

At a meeting of the STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) held at the SANDHILL CENTRE on TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2009 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Mr. C. Short in the Chair

Church of England

Father C. Collins
Mrs. W. Lundgren
Mrs. L. Richardson

Christian and Other Denominations

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

Teacher Associations

Ms. T. Laybourne

Local Councillors

Councillor Francis

In Attendance:-

Margaret Ferrie	-	School Chief Inspector
Maria Parkinson	-	Democratic Services Officer
Miranda Robinson	-	RE Support Advisory Teacher

Appointment of Chairman

It was proposed by Father Collins, seconded by Councillor Francis and it was

AGREED that Mr. C. Short be appointed as Chairman for the academic year 2009/2010.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Mr. C. Short, seconded by Father Collins and it was AGREED that Ms. T Laybourne be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the academic year 2009/2010.

Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman expressed concern that neither he nor the Vice-Chairman had received any communication from Local Authority staff in Children's Services since the last meeting in June 2009. Discussion took place on this issue and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman agreed to continue discussion with Ms. Ferrie and Ms. Robinson after the meeting.

Mr. J. Bhatt

The Chairman reported that Mr. J. Bhatt was quite ill and had submitted his resignation from SACRE.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor P. Smith, Mrs. C. Gibson, Mrs. S. Slater, Mr. T. Khan and Mr. J. Bhatt.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th February, 2009

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2009 be approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of apologies for absence from Mrs. C. Gibson and Mrs. E. Whitfield.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 June 2009

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2009 be approved as a correct record subject to the inclusion of an apology from Councillor Francis.

Update – Matters Arising

Page 4, Annual Report

The Chairman stated that the Annual Report had to be completed by the end of the

year and offered his support to assist with the report if required. Ms. Ferrie advised that the author for the Annual Report had yet to be determined.

Page 5, Role of R.E. Support Advisory Teacher

Ms. T. Laybourne referred to the points made on the current religious syllabus and noted that Hinduism and Judaism were included in the syllabus.

Ms. Ferrie advised that Ms. Miranda Robinson was Vice-Principal of Venerable Bede School and worked two days a week on support to SACRE, encouraging religious education in schools, and work on the locally agreed syllabus and the Think Tank.

Ms. Laybourne commented that schools were at present overwhelmed by the new Ofsted regime framework. Ms. Ferrie stated that Ms. Robinson would not have the capacity in two days to offer support on the primary SEF, but the work could be undertaken by a consultant.

Ms. Robinson explained that she had requested information from every school, on the names of staff responsible for religious education to build up a database. Ms. Laybourne stated that she had not received this request.

Ms. Robinson undertook to repeat the mail out request and contact the forty schools who had not replied and also to circulate a report on the Religious Education Conference held in July 2009 to all schools.

Update from RE Support Advisory Teacher

Ms. Robinson stated that she was passionate about encouraging religious education in schools and working with SACRE.

The Council received an update from Ms. Robinson on the Annual Conference for Religious Education held on 9 July 2009.

Thirty eight primary and secondary school teachers had attended and given feedback on the new syllabus. She noted that the Conference had been successful and the energy and goodwill from the teaching staff was evident.

Ms. Robinson reported that a meeting with Religious Education Think Tank teachers had been held on 17 September 2009 at St. Peter's Church to consider the integration of RE into the Key Stage 3 curriculum.

A Think Tank workshop of 10 primary school headteachers was to be held on 2 December 2009 to plan curriculum reform in religious education.

Ms. Ferrie noted that letters of invitation to the workshop would be circulated.

Locally Agreed Syllabus Conference

The Chairman reported that Mark Chater, Lead on Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) on Religious Education was keen to use the Sunderland SACRE as part of a pilot project on a national review of the framework for Religious Education.

The Chairman suggested that this work could feed into the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

The Council welcomed this opportunity and Ms. Laybourne undertook to inform Mark Chater that SACRE had agreed to take part in the project.

It was agreed by the LASC that the Local Authority be given the green light to begin the process of revising the syllabus in co-operation with the QCDA pilot ready to be brought back to the next LASC which would be meeting to consider the draft Revised Syllabus to be arranged in time for the printing and a launch in March 2011 in preparation for the new academic year.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 9 February 2010.

(Signed) C. SHORT,
Chairman.