

ITEM 4

Time commenced – 7.26pm
Adjourned – 7.35pm
Re-commenced 7.51pm
Time finished – 9.00pm

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 28 NOVEMBER 2011

Present:

Group A – Christianity and Other World Faiths

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|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Raj Bali | Hindhu Faith |
| Phil Royle | Methodist Church |
| Joan Price | Pentecostal Church |
| Lucy Care | Religious Society of Friends |
| Wendy Jordan | Salvation Army |
| Rev Roy Ninkovic | Serbian Orthodox Church |
| Rev Mrs Mair Bradley | United Reformed Church |
| Ruth Dolby | Jewish Faith |
| Aslam Siddiqi | Islamic Faith |

Group B – Church of England

Rosemary Wibberley
Viv Lawrence
Alison Brown
Maxine Bull

Group C – Teachers' Associations

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|---------------|------|
| Kate McRae | NAHT |
| Kelly Bradley | NUT |

Group D – Local Education Authority

Councillors Higginbottom (Chair), Radford, Tuplin, and Wood

Co-opted Members

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|----------------|------------------------------|
| Laura Connolly | The Open Centre |
| Dr Phil Henry | Multi Faith Centre |
| Mike Lake | British Humanist Association |

In attendance

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| Christine Smith | Subject Leader for RE, Chellaston Academy |
| Graham Falgate | Inclusion Manager |

15/11 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Arshid Rafiq and Councillor J. Khan.

16/11 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

17/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

18/11 Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 22 June 2011

The minutes of the meeting on 22 June 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19/11 Welcome to New Members

There were none.

20/11 SACRE Vacancies

The following vacancies were confirmed:

Group A (Christianity and Other World Faiths)

Afro-Caribbean Council of Churches

Baptist Church

Buddhist Faith

Roman Catholic Church

Sikh Faith

Group C (Teachers' Associations)

NASUWT

21/11 SACRE Action Plan

The SACRE considered two documents; the SACRE RETool and the Areas/Issues for Potential SACRE Development and Engagement.

The SACRE RETool was a Reporting and Self-Evaluating Toolkit and was designed to help individual SACREs evaluate their role and consider their impact on pupils' educational experience and learning.

It was reported that using the Toolkit would help the SACRE gain a clear picture of its strengths, identify areas for further development, and establish its key priorities for action.

It was agreed that a working party be established to work through the two documents and formulate a SACRE action plan.

It was also requested that the action list from the working party meeting of 11 February 2011 be a third document.

It was agreed that the working party would be made up of the following members:

Group A (Christianity and Other World Faiths)

Phil Royle (Methodist Church)

Ruth Dolby (Jewish Faith)

Group B (Church of England)

Viv Lawrence

Group C (Teachers' Associations)

Kate McRae (NAHT)

Co-opted Members

Mike Lake (British Humanist Association)

It was also agreed that Graham Falgate, Inclusion Manager, would also be a member of the working party.

Resolved to establish a SACRE working party that will identify priorities for a SACRE action plan. The working party will look at three documents to help with formulating a SACRE action plan:

- 1. The SACRE RETool: Reporting and Evaluating Toolkit;**
- 2. Areas/Issues for Potential SACRE Development and Engagement 2011 – 2013;**
- 3. The action points list from the working party meeting held on 11 February 2011.**

22/11 Update on Proposals for a Muslim Free School

Mike Lake provided an update on proposals for a Muslim Free School. He, Laura Connolly and the Inclusion Manager had attended meetings with the group proposing the opening of a Muslim Free School and the head teachers of local primary and secondary schools.

The SACRE discussed concerns around the curriculum content, segregation and community cohesion. The SACRE raised concerns about the teaching of RE and whether it would be replaced by Islamic studies.

It was agreed that if the school goes ahead it should be under the same scrutiny that SACRE offers elsewhere. It was also agreed that the SACRE should offer help and support, but should raise concerns if there were any.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the group proposing the opening of the

school. The letter would offer the SACREs help and support but would also raise the concern Islamic studies does not replace the teaching of RE.

It was also agreed that a letter should be sent to the Local Education Authority requesting that it offered an advisory service, at a cost, to the group proposing the school. The advisory service should cover the curriculum content and quality.

Resolved:

- 1. The SACRE to send a letter to the proposers of the Muslim Free School. The letter will offer help and support but will also raise the concern that Islamic studies does not replace the teaching of RE;**
- 2. The SACRE to send a letter to the Local Education Authority requesting that it offers an advisory service, at a cost, to the proposers of the Muslim Free School. The advisory service should cover the curriculum content and quality.**

23/11 Our Faiths and Our Shared Futures

The SACRE received the latest version of the Our Faiths and Our Shared Futures booklet. It was reported that it focused on the three Abrahamic faiths and was commissioned by the Derby Community Safety Partnership. The booklet was intended to aid community relations and help young people and would be distributed to secondary schools.

The SACRE were still unhappy with the booklet as it contained information that could be seen as confusing and misleading. It was agreed that members would put together an addendum to provide clarity in areas that could cause confusion. Dr Phil Henry agreed to co-ordinate this.

It was also agreed that the working party, established under minute 21/11, would draft a covering letter to be sent to secondary schools along with the addendum. This letter would be sent on behalf of the SACRE and would be signed by the Chair.

Resolved:

- 1. To write an addendum to accompany the Our Faiths and Our Shared Futures booklet. The addendum will provide clarity in areas of the booklet that could cause confusion. Members will forward ideas to Dr Phil Henry who will co-ordinate this;**
- 2. The working party established under minute 21/11 will draft a covering letter from the SACRE to be sent to secondary schools along with the addendum. The letter will be signed by the SACRE Chair.**

24/11 RE National Updates

Alison Brown highlighted the website for the Religious Education Council of England and Wales. She reported that that the website provided a useful update on a range of RE issues.

25/11 Re-establishing a SACRE Pre-meeting to Agree the Agenda

It was agreed to re-establish a SACRE pre-meeting to agree the agenda of future SACRE meetings. The pre-meetings would be attended by the Chair of each group and the inclusion manager.

Resolved to re-establish a SACRE pre-meeting to agree the agenda of future SACRE meetings.

26/11 Future Meeting Dates

It was confirmed that the next meeting date would be Monday 26 March 2012.

Resolved that a future meeting of the SACRE be held on Monday 18 June 2012.

MINUTES END