

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Wednesday, 6th February, 2013.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Councillors Fageant (Chair), Isles, Siddiqi, Elbrow, Sohal, Bussley, Brooker and M S Mann

Committee 2 – Church of England

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillors

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Allen, Bains and Wright

PART 1

40. Minutes of the Last SACRE Meeting held on 22nd October 2013

The Minutes of the last SACRE meeting held on 22nd October 2012 were approved as a correct record.

41. Matters Arising

It was noted that Maggie Stacey had forwarded apologies for recent meetings. Members questioned whether another officer would attend SACRE to represent the Authority and what Maggie's appointment is as a Member of SACRE.

Member's also questioned the procedure that School's must follow in applying for Determinations once they become Academy's. During the discussion that followed it was decided that an answer would be sought from NASACRE.

Following on from the previous meeting the Chair informed Members that a manageable version of the national syllabus was currently being created and once complete would be publish on the Slough Borough Council website.

Resolved – a) That the SACRE Clerk contact Maggie Stacey to discuss attendance at meetings.

b) That NASACRE be contacted to find out if schools that have recently become Academy's still have to apply to the LA for Determinations.

42. Draft SACRE Development Plan 2012-14

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Member's were informed that a draft SACRE Development Plan had been created which set out the Panel's objectives and actions over the period 2013/14. The Chair advised Member's that the feasibility of achieving the goals would depend on the budget available in the new municipal year.

Whilst advising the Panel on key objectives within the Development Plan, a discussion was raised on what to include and how to distribute a termly newsletter to the school's in Slough. Member's noted that it would be a good idea to make the newsletter a standing item on all future agendas so that the Panel has an opportunity to share ideas of what should be included on each newsletter. Member's also suggested that a feature on a different faith school in the Borough should be included in each newsletter and that Khalsa would be a good school to start with.

The Chair informed the panel that Slough has not been represented particularly well at the annual Syllabus Conference. Member's noted that the aim of the Conference is to ensure that Members are well informed about SACRE related issues and contribute to local debates. Concern was raised that money was being spent on the purchase of five places at the Conference, but only two Members of SACRE were ever in attendance.

Member's noted that training on the new Syllabus is to be provided by Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council in the form of two Twilight Sessions and a launch date. Concern was raised by the Member's that even though teachers from Slough can attend the new syllabus training, it may be more beneficial for them to meet on their own as part of a SACRE conference. It was agreed that it would be added to the Development Plan to see if it can be achieved within the budget.

Member's discussed different ways in which SACRE could raise awareness of the organisation and engage with Slough school and suggested the possibility of holding an annual competition. It was agreed that the competition would be based on the word 'Peace' which would be used to inspire children to think and be creative. The Panel also suggested holding future meetings at Slough school's and ask pupils and Religious Education teacher's to attend and make presentations to the Member's.

Resolved – a) That a SACRE newsletter be drafted and brought to the next meeting.
b) That the newsletter becomes a standing item on future agendas
c) That Member's be contacted to confirm their agreement to their email addresses being released to Julie Siddiqi
d) That an article on the provision of Religious Education at Khalsa School be included in the first newsletter.
e) That any Member wishing to attend the NASACRE AGM contact the Chair to discuss arrangements.
f) That the possibility of a conference for Slough schools be discussed at the next SACRE meeting.

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- g) That a competition for Slough schools be created and details be included in the next newsletter.
- h) That the location of future meetings be explored with the possibility of holding them in Schools.

43. The All Party Parliamentary Group for Religious Education- Call for Evidence

Members were informed that a Call for Evidence regarding the supply of and support for Religious Education Teachers was issued. The aim of the inquiry was to provide individuals and organisations such as SACRE an opportunity to contribute to a major national project in the interests of Religious Education.

The Chair noted that the Call for Evidence was issued in between SACRE meetings and as such was not responded to. During the discussion that followed Members suggested that it would have been beneficial to establish a nominated group who can meet in between SACRE meetings to answer any future Calls for Evidence.

Resolved – a) That a nominated group be established so that any future Call for Evidence may be addressed in between meetings.
b) That Hardip Singh Sohal, Jo Fageant, Lynda Bussley and Councillor Brooker be appointed to the group.

44. Letter to the Director of Wellbeing, Slough BC- re SACRE funding

Members were advised that the Chair's letter to the Director of Wellbeing had been forwarded to the Assistant Director for Achievement and Inclusion and that a meeting had taken place in order to respond to the questions raised by the Panel.

In the discussion that followed Member's requested that the Commissioner for Education be invited to the next meeting so that Member's have the opportunity to explain what SACRE does and what it is trying to achieve.

Resolved – a) That the Commissioner for Education be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the work of SACRE.
b) That a meeting between the Chair and the Assistant Director for Achievement and Inclusion be arranged.
c) That the Clerk contact the Assistant Director for Achievement and Inclusion to establish details of the budget for the current and previous year.
d) That the outcome of the Chair's letter be reported to the next meeting.

45. SACRE Newsletter

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Resolved – That the SACRE Newsletter be noted.

46. NASACRE Newsletter

Resolved – That the NASACRE Newsletter be noted.

47. Future Leader Syllabus meetings

Resolved – That the dates of the Future Leader Syllabus meetings be noted.

48. Date of Next Meeting- 17th June, 2013

Resolved - That the next meeting be held on 17th June 2013.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.35 pm and closed at 6.11 pm)