

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Tuesday, 14th June, 2011.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Sue Elbrow (Free Churches)

Committee 2 – Church of England

Reverend A S Allen, Alan Bignell, Jo Fageant (Chair), Christine Isles

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Lynda Bussley (NUT)

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillor Balvinder Bains, Councillor Mewa S Mann, Councillor Sohail Mun
Councillor Mohammed Basharat

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Stacey

PART 1

31. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 9th February 2011

The minutes were approved as a correct record subject to an amendment to the sub-heading of minute 23 to read Mrs Elbrow.

32. Matters Arising

Funding - It was confirmed that there was £2,500 of funding available to SACRE. SACRE would need to make a decision on how the funding should be allocated. It was noted that there would need to be a review of the agreed syllabus which would be shared with the six Berkshire SACREs. A contribution of £2,700 from Slough would need to be agreed. It was noted that the printing of the syllabus was not included in the cost but was left to be determined by each local authority. The Education Representative agreed to look into the funding situation.

Membership – SACRE was advised that new Muslim and Sikh representatives were being sought. The Chair confirmed that she would advise the Clerk regarding a Jewish representative.

Omission of RE from the EBac – The Chair advised that the RE community was backing its inclusion. However there had been no changes at present but a resolution was expected shortly.

Joint SACRE Conference – The conference was due to take place on the 28th June. According to previous agreements each local authority funded 5 delegates. However in the past Slough had not filled all places. A number of

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Members expressed an interest in attending the conference and were advised to confirm with the Chair by the end of the week.

Concert for Jo Osbourne – SACRE was advised of a concert which was due to take place in October in memory of Jo. It was agreed to circulate an email regarding the concert to SACRE Members who may wish to attend.

RE Centre – The SACRE was advised that all resources from the centre had now been relocated. Sacred books had been taken into the care of St. Bernard's Grammar School and would be loaned to other schools. Remaining funds for the RE centre would be used for an RE trail.

33. Report on NASACRE Conferences - Verbal update by Jo Fageant

The Chair provided a verbal update on the NASACRE conference held in March 2011 around the theme "Whose RE is it anyway?". The conference was well attended by delegates from across the country and the Chair advised that she led a workshop at the conference on the contribution of different faith communities to SACREs. There was a full report available on the NASACRE website which members could access if they wished. There was an award presented at the Conference to Clare Dempsey a year 11 pupil who produces videos for YouTube and has a blog promoting RE.

The NASACRE AGM which took place in May focussed on the work of young people and members of a youth SACRE spoke to the meeting about a project they had worked on. The Chair of the RE Council spoke to the AGM on the challenges facing RE and issues arising due to spending cuts such as the uncertain position for NASACRE and SACREs losing professional support were also discussed. A member raised a query about professional support for primary school teachers and was advised that the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education ran courses and offered support to local groups.

34. CPD opportunities for next year

SACRE felt that it would be useful to have some training as the Locally Agreed Syllabus was approaching. A Member suggested that having a slot with NQT training may be useful. It was noted that the Oxford Diocese would be providing a training course each term of the next academic year. There would be sessions on Philosophy for Children in RE, Able, Gifted and Talented and Assessment for RE. Whilst this was devised by the diocese it would be open to all schools.

35. RE syllabus review and the establishment of an Agreed Syllabus Conference

The SACRE were advised that normal practice for the establishment of the agreed Syllabus conference was for each nominating body to be asked if they would like their existing SACRE Member to be a member on the agreed Syllabus Conference. There was a general consensus that all those present

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at the meeting would agree to represent their particular group. The Chair advised that as she would be leading the review she would need to step down from her constituent group for the conference. It was usual practice for the conference meetings to run back to back with SACRE meetings. The final version of the Syllabus would go to a Conference meeting following the June SACRE meeting which would then enable it to be finalised before it would need to be adopted by full Council. Responses to a questionnaire on the agreed syllabus were tabled at the meeting.

Resolved: - That the Clerk write to Members to ascertain whether they wish to act for the constituent group for the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

36. Training for SACRE members led by Jo Fageant

It was previously agreed by Members that it would be useful to have some basic training for SACRE and it was agreed that a short training session would be led by the Chair using the Resource CD from NASACRE. It was noted that everyone had a responsibility to be an effective SACRE Member and further information was provided on how this could be achieved. Members raised a number of interesting queries about the role that an effective SACRE could play including issues around community cohesion, the responsibilities of academies and how a SACRE could support them and issues regarding collective worship. Further issues were raised regarding the production of the Locally Agreed Syllabus. A number of suggestions were made for future development. A number of members agreed to provide documents on RE schemes of work in the respective schools.

Resolved:- That an item be added to the agenda for the next meeting on a SACRE development plan.

37. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 12th October, 2011.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.30 pm and closed at 6.08 pm)