

At a meeting of the STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) held at the SANDHILL CENTRE on TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Mr. C. Short in the Chair

Church of England

Father C. Collins
Mrs. W. Lundgren

Christian and Other Denominations

Mr. S. Singh
Ms. K. Shipley
Mrs. E. Whitfield

Local Councillors

Councillor P. Smith

In Attendance:-

Margaret Ferrie	-	School Chief Inspector
Maria Parkinson	-	Democratic Services Officer
Gary Hope	-	RE Support Advisory Teacher

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Gofton and Francis, Mrs. S. Slater, Mrs. T. Laybourne and Reverend G. Beck.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 February 2010

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2010 be approved as a correct record.

Revision of Local Agreed Syllabus Update

Ms. Margaret Ferrie reported that Mrs. Teresa Laybourne had met with Mark Chater of the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) to consider his work on the non negotiable national part of the syllabus.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Gary Hope, the new RE Support Advisory Teacher for SACRE to the meeting and stated that he had been heavily involved in the last revision of the RE syllabus and was a Religious Education teacher at Southmoor School.

Ms. M. Ferrie reported that she and Mr. G. Hope and Mrs. T. Laybourne would work together to put forward a programme to develop the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Mrs. T. Laybourne would support primary schools and Mr. G. Hope would support secondary schools and report in due course on the revised syllabus.

Mr. G. Hope was to attend a QCDA meeting on 24 March 2010 on the primary curriculum.

Bursaries

Ms. M. Ferrie reported that letters would be issued to schools and noted that positive feedback had been received from primary schools, with secondary schools needing further encouragement.

Schools Working with SACRE on Monitoring

Ms. M. Ferrie reported that twelve schools had expressed an interest in Monitoring and Mr. G. Hope would work with them and feed back information to Mr. C. Short.

Community Cohesion Project

Ms. Ferrie stated that community cohesion had become more important within the nationally agreed syllabus.

An invitation was to be sent to all secondary schools to attend a Government Office North East (GONE) Conference on community cohesion on 29 March 2010.

Gateshead Interfaith Forum

Ms. Ferrie noted that the Forum had used drama to give children a positive sense of identity and linked to the agenda of growing consciousness for religious education in schools.

In reply to a question from Mr. C. Short, Ms. Ferrie confirmed that Northumbria Police would be involved in the GONE Conference and the use of effective drama work with the assistance of the Community Cohesion Team.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 22 June 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

(Signed) C. SHORT,
Chairman.