

**At a meeting of the STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) held at the SANDHILL CENTRE on TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2011 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**

Mrs. S. Slater  
Mrs. E. Whitfield  
Ms. K. Shipley

**Teacher Associations**

Ms. T. Laybourne

**Local Councillors**

None in attendance

**In Attendance:-**

Mrs. Emma Hindmarsh - Governance Services Officer  
Mrs. Margaret Ferrie - School Chief Inspector

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Francis, Councillor Smith, Cllr Williams and Patrick Candon.

## **Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 February 2011**

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February, 2011 be approved as a correct record.

### **Matters Arising**

Future Support for SACRE and RE Support Advisory Teacher

Mrs. M. Ferrie advised that a part time Advanced Skills Teachers (AST) for Religious Education currently provided half a day of support per week. She reported that Durham had been contacted regarding their advisory service. Ms. Theresa Laybourne commented that there were a number of options for a locally agreed syllabus:-

- i) Adopt the Durham scheme outright,
- ii) Adopt the Durham scheme with consultation,
- iii) Adopt the Durham scheme and take into account what schools in Sunderland want and work with the consultant on the agreed syllabus (Isobel Short) to help deliver it .

Members agreed to look in greater detail at the third option and bring information to the next SACRE meeting in the autumn term.

### **Current Situation/ Outcomes of Examinations in Religious Studies : Summer 2010**

Margaret Ferrie reported that between 2008 and 2010 the total number of exam entries for Religious Studies had risen by 5.1 QCA points. There had been a 17% increase in the number of students entered into exams over the last 3 years.

Equally as pleasing were the GCSE results with 68% of pupils achieving grades A\*-C. This could be broken down to 54% in non faith schools and 75% in faith schools.

With the exception of Academy 360 all most all other schools in Sunderland offered the full and short course.

With regard to the questionnaire that had been sent out to secondary schools, 8 responses had been received. All 8 schools had Key Stage 3 Religious Education taught as a discreet subject. Six of the schools followed the agreed syllabus. The time allocated varied from school to school between half a period and 3 periods.

Margaret Ferrie agreed to speak to the Academies on SACRE's behalf to ascertain the level of RE teaching as agreed through funding agreements.

## **Any Other Business**

Discussion ensued in relation to the letters that had been sent to schools regarding bursaries for 2011. Members of SACRE expressed concern that some schools had not received letters.

Mr. C. Short confirmed that letters had definitely been sent out. Mrs Laybourne agreed to ascertain how the Bursaries were paid via the Finance department.

Mr Short advised the Committee that he had loaned a book entitled REInspired which told the story of how a group of churches in the Reading area discovered ways of supporting and engaging with local schools through RE. Whilst telling the story, the book also offered practical help for churches interested in partnering with local schools to help pupils develop spiritually and engage creatively with faith.

Mr Short informed the Committee that he would be resigning from the position of Chairman of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education and he thanked colleagues for their hard work and commitment over the years.

Margaret Ferrie thanked Mr Short for the passion and concern he had shown for the religious and spiritual development of children in Sunderland schools and this sentiment was endorsed by all Members present and thanks were also expressed on behalf of those Councillors not present at the meeting.

(Signed) C. SHORT,  
Chairman.