15**



**Students at Highworth Warneford School  
explore Islamic attitudes to moral issues**

## Chair's foreword

2014 - 15 was a productive year for Swindon SACRE as we continued to serve the schools in the authority with access to CPD that supported their teaching of Religious Education. This sought to improve the learning experiences of pupils and equip them to be able to live with the religious diversity represented in the UK.

This was a year that saw much change for Swindon SACRE, with a new chair (Sarah Lane Cawte), and a new Head of Education (Peter Nathan) these new members have led us to refresh our core purpose once again. Thankfully our efficient and gracious clerk, Stuart Figini has stayed in role as has our consultant adviser, Katy Staples, thus providing much needed continuity.

It has also been a year where we have continued to struggle against the continuing impact of Religious Education not being included in the EBacc and Short Course RE not counting as part of exam data. As a result in several of our Secondary schools little Religious Education is being offered to all pupils at KS4 and Ofsted does not hold schools to account for this lack of entitlement. Many of our Secondary colleagues therefore find that they may be the only specialist in their school and they are leading teams of non-specialists with little support.

Since July 2015 schools have been subject to a duty to prevent extremism and ensure pupils are equipped to live in modern Britain and understand the shared values of this country. We have offered CPD to teachers, Headteachers and Governors to ensure they are equipped to know how Religious Education can help pupils to be prepared to understand people of different faiths represented in the UK.

It is with some trepidation that I have taken on the role of Chair of Swindon SACRE and I am grateful that as a strong council in a healthy state we can continue to ensure outstanding Religious Education is taught to the children and young people in Swindon schools in the months and years to come. This is a task that I am grateful to be assisted in by the vice chair Lottie O'Brien, by Stuart Figini our new excellent clerk to SACRE and with the help of our adviser Katy Staples.

Sarah Lane-Cawte

Chair of Swindon SACRE



## **What is SACRE?**

SACRE is the abbreviation for the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. Its composition is specifically multi-faith and includes serving primary and secondary school teachers. There is also a representative from the British Humanist Association.

It is a statutory requirement for every Local Authority to have a SACRE and to support its work. The purpose of SACRE is to advise on the effective provision of RE and Collective Worship.

Swindon SACRE believes that Religious Education is unique because it is the only subject where the curriculum is not prescribed nationally but agreed locally. This means that we can ensure that the syllabus we offer children and young people gives examples of belief lived and practiced by people who have lived and currently live in their locality.

SACRE takes an active part in the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus every five years. The current syllabus is being reviewed in the next academic year 2015-16

## **Support for schools**

As part of its role to offer advice on the provision of effective RE, SACRE runs events to support the work of schools.

**The key events during the academic year of 2014 -15 were as follows:**

### **An Annual Teachers' conference:**

This was held on 30th January 2015 at Engineers House, Clifton, Bristol, this is signposted for all Swindon teachers, is organised by our adviser and an increasing numbers of Swindon teachers benefit from this event ( this year 12 teachers attended).

The 2015 event was on the theme of: "*RE to inspire and engage*". The keynote Speaker was Fiona Moss from RE Today Services.

It comprised a day of workshops and sharing, with lunch and networking.

## **British Values, the Duty to Prevent, and Religious Education**

During this year a major National Government directive has been the emphasis for all pupils to be fully prepared for life in modern Britain which has become part of the Ofsted framework.

In July 2015 all schools became subject to the "Duty to Prevent" extremism. To equip schools to be able to meet the new Ofsted and legal requirements SACRE organised a conference that looked at the place of Religious Education in helping schools comply with this agenda.

This conference was called “*From Fear to Belonging*”. 14 Swindon schools accessed this training with workshops on

“Ensuring all voices are valued”

“Islamaphobia”

and “RE, SMSC and British Values”.

This was widely acknowledged as being extremely helpful and gain excellent feedback.

Materials from this conference can be downloaded here :

<http://www.bristol.anglican.org/2015/combating-extremism/>

Further training on this issue was also offered for Swindon teachers through Best Practice twilight meetings - for both Primary and Secondary Colleagues.

Governor training was also offered specifically on this issue and was attended by 28 delegates.

### **Best Practice Forum:**

3 twilight meetings were held for Secondary teachers - the topics covered were Teaching GCSE - how to moderate well. British Values and RE and KS3: exciting and engaging ideas.

3 twilight meetings were held for Primary teachers: the topics included How to be an effective RE Subject leader, a Local RE exploring a unit of RE focussing on Swindon Food Bank as an example of how some local Christians live out their faith, British Values and RE and a religious subject knowledge booster looking at Judaism and Sikhism and how to teach them well.

### **SACRE website:**

The SACRE Agreed Syllabus can be accessed through the Swindon Council website:

<https://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13113&path=0>

The Swindon guidance on Collective Worship can be found here:

<http://www.bristol.anglican.org/i/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Swindon-SACRE-Collective-Worship-Guidance.pdf>

However during this year we have begun to construct a new Swindon SACRE website which can be accessed here:

<https://swindonsacre.wordpress.com/>

It is not fully populated yet, but this represents the start of a new one-stop presence for SACRE materials for Swindon Schools.

### **Agreed Syllabus for RE in Swindon**

The agreed syllabus has undergone no changes in 2014 -15, however 2015-16 will see a full review

### **Monitoring of RE provision in Swindon**

It is difficult for SACRE to monitor the overall provision of RE in Swindon schools. It is some years since individual school Ofsted reports specifically commented on RE.

Each year, SACRE is provided with statistics on GCSE and A level performance for Swindon schools. SACRE analyses this information and uses it to monitor RE provision at this level.

Anecdotally some schools are providing inspiring and challenging RE which SACRE is helping to resource. In other contexts where schools have not been prioritising the subject, teachers of RE report an uphill struggle to gain curriculum time, budget and SLT support. SACRE remains keen to explore any avenues to accurately monitor the provision of RE as it is a key role for all SACREs.

### **Attendance by SACRE members at outside events**

#### **South West Regional SACRE conference:**

Two SACRE members attended the March 2014 conference of South West SACREs and reported back to the following SACRE meeting.

The keynote address was given by: **Joyce Miller on Community Cohesion**

#### **Workshops included:**

Pat Hannam - SACRE Monitoring Responsibilities

Sharing good SACRE practice - Ed Pawson

Andy Midwinter - Employers and REQM

Katy Staples - Post Trojan Horse Radicalisation and RE

Linda Rudge spoke about the Learn/teach/Lead RE

Pauline Dodds - A Values-led Curriculum: in Christian schools

## **National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) Annual General Meeting 21st May 2015**

This was attended by our adviser.

The keynote speech was by **Rt. Hon. Charles Clarke**, Secretary of State for Education and Skills, 2002-4, Visiting Professor, School of Politics, Philosophy, Language and Communication Studies, University of East Anglia

He spoke about the role of religion in public life and in particular the role of Religious Education and SACRES.

### **National Issues**

#### **Challenging Extremism**

One of the most urgent national issues for Religious Education that has focussed our attention during 2014 - 15 has been the rise in “so-called-Islamic” extremism - with Charlie Hebdo and young people leaving Britain to fight in Syria or to become “Jihadi brides”.

The teaching of British Values within SMSC (including “democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs”) has been a catalyst for debate within the religious education community.

Alongside this has been a concern about right wing extremists who use global tensions to fuel Islamophobia. So ensuring counter narratives are offered in RE and young people can be equipped to understand the complexity of belief and opinion so they handle controversy and can deal with disagreement agreeably is now a clear focus for Religious Education at a National level.

#### **Life beyond levels**

Much debate and thinking time has been spent at a National level within RE circles to decide what advice should be given to schools to ensure that RE can sit well with other subjects in the curriculum that are moving to a form of assessment that takes pupils “beyond levels”. Various models of assessment have been posited but no one model has been heralded as the nationally agreed one. There is some consensus however at offering schools a form of assessment that uses a similar language to other subjects; “age related expectations” with categories such as “developing, secure and exceeding” or “working towards, working at or working beyond”



## **A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools**

On the 15th June 2015 this pamphlet, intended to start a public debate, was launched at the House of Lords. The authors are Prof Linda Woodhead and the Rt Hon Charles Clarke, their premise is that much has changed in society since 1944 when the current settlement was inaugurated and it is now time for a new settlement for the place of religion and belief in schools.

Those recommendations which most pertain to SACREs and schools are:

- (1) That collective worship should no longer be statutory; governors and head teachers being able to decide the form and nature of school assemblies.
- (4) That locally agreed syllabuses are replaced by one nationally agreed syllabus, determined by a 'National Standing Advisory Council on RE' made up of "relevant experts on religion and education"
- (11) That local SACREs are given a new role including participating in the consultations about the content of the national RE curriculum, helping local implementation, promoting community cohesion, educating for diversity and giving advice.

## **Statutory matters**

SACRE has a statutory role to decide on any determinations. These are requests by schools to move away from the requirement for collective worship to be wholly, broadly or mainly of a Christian character. During the period of this report, there have been no requests for determinations.

From time to time, local authorities receive Freedom of Information requests from national journalists about the work of their SACREs. During 2014-15 Swindon Council had received two Freedom of Information requests asking how many schools in our area have an exemption from the legal requirement to hold a daily act of collective worship of a "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". SACRE sent a nil return.

Where a complaint has been made about the RE curriculum in a Swindon school, it should be referred to Swindon Council for it to deal with. Swindon Council would then seek SACRE's advice on any such complaint. There have been no formal complaints within this reporting period.

SACRE has a complaints procedure to deal with any complaints made against SACRE. There were no such complaints in the reporting period.

## **Members of SACRE September 2014 - July 2015**

Committee A: Christian and  
other religious denominations

7 Members

Mr David Burbidge (Baptist  
Church),

Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte  
(United Reformed Church),

Reverend David Howell  
(Swindon Evangelical

Alliance),

Mr M S Khan (Muslim  
Community)

Mr Tony McAteer (Catholic  
Community)

Dinesh Patel (Hindu)

Mr Gurchoran Singh Lyal,  
(Sikh)

Committee B – Church of  
England –

Reverend Clive Deverell,

Miss Janet French

Ms Steph MUNDIN

Reverend Norma McKeeney

Penny Summers

Committee C – teachers  
nominated by the South  
Gloucestershire TCC

Mr Paul Sunners

Mrs Tracy Mason,

Mrs Lottie O'Brien,

Mrs Mel Shepherd,

Ms Catherine Lomax,

Committee D – Local Authority  
representatives

Councillors

Fionuala Foley,

Carol Shelley - from 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
2015

Gemma McCracken

Alan Bishop

Cindy Matthews – Up to 23<sup>rd</sup>  
June 2015

James Robbins

Committee E – non voting Co-  
opted Fidelma Meehan (Baha'i  
Community) - from 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
2015

Freddy Pound (Humanist)

During the reporting period, SACRE was chaired by Sarah Lane Cawte and Lottie O'Brien was vice chair. SACRE was supported by Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor), Peter Nathan (Head of Education), Sarah Foulkes (School Improvement Adviser)

### **How SACRE is funded/administered**

SACRE receives funding of £5,000 per annum from Swindon Council which pays for the advice given by the adviser. The council also provides very good clerking services to SACRE.

All SACRE's members are volunteers who give up their time freely and enthusiastically to help SACRE with its work.

### **SACRE's Serving Officer:**

Both Sarah Foulkes (Swindon School Improvement Adviser) and Peter Nathan (Head of Education) attend SACRE meetings and ensure that SACRE's concerns and the support SACRE offers are understood by the local authority. Katy Staples, Schools Advisor from the Diocese of Bristol provides SACRE with advice and organises the CPD in RE for Swindon Schools.

SACRE works to the non-statutory guidance in the 1994 document: Circular 1/94. Parts of that document have been replaced with the guidance: 'Religious Education in English Schools: Non statutory guidance 2010'.

Swindon Council has approved a constitution for SACRE. A copy of the constitution may be obtained from the Clerk to SACRE

**SACRE has begun work on a 5 year development plan aiming to work on the following priorities:**

Wholesale revision of the Agreed Syllabus

Visits to schools – either by SACRE members or with SACRE's help in facilitating visits. Helping our faith representatives to offer their expertise.

Identifying schools' needs and supporting schools in their evaluation of their own provision

Identifying the un-met needs for Religious Education and Collective Worship in the Local Authority

Providing support for special schools – signposting training and support offered by other agencies

SACRE's own professional development – via continuing our membership of NASACRE and attending national and regional events when possible

Taking account of new proposals for RE.

**Four SACRE meetings in 2014-15 were held at**

Council Offices (Euclid Street), Commonweal School, Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Haydonleigh Primary School

The meetings were well attended by members

All SACRE meetings are open to members of the public who should contact the Clerk for details of forthcoming meetings.

The Swindon SACRE can be contacted via its Clerk:

Stuart Figini



Year 1 Pupils at Drove Primary School explore the season of Lent in the Christian Calendar and make pancakes on Shrove Tuesday

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# Celebrating Great Religious Education

South Gloucestershire, Bristol and Swindon Schools

## “Making May Matter to RE”

Inviting you to “put on” an RE event  
—a Day in May  
a Visitor, a Visit, a Project, a trail,  
an experience ?

Invite a SACRE member in to witness share  
and celebrate your RE

Contact Katy Staples at  
[Katy.Staples@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:Katy.Staples@bristoldiocese.org)

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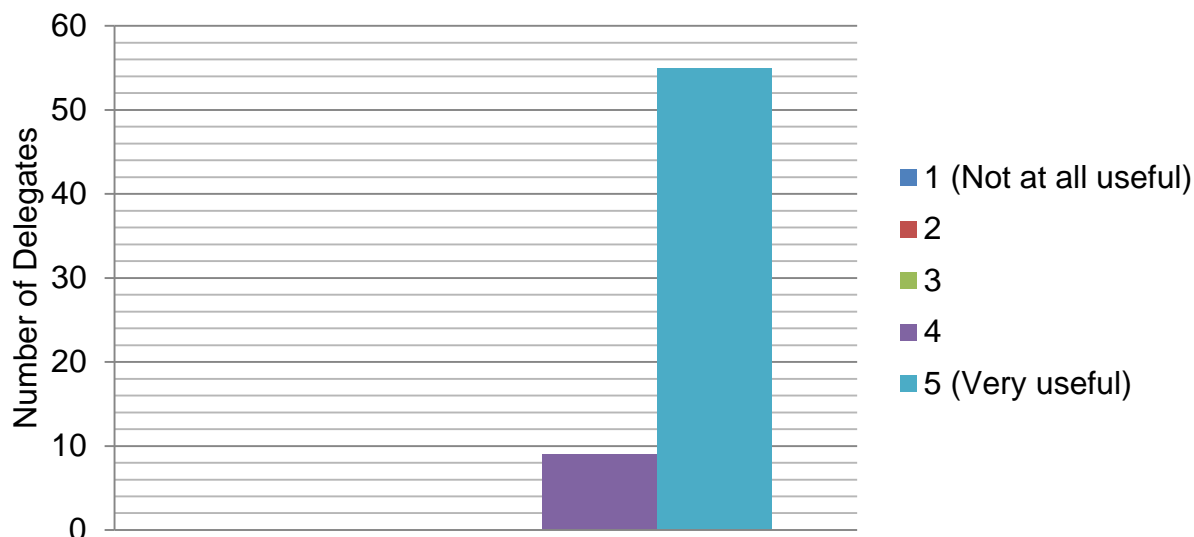


## RE SACRE Conference Evaluation Feedback

29<sup>th</sup> January 2016

### Session 1: Better RE with Lat Blaylock

**What would you rate this session's usefulness out of 5?**



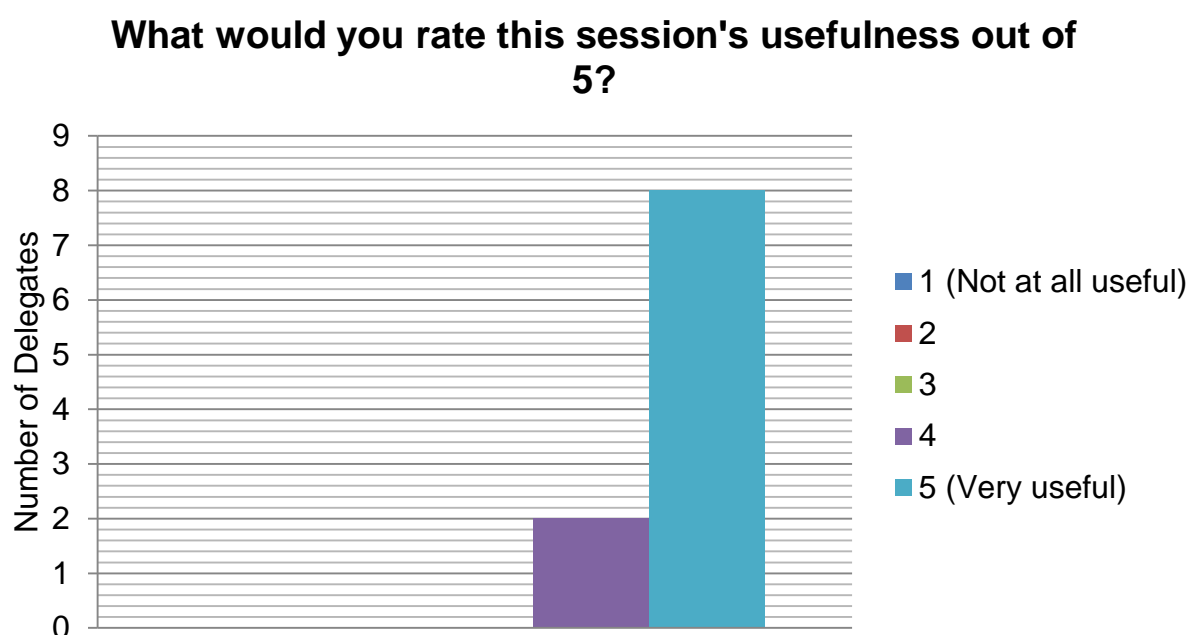
### Comments:

- Lat was a fantastic speaker, very informative, fun and knowledgeable. X7
- This session gave me some great ideas about how to make RE more fun but still get the teaching in. I think sometimes we get worried about evidence! X8
- This was a great session, very inspiring and already changing my RE lesson for next week! X4
- Inspiring and fantastic ideas to make RE interactive and to encourage children to think deeply about some difficult concepts. X3
- Very motivational with great ideas to make RE more creative and practical. X3
- Some great ideas for big outcomes and experiences. X4
- The idea of allowing time to teach pluralistic atheism was lovely to consider and would increase open-mindedness. X2
- Enjoyed it very much, very inspiring. X7
- This is always an informative and interesting session. X9
- Great reminders and ideas about making RE fun! X3
- Excellent ideas to take back to school. Nice to see humanism included and taken seriously. X3
- I enjoyed it – good to see resources available. X3
- Excellent delivery. Made me enthusiastic to try out some ideas. X5
- Delivered with passion, clarity and humour. Very thought-provoking, thank you. X4
- Awesome! Such a knowledgeable man! X2
- Lovely and creative ideas. X2

- Challenging!
- This was a wonderful start to the day – plenty to take back to school. X3
- As a very new coordinator I felt this was perfectly timed to inspire me in my role beyond box-ticking / levelling. X2
- Very enjoyable. Useful to think about British values. X2
- 'Inspirational' is not enough. He is brilliant, full of ideas and fun!

## Session 2: Workshop 1

### Group A – KS3/4

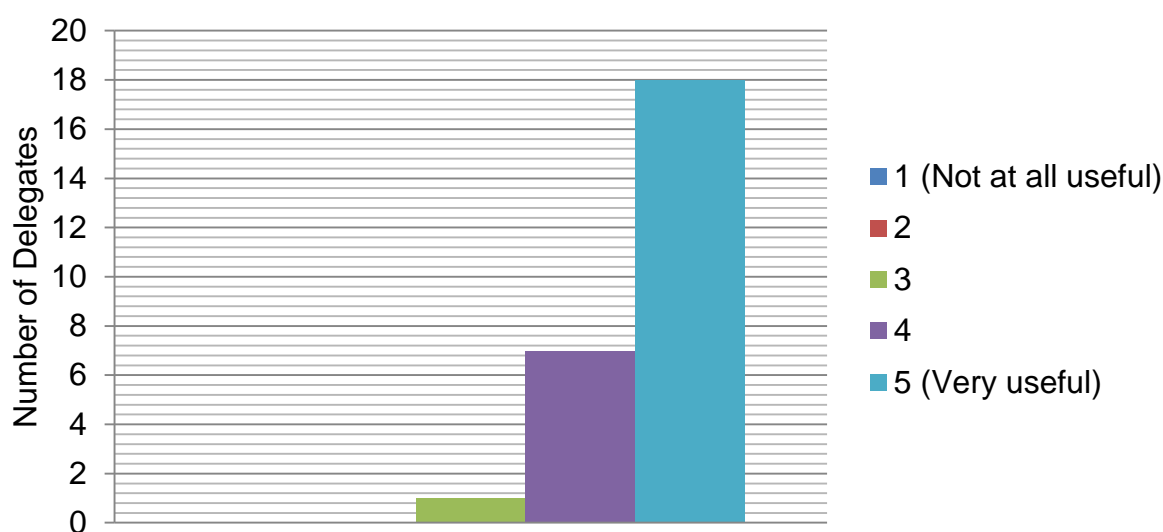


### Comments:

- Texting used to encourage discussion / stimulate thoughts of youngsters – also us adults!
- Very good. Lots of good ideas. Good discussion with group / other delegates.
- Both the discussions created through Lat's presentation and the resources were really valuable. Thank you.
- I have taken some brilliant ideas. X2
- Very useful for enlivening what is potentially boring.
- It was useful to see a variety of ways to both differentiate and incorporate text and literature in lessons.
- Useful and engaging ideas which I will use. X2
- Excellent.
- Very interesting and useful.

## Group B – KS2

### What would you rate this session's usefulness out of 5?

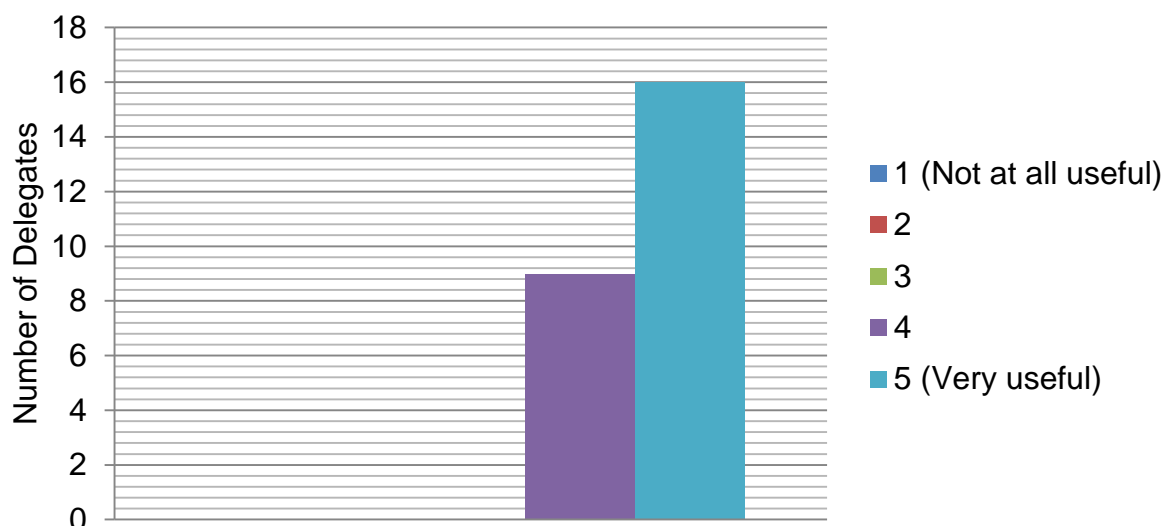


#### Comments:

- Great to hear a servicing teacher be so inspiring with some useful cross-curricular ideas. X3
- Excellent on eliciting deeper thinking at primary level. X5
- Very helpful as I was able to think about what I am currently teaching and tweak a few ideas. X2
- More ideas to use. Great to share. X4
- Some good ideas. X6 (especially relating to poetry).
- Superb! Simple but so effective. I am finally excited about teaching the Trinity. Thank you!
- Huge integrity and quality in this session; in-classroom practice demonstrating some interesting ideas about models that can be used in KS2 particularly. X2
- Fairly informative – I enjoyed the link to PEE and his own version – I'll employ these techniques. X4
- It was good – nice ideas about cross-curricular learning; would love English lessons to be 'stolen' for RE!
- Great ideas for ways to incorporate quality writing in RE.
- Very good session. Never thought of using PEEL to deepen understanding in RE.
- Really liked the 'Action, Reason, Belief' idea. X2
- Very informative and practical.
- Some useful examples which I will endeavour to try at school. Particularly useful to have websites to use.

## Group C – EYFS & Subject Leader Top Tips

### What would you rate this session's usefulness out of 5?



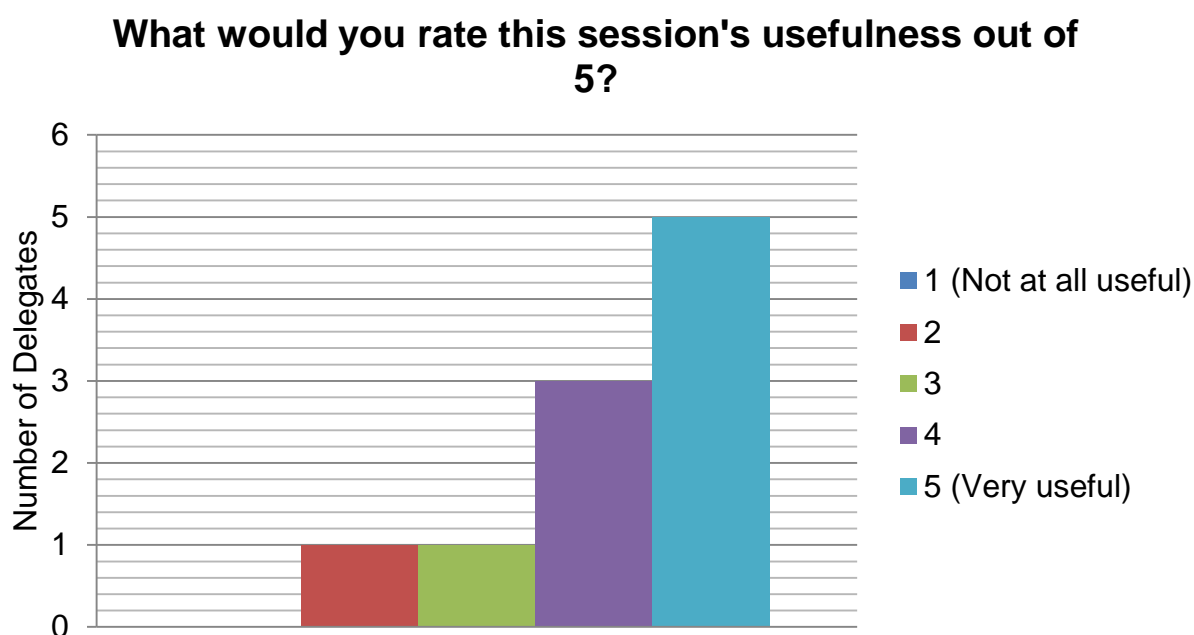
#### Comments:

- Looking at resources etc. was very good. Different ways of evidencing i.e. making the church was a very good idea, however as RE is only taught one afternoon per week by non-teachers, it would be an impractical activity, but great fun!
- Another good session. Good ideas about resources and early years work. X2
- Good opportunity to share good practise and great ideas to use within EYFS.
- Great ideas to use with EYFS. Really liked the idea of a persona doll as well as using playdough to use as a starting point to tell a story. X4
- Great ideas that I can utilise in all foundation subjects. X2
- I especially enjoyed the tips from the RE Leader. X2
- Brilliant hands on examples of quick and engaging games and activities – encouraged to further knowledge.
- Vicky was brilliant – useful information and well presented. Good to know I am on the right track. X4
- Lots of lovely practical ideas and useful handouts. Opportunities to share with colleagues. X3
- Good book recommendations to support teachers with RE.
- Realistic coordinator tips.
- Good ideas for planning over the next few years to support RE teaching throughout the school.
- Informative and inspiring – making connections for children and not stopping with just telling the story; taking it one step further to gain meaning.
- We will be using all the ideas in a staff meeting to feedback all ideas to colleagues.
- Lots of good ideas to help make teaching RE more fun and help us to provide resources for our colleagues.

- Reintroduced things I had used before but forgotten about! New ideas from someone in the classroom – always useful!
- Good practical session by Katy.
- Great ideas for subject leaders, reassuring that the same challenges are faced and to share strategies to combat these.

### Session 3: Workshop 2

#### Group A – KS3/4

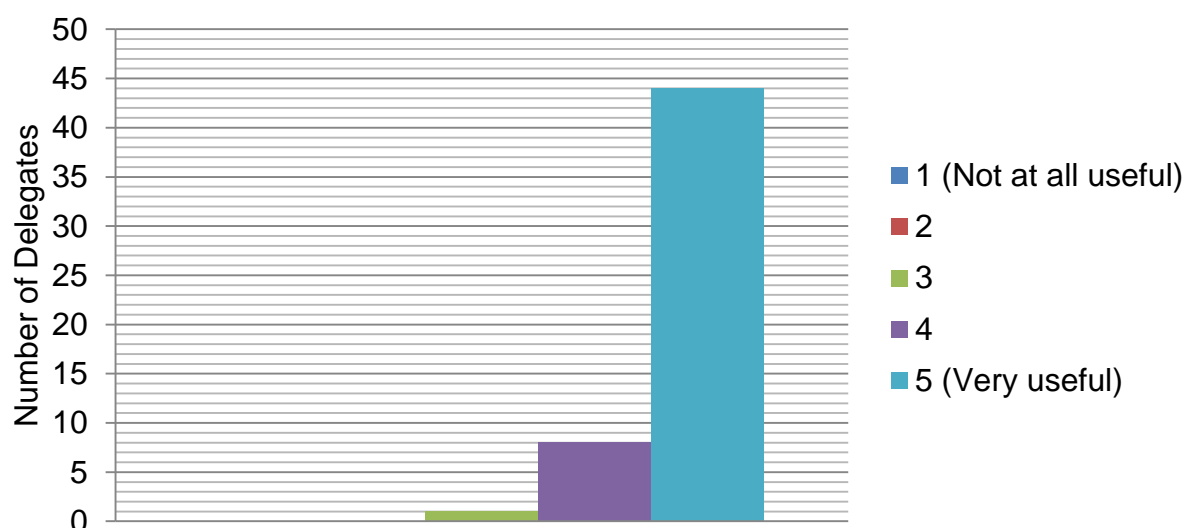


#### Comments:

- Exchanging ideas within the group – having been raised by Peter Edwards.
- Stimulated positive discussion, good ideas included with practical examples of classroom practice. X2
- Very useful.
- We are not teaching non-compulsory, so not always relevant. Although, I did take some good ideas.
- Updates stuff we already do in some schools and is starting in other schools – much needed in new syllabus construction.
- Good ideas to reflect upon if your school has non-exam RE.
- Fab! Engaging and interesting. Enjoyed the group discussions very much.
- Excellent. X2
- Not relevant for me.
- Peter was brave to stand before us and share ideas which were helpful and challenging.

## Group B – KS1/2

### What would you rate this session's usefulness out of 5?



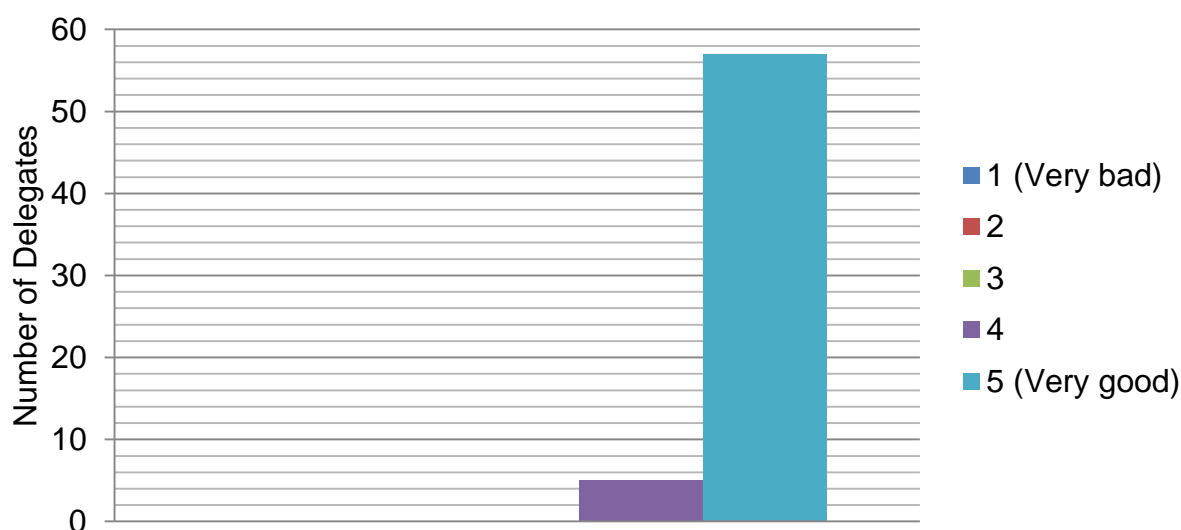
#### Comments:

- It was more focused upon KS2, however some good ideas. My focus is EYFS unfortunately. X2
- This has given me the confidence to let the children ask 'Big Questions' which I'm often scared to do as I worry I can't answer them – I now know – it's the question that counts, not necessarily the answer. X6
- Great ideas for delving deeper into children's thinking in RE and great resources shared, especially for Islam. X4
- Great ideas using music and photos. X4
- Practical and exciting philosophy with children! Fantastic.
- Found the workshop very informative in finding different ways to represent religion and thinking for children in KS1/2. Great ideas in how to engage children in a way they can relate to. X3
- Great ways for using resources. X6
- My favourite – nice to see some of the resources. Good networking opportunities!
- Good. I shall go on the BBC clips definitely. X7
- Wonderful. I am positively dripping with ideas about how to teach Abrahamic religions.
- Enjoyable range of activities. Will be using the 'Resurrection / To the Glory of God' activity for Y5/6 for Easter. Have bought the 'Picturing Christianity' pack.
- Superb ideas – especially the BBC films and the Jewish songs. Can see this being a huge help to colleagues.
- Again, Lat packed in some great 'big' ideas delivered with great depth of knowledge and humour. X3

- Can't wait to try and develop the activities outlines by Lat. Hope he is back next year! For once I am sad it is Friday because I want to go back to class and try some things out!
- Interesting planning and ideas to pass through the school. Nice to see how lesson can progress and you can build on skills.
- Was useful for thinking about higher age and abilities.
- The session was full of exciting ways to help RE teachers to engage and challenge pupils in RE.
- Engaging and thought-provoking.

### Overall Experience (including hospitality and usefulness of the programme)

**What would you rate your overall experience out of 5?**



### Comments:

- Thank you! X2
- Fab day as usual, lots of ideas to quickly and easily put into action.
- A wonderful and informative day. I'm inspired!
- A great day, practical, well-pitched, cross phase, engaging and informative. A great setting! Thank you Katy!
- Thank you. Lots of accessible / useable ideas and resources – much needed. All helpful and friendly. Very good as always.
- Very good conference, however it wasn't the easiest venue to access.
- Lots of women delegates, all male secondary speakers.
- Would definitely like to come again.

## **Further Support**

### **Is there any training / support you would like to see in the future?**

- Maybe more focus upon “Discover RE” or other syllabuses.
- Would like to see / hear more about local RE / visits. Also training for the new South Glos agreed syllabus will be very useful. X3
- Specialist SEN RE. Have spoken to Jane Allinson about Anne Krisman and getting SEN schools together. X2
- I shall be going to the best practice forums. Thank you for a worthwhile day. X3
- Assessment in RE. X2
- Subject knowledge – making links to religious texts is difficult for non-specialists.
- Progression – how to teach (i.e. not cutting corners) e.g. how do big questions look different in Y2 Y4 Y6?
- Assessing RE without levels. X2
- Links with different places of worship – making real life experiences for children.
- More work on texts and how to bring teaching of Islam alive.
- Linking up secondary schools who are doing the same SPECS.
- Any help persuading the head / governors for extra time.
- Information about the new SACRE update – if possible.
- A session on useful and effective feedback / marking would be good.
- More of the same. X2
- More ideas on encompassing all elements in RE – spirituality, learning outcomes and governor expectations.
- The new framework – Autumn 2016



## Governor Support Session Summary

### SMSC

February 10, 2016

Katey Staples

Number of delegates expected	20
Number of delegates	18
Percentage turnout	90%
Number of evaluations completed	17
Percentage of evaluations completed	94%

### 1. Please rate the overall value of the session (1 being the highest rating, 5 the lowest)

Rating	1	2	3	4	5	N/R
Responses	12	4	1	0	0	0
Percentage	70.6%	23.5%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

### 3. Please rate the quality of the presentation

Rating	1	2	3	4	5	N/R
Responses	8	7	1	1	0	0
Percentage	47.1%	41.2%	5.9%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%

### 2. If you rated Q1 as 4 or 5, please explain why you didn't find the session valuable

### 4. If you have any comments as to how the presentation could be improved please provide them below

Activities were great - would have liked more discussion especially given the topics.

A back up laptop? It would have been good to use on screen graphics.

No IT presentation. (this is the person who rated you 4 for presentation!!!!!!!)

It was poor that the centre did not have a spare/reserve computer on which to show the presentation that the speaker had developed.

The diagnostic checklist would be something to go through with the HT and GB instead of during the limited time on the course.

(I would probably agree with the comment above - I know I struggled to answer any of questions for clerk )

### 5. If you have any comments about the course including the venue, please provide them below

Venue was good - comfortable chairs, any chance of Fairtrade coffee?

Gained more creative suggestions than last time.

As a new governor this is a large subject to cover - perhaps 2 shorter sessions would

be more beneficial or sessions split between experienced and new governors.  
The talk was engaging despite failure of IT.  
Venue was fine for number on this occasion.  
Option of Decaff coffee would be good.  
So helpful to have the opportunity to discuss such important issues for us as schools and as members of a wider society.  
You didn't need the powerpoint anyway. You held our attention well and gave us time (just right amount) to discuss views. Brilliant handout.  
Katy brilliant as always.  
Really helpful and benefitted from fellow participants input.  
I found all sections of the session very helpful in shaping my planning for SMSC across the year head, thank you.  
nice venue