

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Tuesday, 14th March, 2017.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Julie Siddiqi (Chair) Waqar Bhatti, Sue Elbrow, Aspreet Singh Nainu and Hardip Singh Sohal

Committee 2 – Church of England

Rev Andrew Allen, Christine Isles and Andrea Sparrow

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Linda Lewis and Lynda Bussley

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillors Bedi, Brooker, Parmar and Sarfraz

Apologies for Absence:- Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan

PART 1

26. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 2nd November 2016

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd November 2016 be approved as a correct record.

27. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

28. SACRE Membership Update

The Clerk advised that she would email members regarding the expiry of the term of office.

Members were informed that confirmation had yet to be received from the Area Dean of Oxford regarding the Church of England vacancy and that continued effort was being made to fill the Islam vacancy.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

29. SACRE Member News (An update from Members regarding activities undertaken since the last SACRE meeting)

Councillor Bedi reported that as part of Community Cohesion there were proposals to hold the Holi Festival of Colours in the park next Summer to celebrate diversity. Discussions were still on-going.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 14.03.17

There were discussions on the Lent season, a time of repentance, fasting for 40 days (excluding Sundays) and preparation for the coming of Easter. Rev Andrew Allen announced that many children had participated in Ash Wednesday (The start of Lent) service. It was noted that as well as giving their time, it was also time of being charitable and performing good deeds.

The Chair announced that activities had been organised in Slough to mark Sadaqa Day (A day of social action) on 26th March 2017. Members were invited to attend and to contact the Chair for further information.

It was reported that the 17 Clergy from the Oxford Diocese would be meeting on 23rd March 2017.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

30. SACRE Annual Report

Members noted and agreed the SACRE Annual report subject to it being amended to record Cllr Bedi's attendance and clarified that Lent Rise School was in Buckinghamshire.

Members discussed the exam results section of the Annual Report and commented that the low numbers of students taking Religious Education (RE) A level exams at Beechwood, Wexham and St Joseph's Catholic Schools was disappointing. However, it was acknowledged that whilst students were required to follow an RE course, they did not have to sit the exams and this may have been reflected in the results.

Anne Andrews (Professional Advisor for this meeting) suggested that it would be useful to compare the results for each school with other subjects taken by student to get a fuller picture.

With regard to a request for training to be provided for A level RE teachers, it was noted that targeting training for teachers at this level would be difficult and that it would be more appropriate to recommend that schools explored training provided by exam boards. The SACRE Advisor would investigate the issue.

Resolved – That the SACRE Annual report be approved subject to the amendments set out above.

31. RE Resourcing Catalogue Update

It was confirmed that the Resources Catalogue Project was in progress and 8 boxes of resources had been accumulated to date. Due to the difficulty in accessing the boxes whilst building work was going on at St Mary's School, there had been delay in photographing the items.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

32. Joint SACRE Meetings Update

Anne Andrews, gave an update on the recent Joint SACRE meeting as follows:

- Crossing the Bridge project was in progress.
- Training held on the 23 February 2017 at a Baptist Church in Wokingham was well attended with positive feedback.
- A second day of training had been rescheduled.
- A Hub meeting had been arranged for 25th April 2017 (starting at 4pm), followed immediately after by a general training session between 5.45pm and 7pm for members new to SACRE. Details would be circulated to SACRE members in due course. The Chair gave apologies for the meeting, as she had been invited to give a talk on Muslim/Jewish at a university. Members were invited to consider attending to ensure Slough SACRE was represented.
- The review of locally agreed syllabus this year, which was required to be reviewed every 5 years.
- The Crossing the Bridge Directory was in progress – current list would be provided by Catherine Jinkerson (who was collating the directory) and circulated to members to check that the details of their places of worship/organisations were included.

It was reported that the Crossing the Bridge mini bus had not visited the Hindu Temple in Slough. Cllr Bedi agreed to approach the temple about nominating Hindu representative on the Slough SACRE.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

33. Community Cohesion Group's Multi-Cultural Event

Cllr Bedi gave an update on the 'Dance in Unity' event to be held on 20th May 2017 at the Slough Town Centre. It was confirmed that Slough was the second most diverse town in London and the event was aimed at capturing the diverse range music and dance in the Community.

Once the details and costings had been approved, residents would be invited to attend in their national outfits and anticipated that they would walk from the Curve to the Town Centre. The event would be a family event.

Sue Elbrow would provide Cllr Bedi with details of a Sikh dance group, currently unrepresented on the draft list.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

34. Member's Attendance Record

Resolved – That the Members Attendance Record be noted.

35. Date of Next Meeting - TBC

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 14.03.17

It was agreed that the Clerk would confirm the date of the next meeting via email and suggested that the meeting be held after Ramadan close to the end of June 2017.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.35 pm and closed at 5.55 pm)