

## Membership Update

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011

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**Author:** Director of Law and Democratic Services

**Parish / Wards Affected:** All

### Purpose

- To ask the SACRE to note the Membership update and agree any further action required.

### Recommendation

- That the SACRE note the Membership update as at Appendix 2, and welcome new members to the SACRE.
- That the Chair of the SACRE write to all out going members to thank them for their contribution to the work of the SACRE
- That the SACRE note the position of Group C (Teacher Associations) representatives in relation to Academy Schools.
- That the SACRE Advisor seek suitable representatives for the two Group C (Teacher Organisations) vacancies and the Group A (Christian Denominations and Other Religions or Religious Denominations) vacancy.
- That the SACRE consider the request from the British Humanist Association for a Humanist to be included in the membership of Group A (Christian Denominations and Other Religions or Religious Denominations), and if it would wish to recommend to the Council that the composition of Group A is reviewed.

### 1. Reasons

- 1.1. For the SACRE to note the update to the membership, approved by Council on 22 September 2011, and to agree any further changes.

### 2. Detail

- 2.1 At the last meeting it was agreed that the clerk to the SACRE would contact the current representatives for Groups A, B, C to confirm if they wished for their memberships to be renewed for a further 4 year term from September 2011 in accordance with the SACRE constitution (attached at Appendix 1). Attached at Appendix 2 is the list of memberships recommended for approval to Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011, and the outcome will be reported to the SACRE verbally.
- 2.2 This includes several changes to the SACRE Membership since the last meeting. Ms Jo Garton (NAHT), Ms Helen Miller (NUT), Mr David Easter (NUT), and Reverend Arthur Woo (Church of England) have decided to step down from the SACRE. The NAHT (National Association of Head Teachers) have nominated Mr Paul Summers to be their representative on Group C. Ms Judi Kingdon (NUT)

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Sarah Lawrence on 01793 463603, Email [slawrence@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:slawrence@swindon.gov.uk).

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of Westrop Primary School and Ms Sara Crabb (ATL) of Uplands Schools have been recruited by the SACRE Advisor for Group C. Confirmation has been received from ATL for Ms Crabb's membership, but is awaited from NUT for Ms Judi Kingdon. Two further vacancies exist in Group C, and it is recommended that the SACRE Advisor seek suitable representatives in consultation with the relevant teachers associations. A representative for the vacancy on the Church of England Group (Group A) will also be sought from the Diocese.

- 2.3 Mr Mark Cawte has raised a question with the Chair in relation to the membership of Group C, with the growth in the number of schools moving to become academies in Swindon. A full list of schools in Swindon and their status will be tabled at the meeting for information. The SACRE Constitution definition for Group C membership (in paragraph 3.2.2 (iii)), does enable teachers from Academy schools to continue to be represented on the SACRE, and this breadth of experience is welcomed. However, it is recommended that the Group Director, Children and SACRE advisor keep this matter under review taking into account national guidance and the changing picture of school provision in the Borough. It may be appropriate to seek a balance between academy and maintained school representation in the Group.
- 2.4 A letter has been received from the British Humanist Association asking for the SACRE to consider recruiting a humanist to its Group A membership, and is attached at Appendix '3'. The SACRE last considered this matter in June 2010 and agreed at that time that if the legislation changed for a representative to be included in Group A, humanism would need to be considered against the relative size of other faiths or non-faiths in the Swindon area before a representative could be included. This was important as there were already other faith groups, such as Jewish and Ba'hai representatives who were not included in Group A due to a desire not over extend the size of the Group.
- 2.5 It was also previously the view of the SACRE that a review of the membership of Group A should take place when 2010 Census results became available to ensure that it still represents the 'proportionate strength of a denomination or faith in the area' as required by the SACRE constitution. The SACRE is asked to determine if they would wish to recommend to the Council that an amendment is made to the composition of Group A at an earlier point.

### Alternative Options

- None.

### Risk Management

#### *Financial and Procurement Implications*

- There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

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#### *Legal / Human Rights Implications*

- This report has no specific legal or human rights implications. The legal requirements for appointment of representatives is set out in the SACRE Constitution.

#### *Links to Corporate Plans and Policies*

- The work of the SACRE contributes to the Corporate Plan aims to improve the opportunities for children and young people.

#### **Consultees**

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.
- Paddy Bradley, Director of Schools and Learning
- Sarah Foulkes, Principal Advisor School Improvement

#### **Background Papers and Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – SACRE Constitution
- Appendix 2 – Full Membership List for SACRE recommended to Council 22/09/11
- Appendix 3 - Letter from the British Humanist Association.