

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Monday, 18th June, 2012.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Zara Choudhary (Islam), Hardip Singh Sohal (Sikhism)

Committee 2 – Church of England

Jo Fageant (Chair), Christine Isles

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Lynda Bussley (National Union of Teachers)

Committee 4 – Representatives of the Local Authority

Councillors Bains, Brooker, M S Mann and Wright

Also in attendance

Maggie Stacey (LA support), Ashpreet Singh (observer)

Apologies for Absence:- None

PART 1

23. Minutes of the last meeting held on 8th February, 2012

Resolved - That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved subject to an amendment made on item 15.

24. NASACRE AGM - Jo Fageant

Jo Fageant, Chair of the Slough SACRE reported to the Committee on the Annual General Meeting of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) held on 23rd May. Professor Robert Jackson of the University of Warwick, amongst other speakers, spoke about Religious Education (RE) projects across UK and Europe. The Chair encouraged the Committee to view the minutes of the meeting on the NASACRE website.

The Committee was also given information about the upcoming review of the non-statutory national framework for RE. The Religious Education Council (REC) of England and Wales would also soon be introducing an RE Quality Mark (REQM) to recognise good practice in RE. Furthermore, an All Party Parliamentary Group on RE had recently been established and national groups on RE would be working with this newly launched body.

Resolved - That the update on the NASACRE AGM be noted.

25. Religious Education Council AGM - Jo Fageant

The Committee received a short update from the Chair, Jo Fageant on the Religious Education Council AGM, on which she sat as the National

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representative of SACREs. The Schools Minister, Nick Gibb spoke at this meeting and had invited the REC to produce guidance on what made good RE teaching. The Chair encouraged the Committee to view the minutes of the meeting on the REC website.

Resolved - That the update on the REC AGM be noted.

26. LA Support and budget update

The Clerk updated the Committee on the support from the Local Authority to the SACRE in terms of budget and personnel. The Clerk had recently been informed by the Assistant Director, Inclusion, Robin Crofts that it had been agreed that Mrs Maggie Stacey, Headteacher of St Anthony's RC Primary School would now provide this support to the SACRE on behalf of the Local Authority.

The Committee also expressed concern over the lack of information provided on the budget and requested that this be followed up after the meeting.

Resolved - That the update on Local Authority support and budget be noted and that further information be sought on funds available.

27. Syllabus publication and launch

The Chair briefly outlined the progress made on the syllabus publication and launch, though further detail was held back for the meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference due to take place following the SACRE. It had been proposed that Slough Borough Council combine the launch of their syllabus with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

Resolved - That the update on the syllabus publication and launch be noted.

28. Date of the next meeting - 22nd October, 2012

Resolved - That the next meeting be held on 22nd October 2012. A few of a members suggested that future SACRE meetings not be held on Mondays as this was not convenient for all. It was also agreed that the next agenda would include an item on Religious Education training.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.37 pm and closed at 5.10 pm)