

At a meeting of the STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) held at the SANDHILL CENTRE on TUESDAY 22 JUNE 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Mr. C. Short in the Chair

Councillors P. Smith and Stewart

Church of England

Father C. Collins
Rev. G.M. Beck
Mrs. W. Lundgren

Christian and Other Denominations

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

Teachers Associations

Ms. L. Tiplady
Miss A. McChesney

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Candon	-	Senior School Improvement Officer
Mr. G. Hope	-	RE Support Advisory Teacher
Ms. D. Dorward	-	Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Francis, Mrs. Laybourne and Mr. Singh.

At this juncture the Chairman welcomed Councillors P. Smith and Stewart and

introduced Mr. Patrick Candon who was in attendance on behalf of Mrs. Margaret Ferrie.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 February 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2010 were to be amended to reflect that the previous set of minutes related to a meeting held on 10 November 2009.

Subject to this alteration, the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2010 were AGREED as an accurate record.

Meetings with QCA/NASACRE

Firstly, Mr. Hope advised that the QCA (Qualifications and Curriculum Authority) as it was formerly known was now the QCDA (Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency). Secondly, he advised that NASACRE (the National Association of Standing Advisory Council's on Religious Education) was made up by a group of people who met on behalf of SACRE's to assist them fulfil their responsibilities.

Mr. Hope stated that since the last meeting, he had attended an event on the NASACRE whilst Teresa Laybourne had attended an event on QCDA. He reported that the national event was interesting and was particularly beneficial for new Members of SACRE due to the volume of training materials available.

Members were then provided with a demonstration of a CD that had been shown at the training session. Mr. Hope stated that the CD was very informative, highlighting the role of SACRE's and how an effective SACRE worked. Further copies were available to order should SACRE's require any at £5.00 each.

The Chairman AGREED that the CD was indeed a useful information tool and requested that Mr. Hope place an order for ten copies of the CD to be circulated to SACRE Members.

The Clerk in attendance offered to circulate the CDs on Mr. Hope's behalf to Members of SACRE.

Mr. Hope advised that a further QCDA event was scheduled to take place in Oxford on 28 June 2010 for Authorities who had volunteered to be part of the pilot for primary schools. He stated that Teresa Laybourne was due to attend however that during these cost saving times, Mr. Hope was required to seek permission before he could reserve a place at the event.

Having discussed the matter, all SACRE Members in attendance unanimously agreed that both Teresa Laybourne and Gary Hope should attend the event as it was certain to be very relevant to SACREs. As such, the Chairman agreed to act on Gary Hope's behalf and seek permission that he attend. Mr. Candon was requested to provide the Chairman with the relevant contact details in order that he could make this representation.

Revision of Local Agreed Syllabus Update Progress Thus Far

Members were advised that meetings had been held with practitioners in relation to the Local Agreed Syllabus for 2010/2011 and confirmed that a change would be implemented in September 2011.

In response to an enquiry from Father Collins regarding whether there was another target date should things slip, Mr. Hope stated that the date could simply not slip and that it must be available for use in September 2011. It was hoped that a draft would be available around Christmas time.

Bursaries

The Chairman reported that with Ms. M. Ferrie's approval every school that had applied for a bursary had been successful, with the exception of two schools who had applied for funding towards their GCSE short course which was agreed would be more appropriately funded by the school.

Father Collins commented that Grangetown Primary School were going to visit Holy Island with their funding.

Members were advised that overall £8,000 had been spent on bursaries and that some of the 2010/2011 budget had been utilised to cover this cost and that 16 schools had benefited.

Monitoring Update

Moving on, Mr. Hope advised that Thorney Close School had begun undertaking RE audits in primary schools. Reports had been generated on visits undertaken to date, which included recommendations that had been shared with the school. Mr. Hope highlighted the recommendations contained in the Castle View School and Hudson Road School reports.

The Chairman stated that good practice was evident in the primary school reports and that he was in favour of monitoring RE in schools.

Any Other Business

Firstly the Chair advised that Teresa Laybourne had attended a meeting led by Pam Gartland of the Education Safeguarding Team Manager the day prior to this meeting. He further reported that during the course of the meeting a form was circulated for parents. One of the questions asked of parents was 'Do you wish your son/daughter to take RE?'. Mrs. Laybourne challenged the legality of this question. RE is obligatory by law and parents can only challenge this by requesting that their child be excluded from RE lessons/and collective worship. The Chair asked that Mr. Candon on behalf of SACRE report this matter so that such a form would not be sent to

parents.

Mr. Candon AGREED to look into the matter.

Secondly, the Chairman drew Members' attention to the fact that Mr. Hope had been appointed for two terms and now that the second term was coming to an end, enquired if he could be updated on future support for SACRE. Mr. Candon AGREED he would pass on SACRE's concern.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 16 November 2010 at 5.30 pm.

(Signed) C. SHORT,
Chairman.