

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Monday, 22nd October, 2012.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Councillors Julie Siddiqi (Islam), Hardip Singh Sohal (Sikhism), Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan (Islam) and Sue Elbrow (Free Churches)

Committee 2 – Church of England

Jo Fageant (Chair), Christine Isles, Reverend Andrew Allen

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Lynda Bussley (National Union of Teachers)

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillors Bains, Brooker and M S Mann

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Aujla and Wright, and Zara Choudhary (Islam)

PART 1

29. Declarations of interest

None were received.

30. Election of Chair

The nomination of Jo Fageant was moved and seconded.

Resolved – That Jo Fageant be appointed Chair of the SACRE for the 2012 / 2013 municipal year.

(Jo Fageant in the Chair)

31. Election of Vice-Chair

The nomination of Julie Siddiqi was moved and seconded.

Resolved – That Julie Siddiqi be appointed Vice-Chair of SACRE for the 2012 / 2013 municipal year.

32. Minutes of the last SACRE meeting held on 18th June 2012

The Minutes of the last SACRE meeting held on 18th June 2012 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising - LA Support

A Committee Member was concerned that other than the administration of the meeting by a Democratic Services Officer, there was no other support provided to the SACRE by the Authority and this was an important issue.

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It was suggested that the LA Councillors present could influence their colleagues to seek support for the SACRE.

It was agreed that Jo Fageant would liaise with Teresa Clark to compile a letter requesting support that would be forwarded to the relevant Director (Jane Wood, Director of Wellbeing) for response.

ACTION - Jo Fageant and Teresa Clark

33. Minutes of the last meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 18th June 2012

The minutes of the last meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 18th June 2012 were approved as a correct record.

34. Report on the launch of the new RE syllabus

Jo Fageant provided an update on the new agreed RE Syllabus which had been launched at a recent event. It was noted that Slough BC had not launched the Syllabus and 26 copies had been provided for circulation to schools who had not attended the event. A Member felt that this was a good example of lack of communication/ support because many people were not aware of the event.

It was agreed that Teresa Clark would make enquiries about putting the syllabus on the Council's website and also attach the document to the minutes of the meeting as a tabled document.

ACTION - Jo Fageant to send final syllabus document to Teresa Clark.
Teresa Clark to publish as above.

35. Budget update

Jo Fageant advised that the outstanding budget was £1660. Of this amount there would be an invoice for £1250 for 50 copies of the RE Syllabus document which cost £25 per copy-check this –is £24 in RBWM's minutes. There was also an outstanding amount of £204 for the contribution to the design work. It was suggested that The RBWM invoice half Jo Fageant's fee as they had funded all of the venue and other costs. This would result in a budget balance of £6.

The Committee was advised that Linda's school- Montem Primary, has £1483 in the budget which was a residue of the RE Centre funds. It was noted that RBWM had scheduled training days for teachers and Jo Fageant asked the Committee to consider whether RBWM could be allowed to make a claim against this budget to fund the twilight meetings which were budget related in order that Slough teachers can legitimately be invited to these meetings.

The Committee agree in principle that RBWM could make a maximum claim of £200 for the next twilight meeting and Jo Fageant would sort out the detail.

ACTION - Jo Fageant

The Committee requested that dates of the twilight meetings would be obtained and circulated to Members.

ACTION - Jo Fageant to provide for Teresa Clark to circulate.

Lynda Bussley commented that she had never seen the Budget amount of £1600 identified in the school budget and asked what the budget would be for the following year. It was agreed that this information would be provided in the letter that Jo Fageant would prepare.

ACTION - Jo Fageant

36. National and local update - verbal report

Jo Fageant advised that it was not known how Religious Education would fit into the new proposed 'E Bac' system (Baccalaureate) which could replace GCSE's.

There was anecdotal evidence that more children were taking the full course education option. The Committee was also advised that the government was happy for the Religious Education Council (REC) to review education but this was not funded by the government and not statutory. All SACRES would be allowed to comment on the REC's findings.

A member asked how the delivery of RE in schools was monitored and Jo Fageant advised that this was one of the responsibilities of SACRE who also published the syllabus. It was highlighted that SACRE used to do this through a monitoring of Ofsted reports which then had made comment on RE provision and quality. This is no longer the case in Ofsted reports and no satisfactory alternative method of fulfilling this aspect of the SACRE's responsibility has been found.

Resolved - That the update report be noted.

37. Annual SACRE Report

Jo Fageant placed on record her thanks to Simon Fullwood for the excellent report he had provided.

It was noted that the attendance record relating to Ms Osborne was incorrect as sadly, Ms Osborne had passed away prior to the beginning of the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

Members also discussed the attendance record of Kevin Walker, (The Roman Catholic Church) and Dr Igan Hayati (Baha'is). Neither Member had attended any of the meetings held during the report period.

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It was agreed that the Democratic Services Officer would contact the respective Members to discuss their membership with reference to Para 5 of the Terms of Reference.

ACTION - Teresa Clark

Jo Fageant advised that the report would be forwarded to the National Association of SACRES and it was agreed that the format of the annual report should be reviewed in future.

ACTION - Jo Fageant

38. Forward planning

Members discussed future issues that the SACRE could examine. It was suggested that Members bring examples of work that had undertaken to the next meeting. It was also highlighted that a Member would liaise with a SACRE Member in Leicester and report back on the issues that were being addressed. The Slough SACRE could then develop an Action Plan to consider future work.

It was agreed that a briefing paper would be presented to the next meeting.

ACTION - Jo Fageant

39. Date of Next Meeting - 6th February 2013

Chair

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