

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Wednesday, 24th February, 2016.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Waqar Bhatti, Ashpreet Singh Nainu, Hardip Singh Sohal

Committee 2 – Church of England

Christine Isles, Andrea Sparrow

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Lynda Bussley, Linda Lewis

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillor Brooker

Other:-

Jo Fageant – Professional Advisor, Robin Crofts – Director of Education

Apologies for Absence:-

Julie Siddiqi, Sue Elbrow, Rob Simpson, Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan, Rev Andrew Allen, Cllr Dhaliwal, Cllr Rana

PART 1

31. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 12th October 2015

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2015 be approved as a correct record.

32. Matters Arising

The clerk confirmed that additional documents had now been added to the SACRE website, including the latest newsletter, the Pan-Berkshire RE Syllabus, and materials for use when conducting visits to Places of Worship.

It was requested that details of the number of visitors to the website be confirmed to SACRE members, if possible.

33. SACRE Membership Update - Democratic Services

The clerk confirmed that there had been no change to SACRE membership since the last meeting, and highlighted the remaining vacancies to be filled.

Members agreed to continue attempting to secure new members for the vacant roles.

34. SACRE Member News - An update from Members regarding activities undertaken since the last SACRE meeting - Julie Siddiqi

Andrea Sparrow notified members of the forthcoming SEEFF Conference, entitled 'Living with Difference: Religion in a Diverse Society'. The event was scheduled to be held on Thursday, 1st September at Christ Church, Oxford. Further details would be provided closer to the date of the event.

Councillor Brooker confirmed that he had been asked to join the Slough Community and Cohesion Group. In addition, Churchmead School (for which he acted as a Governor) had recently had a SIAMS Church School inspection, and had been rated 'outstanding'.

35. Open The Book - Andrea Sparrow

Andrea Sparrow, Church of England representative, confirmed that Lent Rise School had confirmed that they were able to meet and discuss the Open The Book service in the coming weeks. Ms Sparrow confirmed that she would update SACRE members once this meeting had taken place, via a written update for further dissemination by the clerk.

36. RE Resource Cataloguing Project - Waqar Bhatti/Jo Fageant

Waqar Bhatti confirmed that, due to other commitments, he had been unable to carry out the cataloguing task however was still keen to help. Lynda Bussley, Slough NUT, confirmed that she was also eager to help, (calendar permitting). Jo Fageant confirmed that Bracknell Forest had a catalogue that could be used as Slough's model.

It was agreed that Mr Bhatti and Mrs Bussley would liaise with Linda Lewis, VOICE, to arrange a date to view the materials and determine the best way forward.

37. Report, Comments & Feedback from Joint SACRE Meetings - Jo Fageant

Jo Fageant, Professional Advisor to Slough SACRE, updated members on the outcome of a recent Joint SACRE meeting, held on 15th December 2015.

The meeting was attended by representatives of all 6 Berkshire SACRES, and had discussed how to progress partnership working and the relevant next steps.

Following the meeting, several actions had been agreed, including the proposal for appointment of a coordinator for the Berkshire SACRES Hub, with responsibility for:

- Scheduling regular Hub meetings from Spring term 2016
- Communicating minutes/project opportunities and good practice across the 6 SACRES
- Drafting and costing a Hub work plan to be agreed by all 6 SACRES

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- Drafting and costing a plan for the agreed syllabus review process
- Leading on the RE syllabus review

In addition, it was proposed that a coordinator for the continuing 'Crossing the Bridges' project be appointed, with responsibility for:

- Organising the project activities, including annual training for visit hosts etc.)
- Delivering annual training for faith hosts
- Developing resources to support visits
- Ensuring SACREs remained informed and updated on the project.

Projected costs for the above were confirmed as:

Total required for 2015-16 per SACRE = £734-817 (2-3 days of Hub coordinator time, respectively)

Total required for 2016-17 per SACRE - £1,450-£1,700 (2-3 days of Hub coordinator time, respectively)

Proposed funding for the syllabus review had not been confirmed, though for previous reviews each SACRE had contributed approximately £4,000 over two financial years, and it was felt that this would be sufficient to cover the costs of any future review. The Hub coordinator role could also be partly or wholly funded from syllabus review budgets. It was highlighted that any review could conclude that changes to the syllabus were not necessary, which would reduce any applicable costs.

Ms Fageant confirmed that Jan Lever had expressed a willingness to take on the above roles, and requested that Slough SACRE consider what response they wished to make.

Members deliberated, and agreed that they were happy to be part of a joint RE syllabus review, and were keen to progress the Crossing the Bridges project. Members therefore agreed that they were in favour of the above proposed appointments, and the cost implications were noted.

Resolved - That Slough SACRE make financial contributions to the Joint SACRE Hub for the appointment of a Hub Coordinator, the Crossing the Bridges Project, and a joint review of the RE syllabus.

38. **A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools - Sub-Committee response - Jo Fageant**

Slough SACRE's formal response to NASACRE was noted, and it was expected that NASACRE would make a general response to all SACRES, potentially at the future AGM to be held in May 2016.

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It was agreed that details of the AGM be forwarded to SACRE Members via the clerk.

39. SACRE Newsletter - Jo Fageant

Jo Fageant, Professional Advisor, set out the new Spring 2016 newsletter. Feedback to the newsletter was positive, and in particular that it was streamlined and easy to read.

It was agreed that the newsletter be forwarded as a hardcopy to all Slough Schools via Gatekeeper, subject to a small amendment regarding the date.

40. Examination results: Slough RE - Robin Crofts

Robin Crofts, Director of Education, briefed SACRE on the recent GCSE results for Religious Education within Slough schools.

The results were noted, and SACRE was happy at the overall standard of results within Slough. Particular reference was made to the attainment of students at Langley Grammar School, which was very good.

The numbers of students undertaking RE examinations was noted as varying from school to school, and confirmation was sought regarding the provision for students to receive religious education without being entered to sit exams. For example, did the school provide a short course?

It was agreed that the Director of Education write to all Slough schools and ask them to confirm what provision for Religious Education was made available to their students.

41. SACRE Finance Update - Robin Crofts

Robin Crofts, Director of Education, confirmed that Slough SACRE had spent £500 within the current financial year. However, it was recognised that there was additional spend currently being processed, (for example Professional Advisor expenses related to production of the newsletter, various meetings etc.) totalling approximately £1,100. Therefore, £1,600 remained in core funding, alongside supplementary funding from the Dedicated Schools Budget, totalling £2,600.

It was confirmed that if unspent, the Dedicated Schools Budget would be put into a pot for schools to determine how best to spend it.

In addition, the £1,300 retained from the Montem Primary School RE Trail was available, though as outlined at previous meetings, the impending end of the Cambridge Education contract would likely necessitate securing someone else to hold this money on behalf of SACRE.

It was agreed that Jo Fageant would liaise with Rob Simpson regarding the feasibility of the Oxford Diocese holding the money. Andrea Sparrow agreed

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to review whether the Upton Cum Chalvey Parish could hold the money for Slough SACRE.

42. SACRE Action Plan Update - Jo Fageant

Jo Fageant, Professional Advisor, introduced the updated Action Plan, noting that many of the actions had now been completed.

Members were informed that the meeting for secondary school RE teachers, focussed on new GCSE and A Level specifications, would likely now take place in the summer term once the specifications had been published.

The half-day session on addressing radicalisation, to be run by Zafar Ali, was still to be scheduled. It was agreed that Andrea Sparrow would forward details of the training to the clerk, once available.

It was agreed that a sub-committee be arranged to discuss the Action Plan for the academic year 2016-17, prior to the next meeting of SACRE. Members of the Sub-Committee were confirmed to be Jo Fageant, Cllr P Brooker, Lynda Bussley, Andrea Sparrow and Waqar Bhatti. A meeting date would be determined by the Sub-Committee members.

43. Member's Attendance Record

The Members Attendance Record was noted.

44. Date of Next Meeting - TBC

It was agreed that the clerk would confirm the date of the next meeting to members via email. It was requested that the meeting be held on a Wednesday, within the first or second week of June 2016.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.35 pm and closed at 6.00 pm)