

## **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Wednesday, 27th June, 2018**

### **Present:-**

#### **Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths**

Sue Elbrow, Waqar Bhatti, Hardip Singh Sohal and Ashpreet Singh Nainu

#### **Committee 2 – Church of England**

Rev Andrea Allen

#### **Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations**

Lynda Bussley (Chair for this meeting) and Linda Lewis

#### **Committee 4 – Representatives of the Local Authority**

Councillors BS Bains, Bedi, Brooker and Smith

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillor Sharif and Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan, Julie Siddiqi, Isles, Sparrow and Abbas-Bowkan

### **CHAIR OF THE MEETING**

SACRE members appointed Lynda Bussley as chair for this meeting.

### **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

Members introduced themselves and welcomed Mr Gulzari Lal Babber to the meeting as an observer and a prospective Hindu representative.

### **35. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 7th March 2018**

**Resolved** - That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 March 2018 be approved as a correct record subjected to 'Aspreet' being amended to read 'Ashpreet'.

### **36. Matters Arising**

Brain Crisell, professional advisor reported that 30 responses had been received to date from head teachers confirming the names of the leads/co-ordinators of Religious Education (RE) in their schools.

It was agreed that the RE resourcing catalogue project should be included as standard item on the SACRE agenda. The resources were currently being stored at St Mary's CE Primary School.

**Resolved** – That the update be noted.

*Hardip Singh Sohal joined the meeting.*

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### **37. SACRE Membership Update**

The Clerk advised that the Council had appointed Shujah Hamid as a Sikh representative on SACRE and that all membership vacancies for this group had been filled.

Linda Lewis announced that she would be standing down as the VOICE representative member on SACRE at the close of this meeting.

SACRE gave a vote of thanks to Ms Lewis for all the work and support she had provided during her membership. Members commended Ms Lewis for her commitment and contribution to SACRE and extended good wishes for the future.

**Resolved** – That the update be noted.

### **38. SACRE Membership News (An update from members regarding activities undertaken since the last SACRE meeting)**

Councillor Brooker announced that he had retired after serving as a Church Warden for six years.

SACRE members were warmly invited to the following events:

- International Sunday event at Theatre Royal Windsor – Sunday 8 July 2018.
- Dharmic Mela 2018 event at Khalsa Primary School – Sunday 1 July 2018

Further details regarding the above events would be sent to the Clerk for circulation by e-mail to all members for information.

**Resolved** – That the update be noted.

### **39. Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub Meeting Notes and Prompts - Summer/Spring Term 2018**

The professional advisor updated members on the Pan-Berkshire Summer Term Hub meeting held at Shut End, Wokingham on 24 April 2018.

It was noted that the future of the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub had been the main discussion at the meeting. The Hub had been initially set up in order to pool resources, offer consistency across the six Local Authorities (Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, Slough Borough Council, West Berkshire Council, Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council) to work on joint projects, primarily, the Crossing the Bridge Project and revising the Agreed Syllabus.

The issue was raised about the future of the Hub and whether the six SACREs would wish to continue subscribing to ensure its continuation now

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that the joint venture on the Agreed Syllabus was nearing completion. The consensus at the meeting was for joint working between the six councils to continue via the Hub subject to sufficient funding contributions being received from the six councils.

Funding subscription of £1700 in 2017-2018 from each of the councils had included the cost of work on the review of the Agreed Syllabus which had been completed and the final draft was being reported to the Agreed Syllabus Conference meeting for approval on the rising of the SACRE meeting. Subsequently, the contribution for 2018-2019 had therefore been costed at a reduced rate of £900.

It was noted there had been lengthy discussion on draft Agreed Syllabus review at the meeting as detailed in the notes of the meeting attached to this agenda. There had also been a long discussion relating to secular teaching where the question was raised about the consensus following consultation to specify Humanism as the study of a non-religious world wide view in Key Stage 3. Nevertheless, it was noted that schools could add additional religious and belief systems as relevant to their community.

The professional advisor had been the sole representative at the meeting and members were reminded that the Hub meetings were open to all SACRE members.

Members noted the Slough SACRE would be launching the revised Agreed Syllabus on Thursday 12 July 2018 from 1pm to 4.40pm at Eden Girls' School.

**Resolved** – That the update be noted.

### **40. Pan-Berkshire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Review 2018-2023 - Update**

Members received the final Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2018-2023, which was being reported to the Agreed Syllabus Conference meeting at the rising of the SACRE meeting for approval.

During discussion, the question of students over the age 14 not taking RE as an exam subject at GCSE was raised. The professional advisor explained that schools were legally required to provide GCSE RE course work but there was no statutory requirement for students to take an exam in the subject. It was also highlighted academies were not required to adopt the Slough Agreed Syllabus but under the terms of their Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State, academies were required to provide RE for all their pupils, except for those whose parents exercised the right of withdrawal.

The SACRE discussed whether there were any measures in place at schools for pupils at KS3 who were not taking GCSE RE and considered that it would be useful to put this question to Heads/ Re Leads at secondary schools. For

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schools that did not have any provisions, Slough SACRE could offer support by assisting in the provision of materials resources.

It was agreed that the Chair and the professional advisor would draft a letter to be sent to schools after GCSE results data had been published. Members discussed that RE provision at KS3 for non-GCSE pupils should be included on the agenda for the next meeting and requested the GCSE results for RE as well as Maths and English to be provided to enable comparison/analysis to be made.

### **Resolved:**

- i) That the Chair and professional advisor draft a letter to head teachers and RE leads/co-ordinators requesting details about the provisions in place for non-GCSE RE students at the school and ask what material resources they may require that SACRE could support the schools with.
- ii) That data for RE, Maths and English GCSE Exam results be provided at the next SACRE meeting.

### **41. Invitation to the launch of the new Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education for Slough - Thursday 12th July 2018**

Members noted the invitation and programme for the Agreed Syllabus launched on 12 July 2018 aimed at RE teachers and RE leads.

All SACRE members were warmly invited to attend and would be sent the invitation electronically so places could be booked directly.

**Resolved** – That the Invitation to the launch of the new Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education for Slough on 12 July 2018 be noted.

### **42. SACRE Finance - Update**

It was discussed that the sum of £1,300 should be ring fenced to fund the provision of RE resources.

After due consideration and discussion, members decided to continue to subscribe to the Pan Berkshire SACRE Hub and agreed to make the required contribution of £900 for 2018-2019. It was noted that details of forthcoming projects would be confirmed in due course.

**Resolved** – That the sum of £900 be agreed as contribution to the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub for 2018-2019.

### **43. Update on Costed Draft Action Plan for 2018 - 2019**

The professional advisor presented the draft Action Plan for April 2018 – March 2019.

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Members noted that £1,800 had been spent to date and requested a breakdown to be provided so that it was clear which aspects of the action plan had been funded.

The total cost of funding the proposed actions set out in the Action Plan amounted to £3,472.50, excluding the cost of distributing the Agreed Syllabus to schools once it had been approved by Cabinet in July 2018.

**Resolved** – That the costed update on the Draft Action Plan for 2018 – 2019 be noted.

### **44. Information Items:**

**Resolved** - That the following circulated information items be note:

- i) Diversity of Religion and Belief: A guidance and resource pack for primary schools in England and Wales - Executive Summary (Resource pack is available on request from the SACRE Clerk)
- ii) National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) Briefing: Issue 18 – please click on the link below to access:  
<https://mailchi.mp/4f695192a0a2/6g3v9uvmy6-1233061?e=63a7f02ab2>
- iii) The 67<sup>th</sup> Buddhist Society Summer School

### **45. SACRE Members' Attendance Record**

**Resolved** – That the Members' attendance record be noted.

### **46. Date of next Meeting - Wednesday 7th November 2018**

It was agreed that the next meeting be held at the Slough Hindu Temple and it be rescheduled to Wednesday 14 November 2018 due the Diwali festival celebration taking place in the Temple on 7 November 2018.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.35 pm and closed at 5.47 pm)