

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on
Thursday, 13th March, 2014.**

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Councillor Brooker, Councillor Chaudhry, Councillor M. S. Mann, Christine Isles, Julie Siddiqi, Sue Elbrow, Ashpreet Singh Nainu, Hardip Singh Sohal

Committee 2 – Church of England

Rev. A. S. Allen

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Lynda Bussley

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Apologies for Absence:- Jo Fageant and Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan

PART 1

88. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 5th February 2014

Resolved – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 5th February 2014 were approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

Minute 79 – Linda Lewis was nominated as representative of Voice (formerly the Professional Association of Teachers), subject to approval by Council.

Minute 80 – The reference to Montem School RE Centre should read as the Montem School RE Trail.

89. Matters Arising

None.

90. SACRE Membership 2013/14 Update

Consideration was given to the current SACRE membership, wherein an update on the actions taken to fill the vacant positions was delivered.

In summary:

- Black Free Churches: Nominations had been requested from the church, and responses were awaited.
- Hinduism: Naresh Saraswat had confirmed his resignation from SACRE, though would ensure nominations for his successor were put forward.

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- Islam: A nomination from the Diamond Road Mosque had been received. A response had subsequently been sent thanking the Mosque for the nomination, and advising that additional nominations would also be considered. As such, a final decision remained on hold. Julie Siddiqi was to follow up with approaches to community groups regarding those nominations, with a further review to be held at the next SACRE meeting.
- Judaism: Jo Fageant, in absence, advised that the previously nominated candidate was no longer available. As such, Jo and Christine Isles were to approach the Synagogue for new nominations.
- Sikhism: Jo Fageant would continue to look into acquiring nominations.
- C of E: Jo Fageant would continue to source nominations.

In addition, the appointment of Linda Lewis as representative of Voice to SACRE was discussed. It was confirmed that members must be appointed by Council. SACRE was eager to progress this matter and welcome Linda as a fully fledged member, and so the options to expedite this were put forward.

Subsequently, it was agreed that Linda's nomination be put forward to Council at its next meeting in June, together with other appointments.

Finally, the length of SACRE membership was confirmed as three years. It was agreed that confirmation of this term length would be added to all documentation when appointing new members. At the culmination of their three year term, members could then be put forward to continue for a further three years.

91. Update on the Appointment of a Professional Advisor (Robin Crofts)

Robin Crofts had submitted his apologies, but Julie Siddiqi confirmed on his behalf that the tender to appoint a Professional Advisor was not yet finalised. SACRE requested that an update be provided in two weeks time, to be circulated to members.

92. Develop a Vision for the work of SACRE in the next Financial Year

The aim of SACRE in promoting quality Religious Education in schools, and collective worship, was discussed.

The ideas put forward were:

- SACRE should be doing more to use the people of Slough as a resource, together with a sharing of best practice between schools and religious communities. For example, it was confirmed that children in C of E schools were empowered to plan and deliver collective worship, a task that allowed the children to enjoy themselves whilst becoming actively involved with Religious Education. Guidance on how these lessons were delivered should be shared. Teachers should be able to visit each other and discuss such best practice.

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- Slough has a large number of religious sites and places of worship that could be used for school visits. Children greatly enjoy and learn from such visits, though it was acknowledged that the tours should be administered by people with the appropriate training, to ensure the children are getting the most possible from such visits. These could include twilight visits, for example 4.30 to 6.00 pm. The potential cost to transport the children to such places was acknowledged.
- Slough SACRE could be doing more to cooperate with Windsor & Maidenhead, though with the caveat that there may be budgetary concerns.
- Potential use of Learning Outside the Classroom (LOTC) could be explored.
- A newsletter was deemed an excellent idea, to be forwarded to school RE coordinators. If schools do not have a coordinator, an email could be sent to the general email inbox (e.g. post@school.uk etc) for dissemination.

With regards to actioning the above, it was agreed that these items would be passed to the Professional Advisor, once appointed.

93. Future Meeting Dates and Times

Further to SACRE's previous request for six meetings rather than three, it was confirmed that Democratic Services was resourced for 3 meetings throughout the year. It was suggested that 4 meetings could likely be accommodated, whilst SACRE members could meet together, at informal meetings, should they be required.

94. Date of Next Meeting-TBA

Resolved – That the next meeting be set for either the 11th or 18th June 2014, at St. Mary's Church, at 4.30 pm. Officers to confirm date with SACRE members.

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.37 pm and closed at 5.45 pm)