

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TUESDAY, 17 JUNE 2014

PRESENT:-

Group A: Christian Denominations and Other Religions or Religious Denominations	Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte - (United Reformed Church) – In the Chair
Group B: Church of England	Miss Janet French, Reverend Norma McKemey and Ms Steph Mundin
Group C: Teacher Organisations	Mrs Mel Shepherd, Ms Catherine Lomax and Mr Paul Sunners
Group D: Councillors	Councillors Fionuala Foley and Gemma McCracken
Co-Opted:	Freddy Pound

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor James Robbins, Mrs Penny Summers, Mrs Tracy Mason, Mrs Lottie O'Brien, Mrs Mandy Sandleton, Mr David Burbidge, Mr Mark Cawte, Reverend David Howell, Mr M S Khan, Mr Tony McAteer, Mr Dinesh Patel, Councillor Alan Bishop and Councillor Cindy Matthews

45. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for Municipal Year 2014-15

Resolved:

1. That Mark Cawte be appointed as Chair of the SACRE for the Municipal Year 2014/15.
2. That Lottie O'Brien be appointed as Vice-Chair of the SACRE for the Municipal Year 2014/15.
3. That, in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Sarah Lane Cawte be appointed Chair of the SACRE for this meeting.

46. Welcome from Dorcan Academy

Mel Shepherd welcomed the SACRE to Dorcan Academy and spoke about the Academy and their approach to RE. The SACRE noted the scheduling of RE lessons within the Academy and the exam results achieved.

The SACRE discussed the timetabling of RE within schools, performance tables and the consequences of Government changes within the education system. The SACRE were reminded of the importance of SACRE in resourcing schools and teachers and its role in strengthening RE in Schools.

The Chair thanked Mel for her welcome and informative presentation.

47. 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.

48. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

49. Chair's Announcements

The Chair made the following announcements:

- a) SACRE members were informed about a Faithful and Free Conference being held in Birmingham on 20 September 2014. As well as an inspiring keynote speaker, Dr Ann Limb, there would be worship, workshops and seminar, a panel discussion and an endnote address by Revd Dr David Cornick. David Hampshire, Vice Chair of NASACRE, would be leading a workshop on "Being a more effective SACRE member".

The day was free to attend and SACRE members were encouraged to attend the Conference and register early for workshops.

- b) The Chair welcomed recently appointed Councillors to their first SACRE meeting and hoped they found the meetings informative and enlightening.
- c) Members were advised that Rev Beth Brown had resigned from SACRE, as her tenure with the Bristol Diocese had ended. The Chair thanked Rev Brown for being an active member of SACRE, particularly for her most recent work on the Localiy Distinctive Group. Rev Brown's contribution to the work of the SACRE would be sorely missed and she was wished all the best for the future.

50. Minutes

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

51. National Updates

The SACRE received the following national updates:

- The NASACRE AGM 2014
- The NASACRE Chair's Report
- Teach RE
- RE and Good Community Relations
- RE and Collective Worship in Academies and Free Schools

Resolved:

1. That the National updates be noted.

2. That the updates for (i) RE and Good Community Relations and (ii) RE and Collective Worship in Academies and Free Schools be circulated to all Schools/Academies, including the Chairs of Governing Bodies to highlight the importance of teaching RE in Schools/Academies and the impact on good community relations.

52. Progress Reports SACRE Working Parties

The SACRE received updates from the following Working Parties:

- Working Party to look at developing new distinctively local Swindon RE units of work for Swindon schools and academies.
- Publicity and Communication Working Group – SACRE Website

Distinctively Local Swindon

The SACRE Advisor explained that (a) in relation to the Distinctively Local RE Working Party she had spent a morning at Gateway Church with Janet French interviewing people about the work of the Foodbank and Furniture Recycling Centre for people in need; (b) there was a vacancy on the group following the resignation of Rev Brown (c) arrangements were being made to visit Gorse Hill Mosque; (d) request for additional ideas for writing other Swindon Distinctive Units.

The SACRE Advisor reminded members about the Promotion of SACRE Working Party and an excellent article written by Steph Mundin about 'What is SACRE?' SACRE members were encouraged to circulate the article to all faith leaders and community associations.

SACRE Website

The SACRE Advisor reported on one solution offered by Bristol Diocese for the hosting and design of a new Swindon SACRE website. The SACRE noted that Bristol Diocese would be happy to host the Swindon SACRE website within their own website and arrange for the uploading of materials at an annual cost of £80 a year. Freddy Pound explained that he had experience of setting up blogs and could design a blog for Swindon SACRE which would cater for all their uploading needs. There would be no cost associated with the work and a working example could be available for the next meeting.

Resolved:

- 1) That the work of the Working Parties be noted
- 2) That Freddy Pound be asked to design a working example of a Swindon SACRE blog for the next meeting.
- 3) That the article on 'What is SACRE?' prepared by Steph Mundin be re-circulated to SACRE Members
- 4) That all SACRE members be asked to consider circulating the article to all faith leaders and community associations to show the importance of Religious Education to all pupils

53. Feedback from RE Teachers' Network Meetings

The SACRE received a report from the SACRE Advisor on a recent Secondary RE Teachers' Network meeting.

The SACRE Advisor explained that she had prepared a base line RE test for Secondary School teachers which would give a broad idea of the prior learning of pupils from feeder primary schools and the levels that they were currently working at. Examples of GCSE RE exam papers were circulated along with a number of responses to questions asked in the papers.

Resolved:

That the comments of the SACRE Advisor be noted.

54. Governor Training

The SACRE Advisor spoke about a training event for Governors held on 6 May 2014.

The training helped Governors to understand their legal obligations for ensuring the school which they served was meeting their statutory requirements for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural learning, assemblies and Religious Education. 35 Governors from 25 schools attended the training with the majority attending from Primary Schools.

The SACRE Advisor reported that the above Governor training may have fallen outside of her allocated hours and suggested that a more effective use of her hours as a resource could be discussed at the next meeting.

Resolved:

1. That the Governor training update be noted.
2. That further consideration be given, at the next meeting to the use of the resource provided by the SACRE Advisor.

55. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of SACRE would be held on 14 October 2014, commencing at 6:00pm, venue to be agreed.