

Time commenced – 6.04pm
Time finished – 7.25pm

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
14 January 2015**

Present:

Group A – Christianity and Other World Faiths

Raj Bali	Hindhu Faith
Phil Royle	Methodist Church
Lucy Care	Religious Society of Friends
Rev Roy Ninkovic	Serbian Orthodox Church
Mair Bradley	United Reformed Church
Eve Sacker	Jewish Faith
Ranjit Singh Seehra	Sikh Faith

Group B – Church of England

Viv Lawrence
Katie Lake

Group C – Teachers' Associations

Kieran Picken NUT

Group D – Local Education Authority

Councillor Jones
Councillor Wood

Co-opted Members

Laura Connolly	The Open Centre
Phil Henry	Multi Faith Centre
Peter Harvey	British Humanist Association

36/14 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Rosemary Wibberley, Alison Brown, Wendy Hardy, Kate McRae and Maryam Djavid

37/14 Late items to be introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

38/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

39/14 Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 October 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

40/14 SACRE Membership, Resignations and Vacancies

The clerk to the SACRE updated members on the current situation in terms of SACRE Membership, resignations and vacancies. Members were urged to forward any suggestions to the clerk, for filling outstanding vacancies.

Resolved to note the update.

41/14 Local Updates and Visits

Peter Harvey reported that he had recently visited Gayton Primary School to give talks on humanism and atheism. Members noted that he had given a talk to two groups in Year 6. It was reported that the children had been very engaged and had asked intelligent questions.

Resolved to note the update.

42/14 National Updates

There were none.

43/14 Ofsted and the Teaching of British Values

Members considered a briefing note from RE Today, Responding to Debates about British Values and an article from the Institute of Race Relations, Hatred, Hysteria and a Trojan Horse.

Members noted that there was an expectation from Ofsted that teachers would address the issue of the teaching of British values and promote British values.

Members considered whether or not to support the issue of the teaching of British values. Members noted the steer from Derby City Council to address this issue and agreed to support it. It was recognised that the SACRE needed to be seen to be responding to this agenda.

The Lead Officer to the SACRE updated Members on a proposed course to look at British values in terms of the contribution that Religious Education (RE) made. It was reported that the course would be aimed at RE Co-ordinators within the city and county. Members noted that although the initiative was a Derbyshire one, the Lead

Officer suggested that it could become a joint enterprise between the city and the county. Members agreed to support the joint meeting and also agreed that one Member of the Derby SACRE should be invited to attend.

Members did not like the phrase, 'fundamental British values' and had a discussion around the use of alternative phrases. Members agreed that an acceptable alternative would be:

- the values and principles that underpin British democracy; or
- the values and principles that underpin British society.

Members supported the associated values of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSCD). Members agreed that the values were not uniquely British but were ones that the British valued.

The Lead Officer updated Members on the conference for Derby and Derbyshire schools to support schools in the teaching of British values. It was reported that the conference would be entitled 'Inspire Equality – Celebrate Difference' and would be aimed at senior managers. Members noted that the conference would be held on 8 May at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick. Members agreed to endorse the conference.

Resolved:

- a) to agree to support the agenda for the teaching of British values in schools;**
- b) to support the proposed course for RE Co-ordinators to look at British values;**
- c) to agree that a Member of the SACRE should be invited to attend the course for RE Co-ordinators; and**
- d) to endorse the 'Inspire Equality – Celebrate Difference' conference.**

44/14 Locally Agreed Syllabus

Lat Blaylock, RE Consultant with RE Today, provided Members with an update on the review of the Derby Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (RE).

It was reported that Derby City Council and RE Today had agreed terms and a timescale for the review and revision of the agreed syllabus. It was further reported that the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus, revised 2013 and published 2014, would be used as a basis for Derby's revision, enabling a modern and up to date syllabus to be offered swiftly and simply.

Members noted that the virtues of the county's syllabus which would transfer directly to the city to meet the needs of teachers included:

- a) a clearly focused principle aim;
- b) compatibility with the new National Curriculum subject orders for other foundation subjects;
- c) an enquiry approach, keeping key questions at the heart of learning;

- d) a focus on religion and beliefs as experienced and lived today;
- e) exemplar learning outcomes for all the enquiries suggested in the syllabus;
- f) potentially strong local focus for the syllabus, including on local faith communities and Christianity in Derby; and
- g) offered a straightforward planning process for all teachers.

It was reported that RE Today intended to add to the syllabus the following new or revised materials:

- a) a section using the city census data for 2011 to contextualise the study of religion and belief in Derby, and the region and UK, today;
- b) revision of the assessment and achievement section to take account of the need for different guidance in the 'post levels' culture of the current Department for Education (DfE);
- c) related to this, a focus on outcomes at the end of the key stage and how to achieve them;
- d) Addition of a new section on RE's contribution to actively promoting the British values in Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSCD);
- e) Revision of the full text to refer appropriately to the city of Derby and not the county; and
- f) Review and adjustment of the guidance sections of the syllabus for more contemporary focus in 2015.

Members asked what the difference would be between Derby's and Derbyshire's agreed syllabus. It was reported that the difference would be in the context and that Derby's would reflect the major religions of the city. It was further reported that the principles and good practice would be the same.

Members agreed that the agreed syllabus should reference the Multi Faith Centre.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the update; and**
- 2. to agree that the agreed syllabus should reference the Multi Faith Centre.**

45/14 School Visits

Members agreed to defer the item to the next meeting of the SACRE as Kate McRae was not present. It was also agreed that the Senior School Improvement Officer would contact all schools and extend an invite in relation to a SACRE school visit.

Resolved:

- 1. to defer the item to the next meeting of the SACRE; and**
- 2. to agree that the Senior School Improvement Officer will contact all schools an extend an invite in relation to a SACRE school visit.**

46/14 Determinations

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

Education Act 1996) received from Arboretum Primary 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 Arboretum Primary School; and**
- 2. to agree that the Headteacher of Arboretum Primary School is provided with written notification of the decision, specifying the effective date for the purpose of review.**

47/14 Any Other Business

The Lead Officer to the SACRE invited all Members to a Derbyshire SACRE Development Day on 16 March 2015.

Laura Connolly provided Members with an update on The Open Centre's My Heritage Project. It was reported that the mobile exhibitions had been very successful and bookings were being received from schools. It was further reported that Derby City Council was looking to hire a mobile exhibition for the foyer of the Council House. Members noted that the mobile exhibition contained five panels and that a new panel was being created to explore a family with no faith. It was reported that the static exhibition in the Market Hall had also been very successful.

Phil Henry informed Members about the Building Connections – Overcoming Loneliness event, due to take place on 17 February 2015 at St Mary's Parish Rooms, Derby. Members noted that Growing Communities Together, an across faith organisation working to support the vulnerable in Derby, would be working together with Derby City Council's Health and Adult Social Care team, to bring together all the faith groups working with the elderly and vulnerable to share their experiences, their expertise and help them work together.

MINUTES END