

Time commenced – 7.21pm
Time finished – 9.00pm

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
26 MARCH 2012**

Present:

Group A – Christianity and Other World Faiths

Raj Bali	Hindhu Faith
Phil Royle	Methodist Church
Joan Price	Pentecostal Church
Wendy Jordan	Salvation Army
Rev Roy Ninkovic	Serbian Orthodox Church
Rev Mrs Mair Bradley	United Reformed Church
Ruth Dolby	Jewish Faith (Vice-Chair)
Aslam Siddiqi	Islamic Faith

Group B – Church of England

Rosemary Wibberley
Viv Lawrence
Alison Brown

Group C – Teachers' Associations

Kate McRae	NAHT
Kelly Bradley	NUT

Group D – Local Education Authority

Councillors Radford, Tuplin, and Wood

Co-opted Members

Laura Connolly	The Open Centre
Dr Phil Henry	Multi Faith Centre

27/11 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Lucy Care and Maryam Djavid.

28/11 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

29/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

30/11 Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 28 November 2011

The minutes of the meeting on 28 November 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chair.

31/11 SACRE Action Plan

Kate McRae presented a draft SACRE Action Plan to Members. It was reported that a working party had met in February 2012 and had distilled ideas down to three actions:

1. Clarify SACRE roles and responsibilities and how these can be met
2. Make a document for schools, professional associations and faith groups to detail SACRE roles and responsibilities (established as part of Action 1) and explain lines of communication
3. Build close relationships with schools

Members agreed to approve the SACRE Action Plan.

Members also discussed the importance of SACRE visits to schools and recognised that to carry out its statutory functions and responsibilities it needed to know how RE is taught in schools.

Members considered three draft documents to be used when Members carry out a SACRE visit to a school. The first was guidance notes for schools; the second was a code of practice for Members and the third was a questionnaire for schools to complete. Members agreed that all documents, along with a covering letter, would be sent to a school before a visit takes place. Members recognised that the documents would help to provide consistency and also let schools know what to expect from a SACRE visit. It was agreed to make some minor amendments to the documents and bring them to the next SACRE meeting for approval.

Members recognised the importance of training being offered on school visits to ensure that Members followed a shared and agreed protocol. The Following Members volunteered to take part in the training:

Group A (Christianity and Other World Faiths)

Raj Bali (Hindu Faith)

Phil Royle (Methodist Church)

Joan Price (Pentecostal Church)

Wendy Jordan (Salvation Army)

Rev Mrs Mair Bradley (United Reformed Church)

Aslam Siddiqi (Islamic Faith)

Group B (Church of England)

Rosemary Wibberley
Viv Lawrence
Alison Brown

Group C
Kate McRae (NAHT)
Kelly Bradley (NUT)

Co-opted Members
Dr Phil Henry (Multi Faith Centre)

Viv Lawrence reported that she would try to organise for the first training session to take place at Chellaston Academy and that she would liaise with the academy's Subject Leader for RE, Christine Smith.

Resolved:

- 1. to approve the SACRE draft Action Plan;**
- 2. to make minor amendments to the three guidance documents for schools and bring them to the next SACRE meeting for approval;**
- 3. that Viv Lawrence would organise the first training session on school visits for volunteers.**

32/11 The Statutory Functions and Responsibilities of SACRE

Members discussed the statutory functions and responsibilities of the SACRE and highlighted how these linked back to the SACRE Action Plan in terms of providing advice and support to the Local Authority and its schools.

Members discussed the challenges faced by the SACRE with growth of academies and changes to the curriculum.

33/11 Free School Update

Members received an update from Fasal Hussain on the Al-Madinah free school. It was reported that the proposal was for the school to open in September 2012 and that a principal had been recruited. The school was at the final approval stage and a public consultation was being held from 5 March to 24 April. The consultation had involved three public consultation events.

Fasal Hussain explained that the admissions process was almost fully open and that parents had until the 4 May to enrol and show expressions of interest. It was reported that the deadline for the Local Authority administering admissions had been missed but it was hoped that this would be rectified for next year.

It was confirmed that one building had been highlighted so far and that was St. Andrew's House on London Road. It was noted that recruitment for the deputy head and teachers would begin shortly and would be open to people from different faiths. It

was reported that the aim was to have teachers who were Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) accredited.

Members asked about Religious Education (RE) within the school. It was reported that although it would be an Islamic school there would be a robust RE syllabus. It was confirmed that the school would not only teach Islamic studies and that people from different faiths would be invited into the school to teach.

Members noted that when Islamic Studies was being taught, parents would decide whether they wanted their children to take part. It was reported that children not taking part in Islamic Studies could take extra lessons in maths, English and science. Members asked about Muslim students who needed extra Maths, English and Science and it was reported that classes would be available after school.

Members were informed that the school had its own website and the address was: info@almadinahschool.org.uk

Resolved to note the update.

34/11 RE National Updates

Members received a statement from John Keast, the Chair of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales. It was noted that the numbers of children studying RE had declined over the last 12 months. It was reported that academies no longer had to teach the locally agreed RE syllabus and that the SACRE had very little jurisdiction over academies.

Members received a letter sent to Sir Michael Wilshaw, the new head of Ofsted, from the Chair of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales and Ed Pawson, the Chair of the National Association of Teachers of RE. The letter highlighted concerns that RE had been omitted from the English Baccalareate.

Members noted that an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on RE was to form.

Resolved to note the update.

35/11 RE and Academy Schools

Members discussed RE and academy schools and noted how they are funded differently to state run schools. Members also discussed how RE is taught differently. Members were concerned that there was no requirement for academies to teach the locally agreed RE syllabus.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the APPG addressing the SACRE's concerns over how RE was taught in academy schools.

Resolved that a letter be sent from the SACRE to the APPG regarding the SACRE's concerns over how RE is taught in academy schools.

36/11 RE and SMSC Section 5 Guidance

Members considered public guidance issued by Ofsted to all inspectors that included reference to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and the curriculum.

Resolved to note the update.

37/11 Annual SACRE report

Members discussed the annual SACRE report that was due to be produced. It was noted that although the local authority had a duty to produce an annual SACRE report, there was no longer a requirement to send it to the Department for Education. It was also noted that there was no longer a requirement to send it to the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency as it had been formally disbanded. It was agreed that the annual SACRE report should be sent to schools, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Chief Executive of Derby City Council. It was agreed that the annual SACRE report should be brief to ensure that it was read by as many people as possible. It was noted that if people wanted more detail they could look at the minutes of SACRE meetings.

38/11 NASACRE AGM 2012 Invitation

Members discussed the invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education 2012. It was agreed that Rev Mrs Mair Bradley would attend the meeting.

Resolved to agree that Rev Mrs Mair Bradley would attend the NASACRE AGM 2012.

38/11 Future Meeting Dates

It was confirmed that the next meeting date would be Monday 18 June 2012.

Resolved that a future meeting of the SACRE be held on Wednesday 7 November 2012.

MINUTES END