

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

held on Monday, 17 July, 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

at the Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall

Present

Mr. C. Hopkins (Chair)
Mr. D. Lomax (Vice Chair)
Councillor Craddock
Councillor Robertson
Councillor D. Barker
Mrs K. Donnellan
Mrs. M. Gibbons
Mr G. Gomez
Mrs B. Groombridge
Mr. M. Lad
Imam Saeed-Ur-Rahman
Mr. M. Sacha

In Attendance:-

Ms. V. Heydon-Matterface (Children & Family Worker for the Brownhills & Willenhall Methodist Circuit)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. S. Blakemore.

2. Appointment of Chairman for the 2016/17 Municipal Year

Mr C. Hopkins was nominated and seconded.

Resolved

That Mr C. Hopkins be appointed Chairman until the first meeting of 2017/18 municipal year.

3. Appointment of Vice Chairman for the 2016/17 Municipal Year

Mr D. Lomax was nominated and seconded.

Resolved

That Mr D. Lomax be appointed Vice-Chairman until the first meeting of 2017/18 municipal year.

4. Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

There were no items for consideration in the private session.

6. Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March, 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

7. Election of Spokespersons for the Groups

Resolved

That the following members be appointed as Spokesperson for their individual Group:-

Mr. C. Hopkins – Local Education Authority
Mr. D. Lomax – Christian and other religious denominations
Councillor Robertson – Local Authority
Vacancy – Teacher's Association representative

8. Leamore Park Storytelling and Discovery Garden

Vickie Heydon-Matterface attended the meeting explained how a previously unused space in Leamore Park had been transformed into an exciting and enclosed area for storytelling and discovery. The space was available for use by local schools to assist them in delivering the RE curriculum.

Members of SACRE were impressed with the development of the space and saw it as a useful resource for the borough. A Member of the group suggested that there may be grants available to fund further work in the space.

The meeting asked for an update on progress with the project in 2018.

Resolved

That a report on the development of the Leamore Park Storytelling and Discovery Garden be received in 12 months time.

9. SIAMS report – St. Giles CE Primary School

The meeting received the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) report at St. Giles Primary School. A SIAMS report inspected the quality of religious education at Anglican and Methodist church schools.

Members were impressed with the report which recognised the quality of religious education at the school. The Chair was requested to write to the school to congratulate them on the outcome. It was felt that it would be useful if all schools were inspected in this way.

Resolved

That the Chair write to St. Giles CE Primary School to congratulate them on the outstanding SIAMS report.

10. SACRE focus for 2017/18

Resolved:

1. That the following items be considered at the next meeting:
 - a. Fiona Moss to be invited to the next meeting to discuss good SACRE practice and possible improvement projects for Walsall
 - b. SACRE Budget
 - c. SACRE best practice (Colin Hopkins)
2. That the following items be added to the SACRE work programme for 2017/18:
 - a. Review of 'Religion and places of worship in Walsall' information booklet;
 - b. Termly training to be provided by Fiona Moss on behalf of Fiona Moss
 - c. Annual conference for children from primary school ;
 - d. RE exam results and trends;
 - e. How to stimulate excellence in RE teaching;
 - f. Presentations from each faith group on their faith.

11. Dates of meetings for 2016/17

Resolved

That SACRE agree to hold meetings for the 2017/18 Municipal Year as follows:-

- Monday, 9 October, 2017
- Monday, 5 March, 2018
- Monday, 16 July, 2018

12. Late Items

There were no late items.

In closing the meeting the Chair paid tribute to Sean Flynn. He thanked him for his tremendous support to the committee, children and schools and paid tribute to his work ethic. The comments were echoed by the rest of the committee.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 6.54 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: