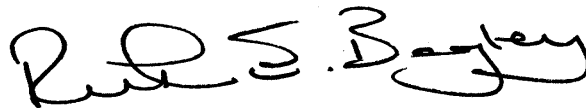


Date of issue: Tuesday, 1 February 2011

MEETING	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
DATE AND TIME:	WEDNESDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY, 2011 AT 4.30 PM
VENUE:	ST. ANTHONY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, FARNHAM ROAD, SLOUGH, SL2 3AA
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	CLAIRE GRAY 01753 875120

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



RUTH BAGLEY
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART I

Welcome, apologies and a moment of silence for Jo Osbourne

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1.	Minutes of the Last Meeting	1 - 6
2.	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RE Centre update ▪ RE trails update ▪ Celebrating RE update ▪ The scheme of work for RE ▪ Membership update 	
3.	RE in the Latest Curriculum Developments	
4.	2011 Joint SACREs Conference and an Update of the RE Syllabus Review	-
5.	NASACRE Conferences	7 - 10
6.	NASACRE Advice Paper to SACREs and LAs	11 - 16
7.	Training session for members using the NASACRE CD	
8.	Proposed Date of Next Meeting	
	- Tuesday, 14 th June, 2011	

Press and Public

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Special facilities may be made available for disabled or non-English speaking persons. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th October, 2010.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Ms S Elbrow

Committee 2 – Church of England

Rev A Allen, Rev A Bignell, Ms C Fageant (Chair) and Ms C Isles

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Councillors Bains, Maclsaac, MS Mann, Rasib and Basharat

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Ms M Stacey and Ms L Bussley

Apologies for Absence:- Mr L Khan, Mr Saraswat and Ms J Osborne

PART 1

9. Election of Chair

Resolved – That Jo Fageant be appointed Chair for the 2010/11 academic year.

10. Election of Vice-Chair

Resolved – That Alan Bignell be appointed Vice-Chair for the 2010/11 academic year.

Members wished to place on record their thanks to Jo Osbourne for her work as Vice-Chair over the past several years.

11. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 9th June 2010 were approved as a correct record.

12. Matters Arising

It was noted that copies of the handbook for new SACRE members had been acquired and a copy would be provided to any new members. It was agreed that a copy of the booklet would be provided to the new Vice-Chair. It was also suggested that the CD-Rom on effective SACREs be shown at the next meeting.

Godolphin Members were advised that a letter had been received from the School Governors in support of the application for a determination.

13. Membership Update and Suggested Amendments to the SACRE Constitution

It was agreed that due to the poor attendance of several Muslim and Sikh members a letter would be sent to them advising them that they could be removed as Members at the next meeting. The current Hindu representative would be resigning from SACRE as his current commitments at temple prevented him from attending meetings. He had already nominated a replacement who would be contacted shortly. SACRE was advised that enquiries had been made to Teaching organisations regarding nominations for representatives for those with vacancies.

Furthermore the Chair proposed a fixed term of membership for Committees 1, 2 and 3 of three years which could be renewed. Members felt that this was a good idea and would provide an opportunity to think about their Membership and their role on SACRE. Members would of course have the opportunity for re-appointment if they so wished.

Resolved –

- (a) That those members representing the Sikh and Muslim faiths who have not attended the last three meetings be sent an advisory notice before the next meeting.
- (b) That the following wording be added to the Constitution:
Members of the SACRE shall serve from the date of their appointment for a term of three years or until their successors are appointed by the Authority. They shall be eligible for reappointment after each term for a further term by consultation, if necessary with the group which they represent. This shall also apply to any co-opted members who may be appointed.

14. SACRE Art Exhibition at St. Mary's Church

The Chair highlighted the RE and Art Exhibition arranged by SACRE which took place in September in St. Mary's Church. Children from local schools had been invited to submit a piece of artwork on a number of spiritual themes. The response to the project had been excellent and several schools had contributed entries. Due to a large number of services recently taking place in the church it was estimated that the exhibition was probably seen by up to 3000 people in total a number expressed delight at the children's work. The exhibition needed to be taken down shortly and it was agreed that the work would be returned to the schools. A large number of the children who contributed received certificates for their work. A number of schools confirmed that they would welcome a future opportunity to take part in a similar project.

15. Update on the Slough Religious Studies Centre

Members were advised that the RE Centre had carried out a consultation with schools on the use of the RE centre. The response rate was only two schools

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 13.10.10

from all schools in Slough. Neither of the responses was positive in their use of the RE centre. Following this the decision was taken by the trustees of the RE Resource Centre to close it down. As the RE Centre was a registered Charity its constitution stipulated that any materials from the centre should be passed on to charities with like aims. Therefore this had been publicised to other RE resource centres and Croydon had expressed a strong interest in taking over some of the resources. However it needed to be decided by the trustees whether some of the resources could be retained in Slough. It was noted that the funding from the SACRE budget to Iqra School for the rent of the Centre would have been provided until the end of the financial year; however the close down of the Centre may move more quickly than anticipated. Some members raised concerns about how sacred texts would be stored by another centre or schools. It was noted that if there was anything not wanted by Croydon it was possible that these could be given to school or other interested parties. SACRE expressed disappointment that the Centre was closing but understood why this decision had been taken and noted that it was not a unique situation with more schools using internet resources and purchasing their own.

16. Report on the Joint SACRE Conference held on 15th June

The Chair circulated a report to the SACRE on the theme discussed at the Joint SACRE Conference, which was RE trails. The conference looked at what the whole initiative was about and the ways in which schools could be encouraged to take up the challenge of forming RE trails. SACRE representatives from each of the different areas formulated ideas for RE trails in their own areas. A Member advised that Montem School was trying to develop an RE trail in Chalvey based on the changing face of RE over the past 150 years. Although the aim was for this to be developed over the spring term the SACRE agreed that it would be useful for this to be shared at a future meeting. A member advised that their school had taken pupils to different places of worship around Slough. The Chair asked Members to consider whether any places of worship would be willing to offer visits or provide speakers to help raise the profile of what was available within Slough.

The SACRE felt that this would be a good initiative to link in with the Celebrating RE month in March. It was reported that children from Slough had self-funded aid to Pakistan following the floods and it was suggested that perhaps something could be promoted in future in the Celebrating RE month. A member suggested that an RE day could be hosted at St. Mary's Church as this took place last year with Slough Grammar School. The member agreed to find out if anything was planned for next year. A Member further suggested that Members should speak to the schools at which they were governors.

Resolved – That the report on RE trails as discussed at the Joint SACRE Conference be noted and that options for an event for the Celebrating RE week be looked into

17. Issues Raised at the Joint SACRE Conference

The Chair advised that at the Joint Conference attention was drawn to the value of its continuation. Feedback had always been positive from all the SACREs involved. However it was established a number of years ago by all the Berkshire SACREs and the benefits needed to be weighed against the costs for accommodation and speakers. It was originally agreed to base the charges on five delegates from each SACRE, although Slough often only had two or three attending. It was further noted that information was not always fed back from the conference to all the SACREs.

Further to this it was suggested that the Joint Conference could be used next year as an opportunity to assist with the review of the locally agreed syllabus. West Berkshire previously took the lead in the review and had agreed to do so again and supply RE expertise. West Berkshire would need to know whether other authorities were agreed to this. The SACRE discussed the possibility of moving forward with the agreed syllabus as the theme for the next Joint SACRE Conference. It was felt that much of the syllabus would not need to be significantly altered and that with the current financial climate this was the best approach to take. It was noted that the conference was likely to take place in May. It was noted that SACRE was aware of the complexities of the syllabus as it needed to approve it but it was also important that schools were able to fully appreciate the essence of it.

A member advised that they had produced a scheme of work from the syllabus for Key Stage 1 and 2 which had been in place for three years and agreed to share it with SACRE. It was also noted that it would be useful to invite RE co-ordinators to the conference as they had been involved in the past. The Chair advised that there would be a whole page in next terms newsletter dedicated to the review of the locally agreed syllabus and this may link in with the celebration of RE month. Members noted with concern that many teachers did not feel confident about teaching RE. The chair advised that Wokingham SACRE had agreed to open up training to other SACREs about being an effective SACRE member. Members agreed that it would be useful to look through the effective SACRE CD at the beginning of the next meeting.

Resolved - That West Berkshire be advised that Slough SACRE agreed to the joint review of the locally agreed syllabus with West Berkshire as the lead authority and that this should be developed as the theme for the next Joint SACRE Conference.

18. The Annual SACRE Report

A draft copy of the annual SACRE report was circulated at the meeting. Members were advised that there was further detail to be added to the report and some of this had yet to be released. SACRE agreed that once the data was available the draft should be circulated to all SACRE Members for comment or approval before being submitted to the QCA. A Member suggested that a line be added to the report to explain that the Agreed

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Syllabus was due to be update in the coming year. It was noted that all SACRE members would need to agree to the report with or without comment.

Resolved – That the appropriate updates be made to the draft report and a copy then be circulated to Members for comment or approval.

19. Applications for a Determination: Baylis Court

SACRE considered a request for a renewal of a determination on collective worship for Baylis Court School. The Senior Advisor, Standards and Achievement had visited the school and provided a report to SACRE which provided detail on the current practice at the school which recommended that the determination be extended.

Resolved – That the application for the renewal of the determination on collective worship for Baylis Court School be approved.

20. Any Other Business

None

21. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was noted as 9th February 2011 and the location was agreed as St. Anthony's RC Primary School.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.30 pm and closed at 5.45 pm)

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2011

Wednesday 11th May
10 for 10.30am-3.30pm

The Council House, Birmingham

Keynote Speaker

ROBERT BECKFORD

Theologian and television presenter

***'Effective SACREs Engaging with Young
People in the Big Society'***

and featuring presentations by

Pupils engaged in Westhill/NASACRE projects

Delegate fee: £70 per head

*Payable either by cheque, made out to NASACRE
to accompany the delegate form(s), or by invoice after the AGM*

Please send completed forms to: Yvonne Cameron, Centre Administrator, South London
Multifaith Resources Centre, Lewisham PDC, Kilmorie Road, London SE23 2SP
Tel: 020 8314 7016; Email: admin@nasacre.org.uk

Closing date WEDNESDAY 20th APRIL 2011

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Celebrating RE 2011 NASACRE Conference **FREE**

WHOSE RE IS IT ANYWAY?

Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham B4 7SX

Thurs 31st March 2011: 10am-3.45pm

This will be a vital exploration of the creative tensions that exist within and between the different interest groups/stakeholders in their views of and reasons for RE in schools: what RE is all about, why we should be bothered about it and what pupils should get out of it. These tensions affect us all, but especially those who serve on agreed syllabus conferences (ASCs).

The purpose of the day is to engage people in these issues, to enable us all to listen and respond to different perspectives and to work out what is best for children and young people in schools and ultimately for the development of society.

The conference will provide both stimulus and engagement. There will be four quick ten-minute 'talking-heads' reflections on the whys and wherefores of good RE in our schools followed by workshops where some of these can be more deeply explored.

Speakers include: Graham Langtree, RE Adviser Devon; Barbara Wintersgill, former HMI; Sandra Teacher, Board of Deputies' Education Officer; Andrew Wright, Professor of Religious and Theological Education, King's College London, Bill Moore, Chair; Bruce Gill; Denise Chaplin; Jo Fageant and Sharon Artley, NASACRE.

The conference will:

- explore the tensions and controversies within and between RE stakeholders with a particular focus on quality RE for pupils in schools;
- provide stimuli to thinking and discussions amongst RE stakeholders about why we should be bothered about it and what pupils should get out of it;
- provide an opportunity for stakeholders to voice, and share their different perspectives and listen to the different interests within the RE community.

Outcomes:

- a NASACRE steer on how SACREs and ASCs are central to quality RE because they pull together the local and national, the faith communities and educational principles in their locally agreed syllabuses;
- a NASACRE positional statement on shared responsibility for quality RE;
- clearer understanding for SACREs and other partners on how SACREs can improve RE locally and nationally;
- a report on the conference.

To register, contact:

Yvonne Cameron: Centre Administrator, South London Multifaith Resources Centre, Lewisham PDC., Kilmorie Road, London SE23 2SP Tel: 020 8314 7016 Email: admin@nasacre.org.uk



Celebrating RE

Whose RE is it Anyway?

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

- 10am: Coffee & registration;
- 10.25am: Welcome & Introductions:
Setting the scene and contextualising the day: Bill Moore;
- 10.40am: Talking Heads 1:
Local or National?
Where is RE's Best Future?
Speakers: Graham Langtree and Barbara Wintersgill
- Talking Heads 2:
Faith Community or Education Community?
Who owns RE?
Speakers: Sandra Teacher and Andrew Wright
Chaired by Bruce Gill
- 11.25am: Workshops 1
- 12.20pm: Lunch
- 1.20pm: Workshops 2
- 2.15pm: Questions Board?
Feedback / panel chaired by Bruce Gill;
- 3pm: Celebration award giving: Sharon Artley;
- 3.15pm: **RE ANYway? Why quality RE is worth struggling for and what needs to be done.:** Graham Langtree;
- 3.30pm: Vote of thanks: Bill Moore;
- 3.45pm: Finish

WORKSHOPS:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| Learners' RE? What do we want pupils and schools to get from RE? | Bill Moore |
| Partners' RE? The route to agreement – working in partnership in a cost-cutting climate | Denise Chaplin |
| Teachers' RE? Truth and controversy in the RE classroom | Andy Wright |
| Local RE? Local ownership of a national framework | Graham Langtree |
| Communities' RE? From A to B: how do faith groups work together? | Jo Fageant |

NASACRE

LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT FOR SACREs

1. As part of their responsibilities to ensure high quality RE and collective worship for all pupils the Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to establish a SACRE and an agreed syllabus conference (ASC), and also has statutory responsibilities in supporting both bodies
2. 'The L(E)A's duty to convene a conference or to establish a SACRE implies providing sufficient funds for these bodies to perform their duties.' ERA 1988 s11 (1)
3. 'Sufficient funding' for the SACRE may vary depending on factors such as the size and faith diversity of different LAs but should not be less than:
 - Clerking support for 3-6 SACRE meetings per year,
 - Specialist RE advice and back up support for 3-6 SACRE meetings per year,
 - Specialist RE advice and back up support for preparation and publication of the SACRE annual report.

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that the agreed syllabus is reviewed every five years. The LA is responsible for providing satisfactory funding for this task, including writing, consulting, publishing and providing necessary training. In addition, the SACRE has the power, rarely used, to require the LA to review its agreed syllabus within the five year period as stated in ERA 1988 s11 (7).

4. Sufficient funding for the ASC within a five year cycle may vary for reasons similar to those leading to variation in funding of SACREs in different LAs but should not be less than:
 - Clerking support for 3-6 ASC meetings,
 - Specialist RE advice and back up support for the 3-6 ASC meetings,
 - Specialist RE advice and back up support for reviewing the agreed syllabus, and preparing, and publishing the reviewed syllabus and disseminating it across the LA schools. 5-10 days within a five year cycle.
5. The statutory duty is reaffirmed in the *Religious Education guidance in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010* which states, "An LA should fund and support a SACRE and an ASC satisfactorily in line with the duty to constitute or convene each of these bodies and to enable them effectively to carry out their function."

6. In addition to these central statutory duties an effective SACRE should

- Monitor standards and achievement in RE in the LA through agreed school visits and analysis of appropriate data including external examination results,
- Have a clear, realistic development plan which raises both the profile of, and achievement in RE,
- Enrich the quality of RE through specific projects e.g. raising boy's attainment,
- Build strong and positive partnerships with schools, colleges and universities, local faith and belief communities and keep informed of key national developments in RE,
- Provide effective support on the effective teaching of RE including planning, methods and resources.

All of these require that a specialist RE professional is in place; is well informed and qualified and has the capacity to manage these actions with the SACRE.

7. As with members of school governing bodies, some provision should be made for the induction, training and development of SACRE members and for expenses to attend meetings.

KEY QUESTION FOR LAs

- Does the professional, administrative and financial support for SACRE enable it to carry out its duties effectively and improve learning and achievement in RE?

KEY QUESTION FOR SACREs

- How does the work of SACRE improve learning and achievement in RE?

APPENDIX A

TASKS OF THE SACRE CLERK

- Arrange, attend and clerk meetings of the SACRE;
- Produce and circulate minutes and agenda in a timely manner in accordance with the Council's standard format;
- Arrange, attend and clerk meetings of the ASC during the review period;
- Ensure that all papers from working parties or consultants are circulated to the ASC members in advance of meetings;
- Advise on dates of meetings; particularly in relation to religious holidays or other council meetings which may clash and affect quoracy;
- Arrange venues for meetings of both the SACRE and ASC;
- Liaise with the relevant personnel to establish when necessary good relationships;
- Organise and if necessary transport equipment (e.g. ICT, digital projector) to meetings;
- Organise catering for the meeting with due sensitivity towards the religious sensibilities of the particular faith communities;
- Remind and if necessary chase members/other attendees about reports for meetings and circulation deadlines;
- Circulate additional papers or conference invitations from relevant bodies;
- Alert the Chair and RE Professional Adviser/Consultant to any communications from relevant bodies;
- Ensure that regular communications are circulated to members;
- Working with the Chair, the local RE Professional Adviser/Consultant and other SACRE Officers, produce reports to the Mayor and Cabinet e.g. when changes to the SACRE constitution or membership are required;
- Work closely as a team member with the Chair, the local RE Professional Adviser/Consultant and other SACRE Officers (this includes regular phone contact, e-mail, and agenda planning meetings);
- Be the first point of contact for SACRE members, faith community members, members of the public and officers of NASACRE and other relevant bodies;

- Respond to enquiries alerting the Chair and RE Professional Adviser/Consultant when necessary;
- Maintain the SACRE (and ASC) membership list, keeping it up to date, chasing members whose attendance is poor and identifying any membership issues for the attention of the Chair;
- Contact the nominating bodies for each interest group represented on the SACRE when membership lapses and arrange for replacements;
- Contribute information for the Annual Report of SACRE (e.g. membership and attendance details);
- Assist in the production, publication and distribution of the Annual Report;
- Issue Welcome/Induction Packs for new members and ensure that new members have sufficient information to prepare them for their first meeting;
- Maintaining a filing system (electronic and paper) of relevant and up to date information;
- Liaise with other LA departments and keep the Chair, the local RE Professional /Adviser and other SACRE Officers informed of any LA initiatives which may be relevant to the work of the SACRE;
- Ensure that all SACRE publications are circulated to the relevant bodies;
- Liaise with the LA's Legal/committee section regarding governance issues;
- Undertake administrative work relating to the meetings of sub groups of the SACRE e.g. working parties for particular initiatives;
- Help organise events such as the launch of the new agreed syllabus, SACRE open evenings;
- Be responsible for the payment of invoices relating to SACRE work e.g. payment for attendance at national conferences, catering for meetings or training;
- Maintain oversight of the SACRE budget, advising the Chair of issues relating to this budget.

APPENDIX B

TASKS OF THE SPECIALIST RE PROFESSIONAL ADVISER/CONSULTANT

- Attend all SACRE meetings, helping to prepare Agendas and key papers;
- Advise SACRE on issues relating to its work;
- Ensure SACRE is up to date with local, regional and national initiatives and issues related to RE and collective worship, e.g. Ofsted subject reports, DfE funded initiatives;
- Relate SACRE's work to wider community issues, including partnerships with faith and belief communities;
- Lead on areas related to the Agreed Syllabus, RE and collective worship;
- Manage and deliver the training of SACRE members and, where appropriate, teachers and other groups interested in RE;
- Produce reports to meet the deadlines agreed for distribution of papers for the meetings;
- Support individual SACRE members' development including their ability to provide a bridge between their sponsoring body and the full SACRE;
- With relevant administrative support and the SACRE clerk, manage and advise meetings of sub groups e.g. working parties for particular initiatives;
- With the SACRE clerk ensure that all SACRE publications are circulated to the relevant bodies;
- Working with the Chair, the clerk and other SACRE Officers, produce reports to the Mayor and Cabinet e.g. when changes to the SACRE constitution or membership are required;
- Draft and edit the SACRE Annual Report and all SACRE materials and publications;
- With administrative support, update any relevant RE / ASC / SACRE website and SACRE's presence on the LA website;
- Take the lead on the monitoring aspects of SACRE, especially agreed school visits and analysis of examination results in RE/RS.

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