

Minutes Extract

SWINDON CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

THURSDAY, 14 JUNE 2012

PRESENT: Liz Holmes in the Chair, Councillor Doreen Dart, Councillor David Renard, Jo Garton (Head teachers), Valerie Johnstone (Governors), Ruth Fitzjohn (Swindon Primary Care Trust), Louise Tapper (Swindon Primary Care Trust), Peter Wells (Diocese), John Gilbert (Group Director), John Popowicz (Fire Service), Mike Howard (LSCB), Jill Annal (Jobcentre Plus), Liz Mearns (General Practitioners) and Doug Morris (Parent & Carers Advisory Group)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rochelle Russell, Julie Tridgell (Head teachers), Peter Crockett (Head Teachers & Chair of Schools Forum), Hilary Walker (GWH NHS Foundation Trust), Teresa Harding (CAMS) and Riana Taylor (Probation Service)

9. Referral from Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

The Head of Commissioning – Economy/Attainment (Paddy Bradley) introduced a report on the work of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), which highlighted its concerns regarding access to Religious Education in the Borough.

Mr Bradley advised that all schools were required to teach Religious Education (RE) in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus, but it only formed part of the national curriculum in faith schools. SACRE's role was to monitor and support the provision of RE but with a steady decline in the number of schools entering pupils for exams, this was becoming more difficult.

The Board noted and supported the SACRE's proposal to write to all governing bodies and academy trusts to request information on the teaching of RE, but were concerned at the possible terminology. It was recognised that the locally agreed syllabus could be taught in various ways under numerous subject titles and it was anxious that any enquiry to schools should be made in the widest context possible.

Resolved – That the Board:

- 1) Notes and appreciates the work of the SACRE and its concerns regarding access to Religious Education in the Borough, and provides comments as above on the issues highlighted by the SACRE.
- 2) Supports the SACRE's proposal to write to all schools in the Borough regarding the teaching of RE but requests that the enquiry be made in the widest possible context in line with the comments set out above.