

ITEM 07

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.02pm

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 28 January 2020

Present:

Group A – Christianity and Other World Faiths

Rev Philip Webb	Baptist Church
Raj Bali	Hindu Faith
Phil Royle	Methodist Church
Lucy Care	Religious Society of Friends
Mair Bradley	United Reformed Church
Eve Sacker	Jewish Faith
Rev Roy Ninkovic	Serbian Orthodox Church

Group B – Church of England

Viv Lawrence
Katie Lake

Group C – Teachers' Associations

Melvin Harris NASUWT

Group D – Local Education Authority

Councillor Kus
Councillor Skelton
Councillor Wood
Councillor J Khan

Co-opted Members

Peter Harvey	Humanist UK
Kate McRae	The Open Centre

In Attendance:

Steve Ford	Lead officer to SACRE
Caroline Wedd	Flower Power Book
Dominic Monahan	Clerk to SACRE

18/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Ruth Richardson, Alison Brown and Dr Hardial

Singh Dhillon.

19/19 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

20/19 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

21/19 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 25 June 2019 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

22/19 Flower Power Book

Steve Ford introduced Caroline Wedd and informed Members that Caroline had recently met with the Interim Director for Learning and Skills to discuss her book.

Caroline Wedd gave a presentation on Flower Power Book. It was reported that this was a book for children everywhere and that it was produced by a not-for-profit organisation. It was reported that the Flower Power Book had been developed over a 10 year period and that it now had its own musical and development book. It was noted that the Flower Power Book had been used with children up to Key Stage 3 for discussion points in lessons such as: PHSE, Science, Maths, Music, Art and Design and Technology. Members noted that Flower Power Book was an exciting story, with original songs and drawings and was also available in French and Mandarin. Members noted that Alison Brown had supported the development of this book.

It was noted that the inspiration for the Flower Power Book was a desire to help traumatised children and children with mental health issues. It was reported that Flower Power Book showed people that we all need a little bit of love and encouragement to help us to flourish and grow. It was reported that a CD of performance and backing tracks was included with the book so that children could read, sing and dance the story of Flower Power. Members noted that there was also guided reading, discussion points and questions included at the back of the book for teachers and parents

Members asked how much the Flower Power Book costed and were informed that it was £9.99 when on offer and that the usual price was £12.99. Members noted that when teachers purchased a copy of Flower Power Book they also received free PHSE materials that provided curriculum work for children. Members noted that Flower Power Book encouraged schools to grow flowers and vegetables and that many children with special educational needs and

disabilities were able to take part in these activities.

Members asked how many schools so far had used the Flower Power Book. Members were informed that over 50 schools had used this resource, including schools in Scotland, Devon and Bradford. It was noted that Derbyshire Music Hub had also taken this book into many schools in Derbyshire. Members asked whether this book had been used by many schools in Derby city and were informed that Caroline Wedd and others were working to increase the number of city centre schools using this book.

Steve Ford asked how the Flower Power Book helped with collective worship and church inspections. Caroline Wedd informed members that she had designed, and made available, a spreadsheet showing the books links to Christian teachings. Members noted that a Vicar had commented on how the book related to parables in the Bible. It was reported that the Flower Power Book promoted personal development and values for life. Members noted that the book made links to a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) report and could be used as a religious resource.

Resolved to agree that SACRE's support for this publication be noted.

23/19 Launch of the New Agreed RE Syllabus

Steve Ford informed Members that the Agreed Syllabus had been launched in Southern Derbyshire on Tuesday 28 January 2020. Members noted that the Agreed Syllabus had been very well received by colleagues. Steve Ford informed members that the new OFSTED framework included a 'Deep Dive' whereby schools would experience an in depth look at subjects, which may include RE. It was noted that this had increased the importance to schools of having a strong RE Syllabus. Steve Ford informed Members that OFSTED could now place schools into the 'Requires Improvement' category if their RE teaching/provisions were lacking.

Members noted that training sessions on the Agreed Syllabus would take place within the coming weeks and that further sessions would take place after half term. It was noted that these courses would have approximately 50-70 attendees. Steve Ford informed Members that all SACRE Members would be provided with a copy of the new Agreed Syllabus. Members noted that RE Today had produced a scheme of work that related to the Agreed Syllabus and could be used in schools.

Peter Harvey informed Members that the course he had attended earlier that day had been excellent. Members noted that there had been approximately 60 attendees at the course, many of whom were primary school teachers, and that they had all been very enthusiastic. Peter Harvey reported that in the past syllabuses hadn't had much influence, but that the new Agreed Syllabus seemed different and had schemes of work that could be used by schools. Members noted that the new Agreed Syllabus had raised the profile of SACRE and that it also placed more emphasis upon humanism and non-religious world views than previous syllabuses.

Katie Lake informed Members that she had also attended the course earlier that day and that community school colleagues had been very enthusiastic. It was noted that these colleagues had appreciated that the Agreed Syllabus was a good resource that would benefit their schools. It was noted that Lat Blaylock and Fiona Moss had done an excellent job producing the Agreed Syllabus. Katie Lake commented that the only issue was the cost to schools of scheme of resources, even at a discounted rate. Steve Ford informed members that there was a target to get three quarters of local schools to attend a training session on the new Agreed Syllabus.

A Member stated that she wished that Members had seen the Agreed Syllabus earlier. Steve Ford commented that Members had seen the introduction to the Agreed Syllabus and had also seen further extracts at an event in Matlock and had agreed on the way forward. It was noted that this was a syllabus off the shelf, produced by RE Today. Steve Ford suggested that SACRE Members could inform him if they had any serious concerns with the Agreed Syllabus.

A Member asked when Members would be provided with copies. Steve Ford informed the group that he would make available a digital copy by mid February 2020. Members noted that hard copies would be provided to Members no later than at the next SACRE meeting.

Resolved to note the update.

24/19 Forthcoming Development Day – 23 March

Steve Ford informed members that there would be a development session open to Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council colleagues on Monday 23 March 2020. It was noted that Lat Blaylock would be in attendance at this session and that this session would take place from 10:00-12:00 at the County Offices.

Resolved to note the date and venue of the Development Day.

25/19 SACRE and Relationships Sex and Health Education Guidance

Steve Ford informed Members that SACRE had no statutory requirement to provide advice on Relationships Sex and Health Education to schools. A member stated that when it came to intolerance, ignorance was not bliss and was in fact very damaging. A Member questioned whether there was a national curriculum on Relationships Sex and Health Education and whether the SACRE could consider this. Steve Ford informed Members that he would invite Jane O'Byrne to the next SACRE meeting to consider and discuss this.

Resolved to invite Jane O'Byrne to the next SACRE meeting to discuss Relationships Sex and Health Education Guidance.

26/19 Collective Worship

Peter Harvey informed Members that with regards to recent court cases on parents withdrawing their children from Collective Worship; community schools should still continue to provide a daily act of Collective Worship of a broadly Christian nature. It was noted that an exception to this was if a determination was in place, or parents had withdrawn their children. Members noted that there was no requirement for schools to provide alternatives for children withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Members noted that in some instances, children were being withdrawn from Collective Worship in order to revise for SATS exams. Steve Ford stated that this was not acceptable and that it was expected that all children would experience daily Collective Worship. Peter Harvey stated that Collective Worship could be interpreted very widely and that in order to diverge from standard Collective Worship schools should make an application to SACRE.

Resolved to note the update.

27/19 Holocaust Memorial Day

Eve Sacker informed Members that 27 January 2020 had been Holocaust Memorial Day. Members noted that there had been several events in Derby to acknowledge this day and that The Open Centre had been involved in national events.

Members noted that The Open Centre had recently won funding from the Race, Religion and Hate Crime Fund to provide anti-Semitism lessons for Key Stage 4 pupils. It was reported that despite there only being around 470 Jews in Derbyshire, Jews were the most frequent victims of religious hate crimes in Derbyshire. Members noted that these anti-Semitism lessons would be provided free of charge to schools, between February and April 2020.

Steve Ford asked whether there had been any publicity for these lessons. Eve Sacker informed Members that Loraine Stokes had organised a press release and that it was also being promoted through The Open Centre, with further information available on their website. It was noted that interested schools should contact The Open centre.

A Member asked whether these lessons were being focused in areas where anti-Semitism was common. Eve Sacker informed Members that due to the funding being received at short notice, lessons were being provided to any school that requested them. Members noted that The Open Centre was hoping to secure funding to provide similar lessons on islamophobia.

Steve Ford invited Eve Sacker to provide an update at the SACRE meeting during the 2020 summer term.

Resolved to:

- 1. Commend this project**
- 2. Invite Eve Sacker so provide an update at a future SACRE meeting.**

28/19 Any Other Business

Peter Harvey spoke to Members about a report titled: Religion and Worldviews: the way forward. It was noted that Eve Sacker and Peter Harvey had had an input in creating this report. It was noted that this report had been placed on Damian Hinds' desk but had not been acted upon. It was noted that this report was back on the new Secretary of State for Education's desk and that this report promoted discontinuing SACREs under their current format. It was noted that this report suggested introducing a national curriculum for RE and giving SACREs a more advisory role.

MINUTES END.