

At a meeting of the STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) held at the SANDHILL CENTRE on TUESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 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

Ms. K. Shipley
Ms. C. Nicol

Local Councillors

Councillor Smith

In Attendance:-

Mr. Chris Campbell - School Improvement Officer
Mrs. Maria Parkinson - Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Francis, Mrs. T. Laybourne, Mr. T. Khan, Mrs. M. Ferrie, Mrs. S. Slater and Mrs. E. Whitfield.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 November 2010

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2010 be approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Future Support for SACRE and RE Support Advisory Teacher

Mr. C. Campbell, School Improvement Officer, reported that the part-time Religious Education Support Advisory Teacher post that supported SACRE had been deleted from the new structure within Children's Services due to the need for cuts and efficiency savings. Mr. G. Hope was now operating in the capacity of Advanced Skills Teacher (AST) for Religious Education and supported religious education teaching in schools.

Mr. Campbell explained that he was in attendance at SACRE to deputise for the Senior School Improvement Officer, Mr Patrick Candon who would attend future meetings of SACRE instead of Ms Margaret Ferrie.

Revision of Local Agreed Syllabus

Mr. C. Short expressed concern that Mr. Hope's contract as part-time RE Support Advisory Teacher had not been extended.

Mr. C. Campbell confirmed that there were two Advanced Skills Teachers (AST) for Religious Education (including Mr. Hope) and it was hoped that they would support the effective provision of religious education in schools.

Mr. C. Short explained that the Locally Agreed Syllabus was two years out of date and the deadline for the launch of a revised syllabus in March 2011 would not be met.

The syllabus should have been published in March 2011 and launched at a special SACRE conference.

Father C. Collins suggested that the Advanced Skills Teachers produce a plan and timetable to drive forward the new syllabus for 2012.

Mr. C. Campbell undertook to refer to Mr P Candon the need to involve the Advanced Skills Teachers for Religious Education in supporting the work on the new RE Syllabus.

Mr. C. Short advised that the preparatory work for the syllabus had all been recorded.

Bursaries

Mr. C. Campbell stated that letters had been sent to schools regarding bursaries for 2011. Members of SACRE expressed concern that some schools had not received letters.

Mr. C. Short stated that the 2011 budget for bursaries for schools should be ringfenced for religious education.

Mr. Short proposed that a letter be sent to all schools that had previously successfully applied for bursaries informing them that they would be in receipt of a grant to be used for religious education in 2011. This suggestion was prompted by the information that approximately £11,000 still remained of the SACRE budget and this had to be spent before 31 March 2011.

The Advisory Council agreed that the budget for bursaries be ringfenced for schools to carry forward into April 2011.

Mr. C. Short undertook to email Mr. P. Candon and Mr. C. Campbell the list of schools who had previously received bursaries together with a draft letter from the Chairman of SACRE to go out to schools regarding the 2011 Bursaries Budget.

National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) – North of England RE Conference

Mr. Short reported that SACRE were invited to send three teachers for £250 to the North of England RE Conference in York in May 2011, if the places were booked together.

Mr. Campbell undertook to report to Mr P Candon and contact the Advanced Skills Teachers for Religious Education and invite them to attend the conference.

QCDA Event - December 2010

Mr. Short reported that Mrs. T. Laybourne had attended the event which had been funded by her own school.

Mr. Short stated that the Agreed Syllabus had been written for thirty nine of the pilot schools who were involved and the findings would be the basis for the primary Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Monitoring

The Advisory Council noted that Monitoring had been supported by the RE Support Advisory Teacher.

Meeting with Executive Director of Children's Services

Councillor P. Smith undertook to arrange a meeting between the Chairman of SACRE and Keith Moore, Executive Director of Children's Services, in the Civic Centre, to discuss the future support for SACRE, the revision of the Locally Agreed Syllabus, Bursaries and Monitoring.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 21 June 2011 at 5.30 pm.

(Signed) C. SHORT,
Chairman.