

# Face to Faith Pilot Final Report

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 22 September 2009

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**Parish / Wards Affected:** All

## Purpose

- To report the final Face to Faith project outcomes to the Swindon SACRE

## Recommendation

SACRE is requested to

- Approve the Face to Faith booklet
- Consider how best to distribute the Face to Faith booklet and DVD to Swindon schools

## 1. Reasons

- 1.1 The Swindon SACRE piloted the Face to Faith project following a successful application for funding to the NASACRE, the National Association of SACREs.
- 1.2 The project ran during the academic year of September 2008 – July 2009. The four secondary schools engaged in the project were Kingsdown Secondary School, Commonweal School, Ridgeway School and Hreod Nova.
- 1.3 This paper follows previous reports to SACRE detailing the progress of the project and in light of this, focuses on pupil experience, disseminating the outcomes of the pilot and potential opportunities for new work.

## 2. Detail

- 2.1 The Face to Faith project was an opportunity for over 50 young people from 4 Swindon secondary schools to reflect creatively on faith and beliefs.
- 2.2 The style of the delivery was largely determined by school preferences. This gave the pilot a range of different ways of working with pupils on an exploratory discussion about faith and identity. The project input was a

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from *Paula Harrison* on 466418 or Email [pharrison@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:pharrison@swindon.gov.uk).

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combination of engagement worker-led discussion time followed by time with an artist through Create Studios.

- 2.3 The final projects are showcased in a DVD. There is also an accompanying film, which interviews the engagement workers and the pupils and describes the different projects within the Face to Faith pilot. Both films will be shown to the SACRE during the meeting. The DVD is proposed to be distributed with an accompanying booklet outlining ways to promote interfaith discussion, see Appendix A. Both the National Association of SACREs and the Swindon SACRE are acknowledged in the booklet.
- 2.3 The level of dialogue and debate facilitated by the Council's engagement workers meant that the point at which Create Studios became engaged with the participants, some good thinking and planning had already taken place. This resulted in more innovative and challenging pieces than would normally be achieved with young people who were meeting with artists for the first time. The success of this 2-stage model would be good to emulate in further collaborations. Information about Create is set out in Appendix B.
- 2.4 All pupils reported positive experiences from their participation in the project. These are collated in Appendix C.

### 3. Achievement of Project Outcomes

- 3.1 The Face to Faith pilot achieved its objectives to ensure that each club would
- Explore faith and religious belief and non faith positions across their school community
  - Consider how well religious education in their school helps them understand faith matters
  - Create a project that captures what they have discovered and their views of faith
  - Showcase their findings to the Swindon Sacre and the other participating schools
- 3.2 Outcomes which were not fully achieved were
- Promoting links with community and faith groups within the town – opportunities to achieve this were not fully realised however, the Face to Faith booklet suggests that this is a good way to facilitate interfaith discussion.
  - Pupils considering faith and its impact on their lives in Swindon – this did not really materialise in discussions and may in some part be due

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to the participants; the majority of pupils did not strongly identify with any single faith and some had gone so far as to reject their religious upbringing.

- Showcase findings to their schools – all schools attended the launch of the Face to Faith DVD at the Swindon Arts Centre. All schools will be receiving the booklet and DVD which should enable schools to use this material.

### 4. Next Steps

- 4.1 The Community Directorate are working with Create Studios to explore new opportunities for external funding to support further Face to Faith style project work with young people and their schools.
- 4.2 The Face to Faith booklet and DVD is planned to be sent to every school to promote interest and support for interfaith discussion. This could be accompanied by a letter from SACRE.
- 4.3 A summary of the Face to Faith project will be posted on the Swindon Borough Council website. Copies of the DVD will be available.

### Alternative Options

- None. This project has achieved its objectives and is at an end.

#### **Risk Management**

##### *Financial and Procurement Implications*

- This project was achieved with a combination of external and internal funding including in-kind officer time. No further funding is committed by this report.

##### *Legal / Human Rights Implications*

- Interfaith dialogue activity closely connects with equality initiatives. It promotes respect and appreciation of difference. In order to be successful, it also requires challenge to discriminatory or inappropriate language and behaviours.

##### *Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)*

- National Indicators:  
**NI 1** % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area  
**NI 23** Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and dignity

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## **Consultees**

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.
- Partners listed have been involved in the development of the Framework itself.

## **Background Papers and Appendices**

- Appendix A – Face to Faith Booklet
- Appendix B – Information about Create Studios
- Appendix C – Comments from pupils participating in the Swindon SACRE Face to Faith Project