

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Wednesday, 5th February, 2014.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Julie Siddiqi (Chair), Sue Elbrow, Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan, Hardip Singh Sohal, Ashpreet Singh Nainu.

Committee 2 – Church of England

Jo Fageant, Christine Isles

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Lynda Bussley, Linda Lewis

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillor Brooker

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Chaudhry and M S Mann; and Rev Allen

PART 1

76. Minutes of the Last Meeting 21st October 2013

The minutes of the last meeting held on 21st October 2013 were approved as a correct record, subject to the addition of Ashpreet Singh Nainu to those present and the addition of Hardip Singh Sohal to the list of apologies.

77. Matters Arising

Arising from minute 64 [Application for a determination on collective worship from Godolphin Junior School] it was noted this application would be determined by the Secretary of State. It was suggested that a reminder be issued to Academies that applications for determination should be submitted direct to the Secretary of State on the relevant pro forma. There were no determinations due for consideration by SACRE until 2015.

Arising from minute 66 [Primary Governors briefing paper] a query was raised as to whether this report had been successfully delivered to Slough Schools and Governing Bodies. It was suggested that a contact list of the RE Co-ordinators in each school would be a useful resource for SACRE.

78. Update on the appointment of a Professional Advisor to the SACRE (Robin Crofts)

Robin Crofts (RC) reported that the Council's procurement team had confirmed that the appointment of a professional adviser would need to be advertised on the south east portal with a view to obtaining three submissions for consideration. Submissions from applicants would need to be evaluated against criteria agreed for the position. Draft criteria had been prepared,

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taking into account details of the adviser role obtained from other authorities, which RC wished to finalise in consultation with the Chair. A budget of £5,000 was available for SACRE for use in funding the appointment.

Resolved - That the criteria for the professional adviser role be finalised by RC in consultation with the Chair (who may in turn consult other SACRE members by email) and then advertised on the south east portal.

79. SACRE Membership 2013/14

Consideration was given to the list of SACRE appointments confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2013.

A number of changes were noted as follows:

- Linda Lewis had been appointed as the representative of Voice (formerly the Professional Association of Teachers) and she was welcomed to her first meeting.
- Moulana Saeed Ziaee (Islam representative) had resigned having left the area.
- The Rev Alan Bignell had resigned.

In order to try and fill some of the vacant positions on SACRE, the following action was suggested:

- Lynda Bussley to ask the NASM/UWT and the ASCL (taking the place of the Secondary Heads Association) to nominate representatives.
- Jo Fageant to ask Rabbi Romain about a Judaism representative.
- Jo Fageant to ask the Baha'is about a representative.
- Check with the Rev Andrew Allen as to whether the Town Churches Group could assist regarding representatives of the Black Free Churches and the Roman Catholic Church.
- Check whether Naresh Saraswat remains the Hinduism representative.
- Vacancies remained for 2 Islam representatives and nominees from the NAHT and the ATL.

80. Use of the 2013/14 budget

It was confirmed that a budget of £5,000 was available to SACRE. Whilst unspent monies could not be carried forward to the following year, it was noted a similar budget would be available for 2014/15. Also, RC was asked to enquire about the sum (of approximately £1,800) allocated for, but not spent on, the Montem School RE Centre.

It was appropriate for SACRE to fund from the budget the cost of any Slough teacher attending an RBWM conference on Religious Education (£90) and the School/Academy for obtaining supply cover. RBWM would need to indicate the teachers that had attended re-imbursment of the Conference fee and Schools would need to approach Robin Crofts for re-imbursment of supply cover costs. It would also be possible to fund attendance at any future Farmington Institute Fellowship in Oxford.

81. Update on the Development Plan

It was considered that preparation of the Development Plan should await the appointment of a Professional Adviser, who would be the most appropriate person to progress this.

82. How are your SACRE's activities relevant to supporting excellent school RE?-(Discussion Topic)

Members considered that discussion of this item would be better undertaken as a topic within the development plan. It was suggested that if a development plan action provided for data to be collected about what was currently taking place in schools as collective worship, this would lead to a more informed discussion.

83. NASACRE AGM

Details of the NASACRE AGM taking place on 22nd May 2014 (also European and Borough Election day) were received. Jo Fageant would be attending in her capacity as Secretary.

Resolved - That any member wishing to attend the AGM should inform the Chair, the cost to be borne by the budget.

84. RBWM RE conference open to Slough teachers

Details of an RE Conference "Religious Education to inspire and make an impact" being organised by RBWM on 31st March 2014 were received.

Resolved - That Jo Fageant be asked to update the flyer (with details of SACRE funding for Slough teachers) for distribution by Paul Brotherton (SBC) through the Council's Gatekeeper system.

85. Farmington Fellowships

Details of Farmington Fellowships for teachers of Religious Education and Headteachers were received. It was noted that it was now too late to book for the 2014 Conference; the 2015 Conference was due to take place from 26th – 28th June 2015.

86. Future Meetings Dates and Times

Members were reminded that they had agreed that the time and date of future meetings would be agreed on an ad hoc basis rather than set in the corporate diary. A preference was expressed for two meetings to be held each term (rather than one at present) one of which could possibly take the form of a sub-group with specific topic to consider.

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It was requested that an additional meeting be arranged for Thursday 13th March 2014, commencing at 4.30 pm. Hardip Singh Sohal undertook to investigate whether this could be held at the Khalsa School.

It was noted that the terms of reference for SACRE provided for it to publish each year a report of its proceedings. Although not specified in the terms of reference, Members were of the view that the annual report should be made to the Education and Children's Services Panel. The Clerk undertook to circulate a copy of the terms of reference to all members.

It was noted that SACRE had not appointed a Vice-Chair for the current year. Accordingly it was

Resolved - That Lynda Bussley be appointed Vice-Chair of SACRE for 2013/14.

87. Members attendance record 2013/14

Resolved - That the Members' attendance record be noted.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.30 pm and closed at 6.20 pm)