

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th October, 2011.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Sue Elbrow (Free Churches), Vijay Gupta (Hinduism, attending as deputy)

Committee 2 – Church of England

Andrew Allen, Alan Bignell, Jo Fageant and Christine Isles

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Lynda Bussley (NUT)

Committee 4 – Representatives of the Local Authority

Councillors Bains, Basharat and M S Mann

Apologies for Absence:- None

PART 1

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Resolved:- That Jo Fageant be re-elected Chair and Lynda Bussley be elected Vice Chair for the year 2011/12.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 14/06/2011

The minutes of the meeting held of 14th June 2011 were held to be a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

4. Membership update

The Clerk provided the panel with a list of members and vacancies. It was noted that four representatives had been identified via Julie Siddiqi and the Muslim Community Forum and these would be appointed to the SACRE before the next meeting. Representatives to fill vacancies from Teacher Associations would also be sought.

5. RE Trail update (Lynda Bussley)

The members were updated on the progress of the RE Trail. Lynda Bussley explained that the mosaic is currently being worked on by Year 6 children in Chalvey and a leaflet is the process of being printed.

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6. CPD update (discussion of plans for shared meetings with RBWM)

The Chair outlined the possibility of collaboration with other authorities for professional development courses organised by the Diocese of Oxford. There are three courses upcoming, covering the syllabus review, Art & RE and Global Citizenship. The cost of these courses would be £100 pounds per head.

Resolved:- That the SACRE advise the Local Authority to look into partnership with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and other authorities in Berkshire with a view to enlist teaching staff on development courses.

7. NASACRE news (Jo Fageant)

The Chair advised that the panel wait until after the appointment of new representatives to the Slough SACRE that the SACRE assess sections of NASACRE guidance. Also, it noted that NASACRE guidance would inform the upcoming Annual Syllabus Review in Slough.

Members were informed by the Chair that current issues for NASACRE are the omission of RE from the English Baccalaureate. There are also concerns that support to SACREs is diminishing as a result of cuts to Local Authority budgets.

It was also noted that the Chair, Jo Fageant is also a member of the NASACRE board and so will update the Slough SACRE on any developments.

8. Joint SACREs Conference Report

The Joint SACREs Conference Report was noted by the membership. This was the result of a recent conference held in Reading, attended by around 200 delegates.

The members were encouraged by the positive response regarding teachers' confidence with the syllabus. However, concerns were raised whether this was a reliable, as the responses had been not gathered from many schools. During discussion it was felt that the future syllabus, when distributed to schools, would benefit from having a sheet explaining the role of the teacher in Religious Education.

Also noted was a survey released by the Office for National Statistics in 2010, which found 93% of people in the Slough said they had a religious affiliation, the highest in the country.

9. Annual SACRE report

The draft Annual SACRE Report was discussed and possible amendments discussed. It was noted that Members were not able to easily interpret tables

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and diagrams contained within the report without a representative from the Local Authority's Education Department present at the meeting.

Resolved:- That amendments be made and a final report be sent to NASACRE and the Secretary of State for Education before the end of the year.

10. SACRE Development Plan (outline to be tabled at the meeting - Jo Fageant)

The Chair tabled the SACRE Development Plan. The proposed SACRE newsletter was discussed, with agreement that a termly newsletter informing local RE teachers of the work of the SACRE.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 8th February 2012.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.30 pm and closed at 5.35 pm)

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