

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Wednesday, 8th November, 2017

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Julie Siddiqi (Chair), Sue Elbrow, Waqar Bhatti, Hardip Singh Sohal (Vice-Chair) (In-part) and Aspreet Singh Nainu

Committee 2 – Church of England

Rev Andrew Allen, Christine Isles and Andrew Sparrow

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Linda Lewis

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillors Brooker and Parmar

Apologies for Absence: - Councillor Sohal and Lynda Bussley.

Introduction and Welcome

The Chair introduced and welcomed Jan Lever, the new SACRE Advisor and her colleague Brian Crisell to the meeting. Shujah Hamid who was attending as an observer was also welcomed to the meeting as a prospective Islam representative.

13. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 15th July 2017

Resolved - That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th July 2017 be approved as a correct record.

14. Matters Arising

- Christine Isles confirmed permission had been granted for her Church website to be included in the Crossing the Bridge directory.
- Cllr Brooker to follow-up request for the Hindu Temple to also be included in the Places of Worship Directory (the Directory).
- Jan Lever to check and provide details regarding the Slough Baptist Church for inclusion in the Directory.
- Professional Advisor to investigate which RE Co-ordinators in Slough the Pan-Berkshire RE Agreed Syllabus Review 2017-18 Consultation Questionnaire was sent to.
- Members requested for a list of RE Co-ordinators at schools in Slough to be developed.

15. SACRE Membership Update

Updates were provided as follows:

- The Clerk reported that confirmation of Roman Catholic representative by Northampton Diocese was still on-going.
- Cllr Broker advised that he would follow-up possible links to assist in sourcing a Hindu representative.
- Waqar Bhatti to email nomination letter from Slough Community School to the Clerk in order to confirm Shujah Hamid as the final Islam representative.

16. SACRE Membership News (An update from members regarding activities undertaken since the last SACRE meeting)

Slough Faith Partnership Group Events

Andrea Sparrow announced that the Slough Faith Partnership Group had extended invitation to SACRE members to attend their events. Ms Sparrow would send details of forthcoming events to the Clerk for circulation.

Sikh Art Exhibition

The SACRE Advisor encouraged members to attend the Sikh Art Exhibition about the history of the Gurus. It was noted that Ashpreet Singh Nainu would e-mail details regarding the ongoing exhibition at the Guru Maneyo Granth in Bath Road, Slough.

Members agreed to include details about the Sikh Art exhibition in the Schools' News Letter to raise awareness in schools.

The SACRE Advisor would liaise with the Service Lead, School Effectiveness regarding setting up a Council tweeter account to enable details about ongoing events to be shared with schools via social media.

17. Pan-Berkshire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Review 2017-18 Action Time-line

Members were asked to note the overview of the time line set out in the agenda for the Pan Berkshire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Review. This issue would be discussed at the Agreed Syllabus meeting following immediately after this meeting.

The review process commenced in the Summer Term when the questionnaire was sent out focussing mainly on three questions. Feedback to the questionnaire would be reviewed in detail at the Agreed Syllabus meeting. It was noted however, that the overwhelming response from teachers was for the Agreed Syllabus to remain unchanged.

Feedback had also been discussed at Hub meeting in September 2017; a consultation had also been held on 3 and 4 October 2017 with Faith and Belief Groups, where they were required to focus specifically on the subject

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content of the syllabus relating to their religion. It was noted that the next process would be to consider key points from the September and October meetings.

The deadline for the receipt of feedback on the Pan-Berkshire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Review was noted as 8th December 2017 to allow for the first revision to be drafted. The draft would be presented at the SACRE Hub meeting in January 2018 for comments and the revisions would then be reviewed by SACRE in Spring term.

Members were advised that all the revisions were required to be reviewed by the end of March 2018 for the launch to take place in the Summer term. It was anticipated that schools would begin using the revised syllabus in September 2019 as 2018 would be the transition year.

18. Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub - Notes from meeting held on 12th September 2017

Members discussed the notes from the Pan Berkshire SACRE Hub meeting held on 12 September 2017.

The Advisor highlighted the need to provide an induction programme for those new to SACRE and refresher for current members.

Members were advised that although funding for the Crossing the Bridges Project had come to an end, schools needed to be reminded of the need to continue to make use of the project. In particular the work from faith community schools, where teachers had been requesting for contact details of speakers to be provided to visit their schools to speak about their religion. Likewise, Places of Worship had been keen to welcome school visits.

It was noted that common sets of booking forms and evaluation forms had been developed and uploaded online for ease of access. In addition, teaching resources were also available for teachers to access on each of the 6 SACRE websites. Under the project, two training sessions for hosts of Places of Worship had been provided to support and to develop a greater understanding about RE. Interactive teaching tools had also been developed to enable pupils to benefit from positive social encounters and enhance their learning. Members were advised that Directory of Places of Worship was available on-line and could be updated on an on-going basis. The Crossing the Bridges Project was also being used to enhance the Agreed Syllabus.

It was highlighted that it would be useful to also develop a feedback form for the children and noted the feedback forms should be sent to the Advisor.

It was noted that the best way of utilising the available resources in Slough was for SACRE members to visit schools.

The following was agreed/noted:

- a) Professional Advisor to arrange/provide the following training:

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- Induction/Refresher session for SACRE members in 2018 with a 5.45pm start to 7.30pm.
- For hosts participating in the places of worship scheme in order to increase their knowledge and understanding of RE
- For SACRE members to enable them to visit schools and give talks about their faiths.

b) Professional Advisor and Chair to develop a contact list of people from different faiths to circulate to schools.

19. Feedback from Pan Berkshire SACRE Conference on 28 September 2017

The feedback from the Pan Berkshire SCARE Conference on 28 September 2018 was noted.

The Chair and Christine Isles who had attended reported that they found the number of topics discussed very helpful and welcomed the opportunity to meet with people from different SACRES.

20. Commission on Religious Education Interim Report September 2017 - Executive Summary only

Brian Crisell, SACRE Advisor asked members to note the Executive Summary from the Commission on Religious Education Interim Report September 2017. The report provided the opportunity for individuals and organisations to engage with the Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) about their developing thoughts on RE in schools in England. A decision would subsequently be made once responses had been received.

Members were advised that report raised awareness of major issues which would feed into the Agreed Syllabus. Various groups were being asked to give their views on different aspects including the following issues:

- i) A National entitlement for RE
- ii) Holding schools to account for the provision and quality of RE
- iii) A National Plan to improve teaching and learning in RE (feedback was sought under a list of headings)
- iv) A renewed and expanded role for SACRE.

It was noted that the above issues could also be considered at the Hub meetings.

Members were asked to send their comments to Mr Crisell.

21. Slough SACRE Draft Action Plan - April 2017 to March 2018

The Slough SACRE Draft Action Plan for April 2017 – March 2018 was noted. The Service Lead, School Effectiveness confirmed that no change had been made to the SACRE budget from the previous year.

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The Chair raised concerns about not having a list of RE of teachers/Co-ordinators in schools that could be contacted directly.
Hardip Singh Sohal arrived at 5.45pm.

Following discussions, the following was agreed/noted:

- c) Professional Advisor to urgently build up a list of contacts in school to ensure that RE Co-ordinators could be contacted directly.
- d) The Service Lead, School Effectiveness to arrange for SACRE website to be developed within the Slough Education Website.
- e) Lynda Lewis to send email reminder to Rev Andrew Sparrow regarding the location of SACRE resources.
- f) The SACRE members listed below would be responsible for cataloguing resources in respective areas:
 - i) Linda Lewis – Christian
 - ii) Waqar Bhatti – Islam
 - iii) Ashpreet Singh Nainu – Sikhism.

Draft SACRE Annual Report 2016 – 2017

The final Annual Report would be agreed at the next meeting on 7 March 2018.

Councillor Brooker left at 5.58pm.

22. Information Items to Note:

Members noted the following information items:

- i) The Crossing the Bridges Project – October 2017
- ii) National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) Briefing: Issue 16
- iii) Interfaith Week: 12 – 19 November 2017
- iv) Newsletter – Farewell

23. SACRE Members Attendance Record

The Member's Attendance Record was noted.

24. Date of next Meeting - 7th March 2018

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 7 March 2018.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.35 pm and closed at 6.01 pm)