

## **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**MONDAY, 10 MARCH 2008**

### **PRESENT:-**

Group A: Councillors	Councillors Doreen Dart (Chair), Raymond Fisher and Fay Howard
Group B: Church of England	Ms Norma McKemey, Mr. Paul Noble and Mrs Penny Summers
Group C: Teacher Organisations	David Easter, Mrs Tracy Mason and Miss Anne Wang
Group D: Other Faiths	Mrs Helen Hancox (United Reformed Church), Reverend David Howell (Swindon Evangelical Alliance), Reverend Paul Knight (Baptist) and Mr Dinesh Patel (Hindu Community)
Co-opted Members:	Ms Katy Staples

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: - Mrs Catherine Coster (SACRE Adviser) and Paula Harrison (Community Support Team Manager).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Michael Bray, Councillor Philip Sharp, The Venerable Alan Hawker, Ms Steph Mundin, Ms Jo Garton, Mrs Emma McCarthy and Mr M S Khan.

### **35. Tour of Nova Hreod School and an Introduction to the Teaching of RE and Collective Worship**

Laura Cox (Acting Head of RE) gave a presentation on the teaching of RE at Nova Hreod. The curriculum for all pupils was focused on engaging with pupils' own experiences and beliefs, making it relevant and looking to raise attainment. Currently all pupils took a short-course GCSE in RE, but the school would be offering a full course GCSE from next September. Increasingly the teaching RE syllabus was being linked to other subject areas, to enable joint study, for example looking at the role of Christian charities through Citizenship, or at the Holocaust in junction with History.

The SACRE thanked Laura Cox for her presentation and for answering the questions of the Committee.

(Andrew Fleet, Head of Nova Hreod, gave the SACRE members a tour of the School directly following the meeting).

### **36. Public Question Time**

No public questions were submitted during the meeting.

**37. Declarations of Interest**

No formal declarations of interest were made during the meeting.

**38. Minutes**

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007 be approved.

Matters Arising - Further to minute 24, Councillor Fay Howard advised that the presentation given by Catherine Coster to the Interfaith Group on 30<sup>th</sup> January had been very well received. Two questions had arisen from the discussion, whether new schools had been provided with all the resources sent out by the SACRE in previous years, and whether paganism was discussed as part of RE in schools.

The teachers present confirmed that paganism would be addressed if part of pupils' own views within RE discussions.

Catherine Coster agreed to check with Gill Ilic how new schools were provided with resources circulated to schools in previous years.

**39. Membership Update**

The Clerk to the SACRE presented a report on the current vacancies on the SACRE, and the application for membership from Mandy Sandleton to Group C (Teacher Organisations) and from Ms Katy Staples (Bristol Diocese Board of Education Schools Advisor) to be a co-opted representative on the SACRE. As requested at the last meeting, the SACRE Clerk reported back that no accurate data was available on the relative strengths of faith groups within the Swindon area since the last census, in particular of the smaller groups not currently represented on the SACRE.

Resolved: 1) That Ms Katy Staples be appointed as a co-opted representative to the SACRE.

2) That Mandy Sandleton be appointed to Group C (Teachers Organisations) subject to confirmation from the NASUWT union.

3) That the SACRE note the Membership update and that the SACRE Advisor continue to seek nominations to the remaining 2 Teachers Organisations Group (Group C) vacancies and two Other Faiths Group (Group D) vacancies.

4) That the Other Faiths Group (Group D) composition not be reviewed at this time.

**40. Changes to the Non-Statutory Secondary Curriculum**

Catherine Coster (SACRE Advisor) advised the SACRE of the changes to the Qualification and Curriculum Authority's (QCA) non-statutory guidance on the Secondary RE Curriculum. The SACRE reviewed a copy of the curriculum summaries for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 and 1-page picture of how the whole curriculum might interlink. Katy Staples reported on a training day on the new approach, which was looking to enable a more creative approach to studying by interlinking subject areas to focus on one topic, in a similar way to discussed as part of the presentation on Nova Hreod, but on a much larger scale across different

curriculum areas. This new guidance would be taken into account by teachers when writing and updating the schemes of work for the current agreed syllabus, and when the Local Agreed Syllabus was reviewed.

Resolved – That the SACRE note the information on the changes to the QCA's non-statutory guidance on the Secondary RE Curriculum.

#### **41. NASACRE Young Interfaith Projects 2008/09**

Paula Harrison (Community Support Team Manager) presented to the SACRE a proposal for a project called 'Faith Matters' to set up a pilot of school-based clubs in four secondary schools, to be facilitated through a co-ordinator. The clubs would facilitate dialogue about faith and non-faith issues amongst pupils, with a small budget to do project work within each club with the support of RE subject leaders. The pilot would culminate in each club producing a short animated film to be launched at a showcase event, with a view to creating a Young Person's Interfaith Forum in Swindon. It was proposed that the project be partly funded from within Community Directorate but also by the subject of a bid to the NASACRE youth inter-faith projects fund, for which applications had to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

Resolved: 1) That the SACRE give approval for the Community Support Team Manager to submit a bid to NASACRE for support from the youth inter-faith projects fund for the 'Faith Matters' project.

2) That if the NASACRE bid is not successful, the SACRE with the assistance of the Community Support Team Manager seek other sources of funding for the project to go ahead.

#### **42. Update on National SACRE Conference**

Catherine Coster and Paula Harrison reported back from the National SACRE Conference held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008 focused on the role of SACREs in community cohesion. A copy of the keynote speech from Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners was circulated for information. It was noted that this promised a focus on funding for the development of the subject of Religious Education nationally, a commitment to training, and to making materials made available online for teachers.

Resolved - That the SACRE note the feedback from the National SACRE Conference.

#### **43. Chair's Announcements**

1. The Chair advised that the Persona Dolls Material, previously reviewed by the SACRE, was now being made available on discs to all schools and nurseries with reception and Key Stage 1 classes.
2. The SACRE noted that the IslamExpo was taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at Olympia in London, noted its main aims and the workshops designed specifically for school pupils.

#### **44. NASACRE Newsletter**

The SACRE received the Spring 2008 edition of SACRE News from the NASACRE and considered if there were any issues that it wished to explore at a future meeting.

Resolved - That the Spring 2008 SACRE News be noted.

**45.**

**Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

The SACRE noted the draft dates for SACRE for 2008/09.

Resolved – That the SACRE Clerk write to all members of the SACRE to confirm the dates once approved by full Council.