

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Monday, 17th June, 2013.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Julie Siddiqi (Islam), Sue Elbrow (Free Churches), Harpreet Singh Sohal (Sikhism), Ashpreet Singh Nainu (Sikhism)

Committee 2 – Church of England

Jo Fageant (Chair), Christine Isles

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Lynda Bussley

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillors Brooker, Chaudhry and M S Mann

Apologies for Absence:- Rev Allen

PART 1

49. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved – That the minutes of the last meeting be approved as a correct record.

50. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

51. Membership of SACRE 2013/14

Members noted the slight change to the membership of the SACRE Committee and showed concern over the large number of vacancies. In the discussion that followed the Panel thought of a number of ways in which those vacancies could be advertised.

Resolved – That a meeting takes place between the Chair and the Commissioner for Education and Children as to the most effective way of advertising and filling vacancies.

52. Support for Slough SACRE - Discussion with the Commissioner for Education & Children

The Commissioner for Education and Children joined the SACRE meeting to discuss the support of SACRE and what the Local Authority could do to take a more proactive approach in helping SACRE achieve its goals. During the discussion the Chair explained to the Commissioner that SACRE has no direct link to the Local Authority and Officers do not attend the

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meetings which makes it difficult in understanding what remit SACRE has to work in.

The Commissioner showed a keen interest in helping SACRE forge the links needed with the Local Authority and said that an officer would have direct responsibility in the future for liaising with SACRE. Furthermore, the Commissioner for Education and Children showed a desire to attend future meetings of SACRE and expressed her wish to hold further meetings with the Chair so that she could get a better understanding as to what she could do to help with the development of SACRE.

Resolved – That the Commissioner for Education and Children meet with the Chair and the Clerk of SACRE to discuss in further detail how the plans and objectives of the Panel can be met with the support of the Local Authority.

53. Verbal update on meeting with Robin Crofts

The Panel were informed that the Chair and Clerk of SACRE attended a meeting with the AD for Achievement & Inclusion about the budget available for SACRE in the municipal year 2013/2014.

During the discussion the Assistant Director was made aware of the budget needed in order for SACRE to function effectively and showed a keen interest and support for the work of SACRE and the objectives that the Committee is trying to meet.

Resolved – That SACRE be allocated a budget of £5,000 for the municipal year 2013/14.

54. SACRE Budget 2013/14

A budget of £5,000 was made available to SACRE for the municipal year 2013/14 which would help towards the funding of 3 Twilight sessions, the production of 3 newsletters as well as provide the necessary cost of organising and running a syllabus based Slough school competition.

Resolved – That the SACRE budget for the municipal year 2013/14 be noted.

55. Joint SACRE Conference - verbal report

The Chair presented a verbal update report to Members on the recent joint SACRE Conference. The Panel noted that even though attendance wasn't as hoped the discussions that took place were very positive and was interesting to see what other SACRE's are doing differently to Slough based on the diversity of the local communities.

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In the discussion that followed the Panel suggested that a Youth SACRE Group be set up so that young people can speak about their faith in local primary schools. Not only would this help to promote SACRE, it would also help to engage local school's and teach children about different faith's and religions from a young age.

Resolved – That the verbal report on the Joint SACRE Conference be noted.

56. Verbal update on NASACRE AGM & matters arising for Slough SACRE

The Chair informed Members that details of the recent NASACRE AGM could be obtained from the NASACRE website. The Panel noted that membership to the website costs £95 per year and during the discussion that followed Members felt that it was important to continue to pay the membership fee so that the Panel has access to resources and information as well as maintain the right to attend the AGM.

Resolved – That SACRE continues to pay the membership fee for the foreseeable future.

57. Support for Slough Schools: Ideas for a Conference and a Competition

The Panel discussed ideas for a newsletter that could be distributed to Slough schools. It was agreed that the newsletter should feature information items such as the RE Quality Mark that is available to all schools as well upcoming training courses for teachers within the Borough.

In addition to this Members also showed an interest in creating a shared website with other SACRE's that could be used to provide information and resources as well as act as a forum for discussion on local religious issues.

Furthermore a discussion also took place as to what form the competition for Slough schools should take. It was agreed that the competition should be based on the question 'what is peace?' and all entries should be in paper form and there should be a limited number of entries per school.

Resolved – a) That the Chair liaises with the Commissioner for Children and Education and with other SACRE's within the Borough with regard to setting up and running a shared website.
b) That Julie Siddiqi formats the competition and sends to Members for approval

58. Academies and the teaching of RE and Collective Worship

Resolved – That the report on the Academies and the teaching of RE and Collective Worship be noted.

59. NASACRE Summer Newsletter

Resolved – That the NASACRE Summer Newsletter be noted.

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60. Date of Next Meeting - 21 October 2013

Resolved – That the next meeting be held on 21st October 2013

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.35pm and closed at 6.30pm)