

Time commenced – 7.15pm
Time finished – 8.30pm

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
25 MARCH 2014**

Present:

Group A – Christianity and Other World Faiths

Iana Heath	Bahai Faith
Raj Bali	Hindhu Faith
Phil Royle	Methodist Church
Lucy Care	Religious Society of Friends
Rev Roy Ninkovic	Serbian Orthodox Church
Ruth Dolby	Jewish Faith

Group B – Church of England

Rosemary Wibberley
Alison Brown

Group C – Teachers' Associations

Wendy Hardy ATL

Group D – Local Education Authority

Councillors Higginbottom and Turner

Co-opted Members

Laura Connolly	The Open Centre
Peter Harvey	British Humanist Association

29/13 Announcements from the Chair

The Chair, along with Members, congratulated Raj Bali who had been made an MBE.

Resolved to note the update.

30/13 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mair Bradley, Dr Phil Henry, Viv Lawrence, Kate McRae, Ash Venkatesh and Councillors Campbell, F Winter and Wood.

31/13 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

32/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

33/13 Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

34/13 Support from the RE Adviser to the SACRE

The RE Adviser to the SACRE provided Members with an update on his role and his change of circumstances. He raised the question of options for future support, especially in light of the imminent review of the locally agreed syllabus and the need for expertise. Members discussed the possibility of the person who supported the Derbyshire SACRE also supporting the Derby SACRE. The former RE Adviser to the SACRE, Graham Falgate, was also suggested by Members to provide future support. Members agreed that the RE Adviser to the SACRE should first approach Graham Falgate to take on the role.

Resolved to agree that the RE Adviser to the SACRE should approach the Former RE to the SACRE, Graham Falgate, to again take on the role.

35/13 SACRE Membership and Vacancies

The clerk to the SACRE reported that he was still waiting to hear from four Members as to whether they wanted to continue as Members of the SACRE and that once he heard from them he would contact all nominating bodies to confirm their representatives.

It was also reported that Maryam Djavid (Bahai Faith) has resigned from Group A (Christianity and Other World Faiths) and had been replaced by Iana Heath. It was agreed that the clerk should look at ways that Maryam could still serve the SACRE in the future.

Members noted that Joan Price (Pentecostal Church) had resigned from Group A (Christianity and Other World Faiths). The clerk read out a message of thanks from Joan for all Members.

It was reported that Maxine Bull had resigned from Group B (Church of England) and had been replaced by Katie Lake.

It was also reported that Kate McRae (NAHT) had resigned from Group C (Teachers' Associations).

Members noted that the clerk had written to all the nominating bodies that had a vacancy on the SACRE, apart for the vacancy created by the passing of Aslam Siddiqi (Islamic Faith). Members noted that the Sikh Faith vacancy in Group A had been filled by Ranjit Seehra.

Resolved:

- 1. To agree that the Clerk to the SACRE continues with the re-nomination of Members' exercise;**
- 2. to agree that the clerk to the SACRE should look at ways that Maryam Djavid could still serve the SACRE in the future; and**
- 3. to agree that the clerk to the SACRE shall send a letter of thanks to Joan Price and Maxine Bull.**

36/13 Consideration of Appointment of Co-opted Member

Rosemary Wibberley proposed Kate McRae as a Co-opted Member (The Open Centre). Members considered the proposal and agreed to co-opt Kate.

Resolved to agree that Kate McRae be a Co-opted Member of the SACRE.

37/13 SACRE Action Plan Update 2013/14 and Action Plan 2014/15

Members noted that only the school visits part of the SACRE Action Plan had been circulated with the agenda. Members discussed the programme of school visits that had been carried out and stressed the importance of two-way communication between the SACRE and the schools. Members agreed that the full Action Plan 2013/14 be circulated before the next meeting of the SACRE and discussed at the next meeting. Members discussed items for inclusion in the Action Plan 2014/15, such as the imminent locally agreed syllabus.

Resolved to agree that the full Action Plan 2013/14 be circulated before the next meeting of the SACRE and discussed at the next meeting.

38/13 Locally Agreed Syllabus

The RE Adviser to the SACRE provided an update on the imminent review of the locally agreed syllabus for RE. It was reported that the last review was very extensive and also expensive, an operation that Derby City Council would be unable to replicate. It was further reported that a number of SACRE's across the country would be in the same position.

It was reported that the Derbyshire SACRE had brought in expert help to conduct their review of the locally agreed syllabus. Members agreed that it was crucial to get the review done correctly, in the light of comments made in the recent Ofsted report on RE – realising the potential. Members agreed that the RE Adviser to the SACRE should approach the former RE Adviser to the SACRE, Graham Falgate, to see if he would be available to act as an expert adviser.

It was agreed that the RE Adviser to the SACRE should attempt to obtain an electronic copy of the current locally agreed syllabus from Graham Falgate.

Members noted that as there was a statutory requirement to have a locally agreed syllabus and as schools had been asking for a copy of the current one, it was agreed that a notice should be put in the school circular to inform schools where they could obtain a copy and also that a review was imminent.

It was agreed that Members, who represented faith groups, would check the details of their own faith in the syllabus and forward any proposed changes to the RE Adviser to the SACRE. Members felt that, as well as providing information on faiths, it would also be important for the syllabus to encourage thoughts about faith; what it is and why it is, etc.

Members noted that it would be useful to determine whether the faiths groups represented in the city had changed since the last review. It was agreed that it would also be important to take account of the national picture.

It was agreed that a report be brought to the next meeting of the Board, either by the RE Adviser to the SACRE or Graham Falgate, detailing costs of the review and providing advice on how the review should be conducted.

Resolved:

- 1. to agree that the RE Adviser to the SACRE should approach the former RE Adviser to the SACRE, Graham Falgate, to see if he would be available to act as an expert adviser for the review of the locally agreed syllabus for RE;**
- 2. to agree that the RE Adviser to the SACRE should attempt to obtain an electronic copy of the current locally agreed syllabus from the former RE Adviser to the SACRE, Graham Falgate;**
- 3. to agree that a notice should be put in the school circular to inform schools where they could obtain a copy of the current locally agreed syllabus and also that a review was imminent;**
- 4. to agree that Members, who represent faith groups, should check the section on their own faith in the syllabus and forward any proposed changes to the RE Adviser to the SACRE; and**
- 5. to agree that a report be brought to the next meeting of the Board, either by the RE Adviser to the SACRE or Graham Falgate, detailing costs of the review and providing advice on how the review should be conducted.**

39/13 Ofsted Report on RE

At the last meeting of the SACRE, Members resolved that examples of good practice, as identified in the Ofsted report on RE – realising the potential, be considered at the next meeting of the SACRE. Members agreed to defer the item until the next meeting of the SACRE.

Alison Brown reported to Members that the Review of Religious Education in

England, published by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, was an important document and should be considered along with the Ofsted Report on RE. It was also reported that both document should be looked at in conjunction with the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Resolved:

- 1. to defer the item until the next meeting of the SACRE; and**
- 2. resolved to agree that the Review of Religious Education in England be considered, along with the Ofsted report on RE, at the next meeting of the SACRE.**

40/13 National Updates

Members discussed the role of NASACRE in lobbying political parties. Members agreed that NASACRE should be encouraging political parties to strengthen the position of RE within education policies in their manifestos. Lucy Care agreed to contact NASACRE to determine whether political parties had been lobbied in this way.

Resolved to agree that Lucy Care should contact NASACRE to determine whether or not political parties have been lobbied to strengthen the position of RE within education policies in their manifestos.

41/13 Local Updates

There were no local updates.

42/13 Annual Report 2012/13

The RE Adviser to the SACRE reported that a draft Annual Report of the SACRE 2012/13 had been produced. It was agreed that the clerk to the SACRE would circulate the draft report to Members. Members were invited to pass any suggestions to the RE Adviser to the SACRE. Members noted that the report would then be agreed by the Chair and circulated. Members agreed the circulation list.

Resolved:

- 1. to agree that the clerk to the SACRE would circulate the draft Annual Report of the SACRE 2012/13 to Members for comment;**
- 2. to agree that any comments be passed on to the RE Adviser to the SACRE; and**
- 3. to agree the circulation list of the finalised report.**

43/13 Determinations

Members considered an application for a review of a determination (Section 394,

Education Act 1996) received from Pear Tree Infants School.

Members agreed to grant the application for a review of a determination.

Resolved:

- 1. to grant the application for a review of a determination received from Pear Tree Infants School; and**
- 2. to agree that the RE Adviser to the SACRE provides the Headteacher of Pear Tree Infants school with written notification of the decision, specifying the effective date for the purpose of review.**

44/13 Future Meeting Dates

Members considered the following meeting dates for the next municipal year:

- Wednesday 2 July 2014
- Monday 6 October 2014
- Tuesday 3 February 2015

Resolved to agree that Members consider the meeting dates for the next municipal year and that if there be a majority of objections to any, that they be re-arranged.

45/13 Any Other Business

Peter Harvey reported that he had been invited by The Open Centre to take part in a school visit to a Hindu Temple in January 2014. It was reported that the visit had been very enjoyable and the children asked some very interesting questions. Peter wished to pass his thanks on to Laura Connolly of The Open Centre. It was reported that schools were required to write to parents with the details of any planned school visits and that this, unfortunately, sometimes resulted in negative comments from parents in relation to the planned destination.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the update; and**
- 2. to agree that visits be included along with Local Updates at future meetings of the SACRE.**

MINUTES END