

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Adjourned – 6.56pm
Reconvened – 7.02pm
Time finished – 7.32pm

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
20 October 2014**

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
Hardial Singh Dhillon	Sikh Faith

Group B – Church of England

Rosemary Wibberley
Viv Lawrence
Alison Brown

Group C – Teachers' Associations

Wendy hardy ATL

Group D – Local Education Authority

Councillor Turner
Councillor Wood

Co-opted Members

Laura Connolly	The Open Centre
Peter Harvey	British Humanist Association
Maryam Djavaid	Bahai Faith

20/14 Appointment of Chair

Resolved to agree that Councillor Turner be appointed as Chair of the SACRE for the 2014/15 municipal year.

21/14 Appointment of Vice-Chair

Members agreed that the role of Vice-Chair of the SACRE should be rotated between

the Chairs of Groups A, B and C, as per the SACRE Constitution and that this should start with Group A.

Resolved:

1. to agree that Alison Brown be appointed as Chair of Group B for the 2014/15 municipal year;
2. to agree that Wendy Hardy be appointed as Chair of Group C for the 2014/15 municipal year; and
3. to agree that Phil Royle be appointed as the Vice-Chair of the SACRE.

22/14 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Higginbottom and Jones and Katie Lake, Kate McRae and Ash Venkatesh.

23/14 Late items to be introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

24/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

25/14 Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 July 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

26/14 Announcements from the Chair

There were none.

27/14 Support from the Lead Officer to the SACRE

Steve Ford explained to Members that as Lead Officer to the SACRE he would support the SACRE to ensure it meets its statutory obligations. Members noted this would principally mean, with SACRE's approval, a review of the locally agreed syllabus and also support for colleagues in schools by providing a conference programme to help them to implement it.

Resolved to note the update.

28/14 Ofsted and the Teaching of British Values

The Lead Officer to the SACRE reported that Ofsted had decided that, as from

September 2014, part of their time in schools would be spent asking how school effectively promoted British values. It was further reported that schools had a responsibility to demonstrate what they do in relation to British values and that SACRE's had a certain responsibility to demonstrate how they were supporting schools in the promotion of those values.

The Lead Officer introduced Chris Tilley, Senior School Improvement Officer, Derby City Council, to speak about the local context and the current situation nationally. It was reported that Ofsted's inspection framework handbook was coming to the end of its four year life. It was further reported that Ofsted were due to introduce a new inspection framework for schools in September 2015 and the Senior School Improvement Officer speculated on what it may focus on, such as the teaching of British values. Members were reminded that the 'Trojan Horse' incidents in Birmingham had made national news and could very well have an impact upon the new framework. It was further reported that one of Derby's Head Teachers had been invited to advise Ofsted on the new inspection framework and that this provided a fantastic opportunity for the Council.

The Lead Officer suggested that, in the light of the issues raised by the Senior School Improvement Officer, it could be important for the SACRE to adopt a strategic approach to supporting schools. The Lead Officer put forward the idea of a collaborative conference between Derby and Derbyshire to support schools in the teaching of British values. Members asked who the conference would be aimed at. It was reported that the conference would be aimed at the broader management of schools, but not excluding RE co-ordinators and that it would look at best practice both locally and nationally. Members felt that they should be able to attend the conference as they agreed that it would be an important way to show that they were interested with what happens in schools. Members asked who would be writing the content and delivering the conference. It was reported that there would be a planning process and an opportunity for consultation on the content and that SACRE Members would be invited to take part. It was also reported that national and local expertise would be used that was tried and tested. Members asked about costs. It was reported that there would be a charge for schools that wanted to attend. It was further reported that if SACRE supported the proposal, the plans for the conference would be brought to the next meeting of the SACRE and that the conference would take place sometime around March 2015.

Laura Connolly and David Gibb, of the Open Centre, were invited to speak on the Our Heritage Project, to provide Members with local context in terms of the teaching of British values. It was reported that the project comprised of interactive exhibitions; one static exhibition and two mobile exhibitions and that it was a media resource for schools. It was further reported that the static exhibition would be sited in the centre of the city and the mobile exhibitions would be available to schools for hire. Members noted that the mobile exhibitions would be a resource for all subject areas as they focused on the lives of five families but that faith and British values were part of that focus. It was reported that all of the resources of the mobile exhibitions would be available online.

Before a vote was taken on whether to support the setting up of a conference, the meeting was adjourned to allow the four representative groups to determine how their

single collective vote should be cast, as per the SACRE Constitution.

Resolved:

- 1. to support the setting up of a conference for Derby and Derbyshire schools to support schools in the teaching of British values; and**
- 2. to request that the plans for the conference be brought to the next meeting of the SACRE.**

29/14 Locally Agreed Syllabus

The Lead Officer to the SACRE proposed that Derby SACRE should use the Derbyshire locally agreed syllabus for Religious Education (RE) and that RE Today be invited to look at making revisions to make it relevant to Derby.

Lat Blaylock, RE Consultant with RE Today, was invited to address Members.

The RE Consultant reported that he had an understanding of local circumstances and had worked with a number of authorities on their locally agreed syllabuses. Members were reminded that the main statutory responsibility of the SACRE was to agree a review of the locally agreed syllabus and that needed to be done as soon as possible. It was reported that Derbyshire's agreed syllabus would provide a sound basis from which Derby's review could be conducted. It was also reported that Derbyshire County Council had offered training to schools on their locally agreed syllabus and that this had generated funds retrospectively to cover the costs of their review. The RE Consultant put it to Members that they should ask the local authority to review the agreed syllabus and that the review should work in consultation with Derbyshire County Council and RE Today. The RE Consultant also put it to Members that Derbyshire's agreed syllabus should be used as a basis from which Derby's review could be conducted and that a programme of in-service training for teachers should be planned.

Resolved:

- 1. to agree to ask the local authority to commence the review of the agreed syllabus for Religious Education (RE);**
- 2. to agree that the review should work in consultation with Derbyshire County Council and RE Today;**
- 3. to agree that Derbyshire's agreed syllabus be used as a basis from which Derby's review could be conducted; and**
- 4. to agree that a programme of in-service training for teachers should be planned.**

30/14 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 asked to forward any suggestions to the clerk, for filling outstanding vacancies.

It was reported that Kieren Picken was present at the meeting as a potential NUT representative and Helen Munday was present as a potential Pentecostal Church representative.

Resolved to note the update.

31/14 School Visits

Resolved to defer the item to the next meeting of the SACRE.

32/14 Local Updates and Visits

Peter Harvey reported that he was due to visit a school to speak on Humanism.

Phil Royle reported on the 'Our Mickleover' village community scheme involving businesses and churches. It was reported that children had visited to churches during the harvest celebrations and the aim of the scheme was to try and draw the community together

Resolved to note the update.

33/14 National Updates

Alison Brown reported on the 'Making a Difference?' – a review of *Religious Education in Church of England Schools* that was published in September. Members noted that the review found that although good and outstanding RE was found in the majority of CofE secondary schools, at primary level there were similar challenges to those found in community schools. It was reported that the review pledged to raise the standard of RE in all its schools by better equipping teachers and providing improved resources.

Resolved to note the update.

34/14 Future Meeting Dates

Members considered the following meeting date for the municipal year:

- Tuesday 3 February 2015

Members agreed that, due to the urgency of the review of the locally agreed syllabus, the next meeting should be brought forward to a date in January.

Resolved to agree that the February 2015 meeting be brought forward to January.

35/14 Any Other Business

Members agreed that pre meetings for each of the groups, 30 minutes before the SACRE meeting begins, should be re-instated for the next meeting of the SACRE.

The Lead Officer to the SACRE reported that Derbyshire SACRE would be hosting a development morning at the Derbyshire County Council offices on 16 March 2015. It was further reported that the development morning would involve an exploration of a number of projects including the Heritage Project and the Christianity Project. Members noted that all Derby SACRE Members were invited to attend the development morning.

Resolved to agree the re-instatement of the pre meetings for each of the groups, 30 minutes before the SACRE meeting begins.

MINUTES END