

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education Self Evaluation Working Group

held on Thursday, 1 October, 2009 at 4.00 p.m.

at Council House, Walsall

Present

Mrs. S. Blackmore
Mrs. B. Groombridge
Mr. C. Hopkins
Mr. R. Simmons

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ault, Turner; Mrs. V. Morris and Mrs. E. Taylor.

Appointment of Chairman

Resolved

That Mrs. S. Blackmore be appointed Chairman of the SACRE Self Evaluation Working Group for the remainder of the current Municipal Year.

Late items to be introduced by the Chairman

There were no late items to be introduced by the Chairman.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items for consideration in private session.

Self Evaluation Action Plan

A copy of the Self Evaluation Action Plan was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mrs. Blackmore informed the group that the action plan submitted had been produced in the summer 2007 in response to the need to evaluate the work of SACRE. The three areas of the self evaluation show the position of SACRE as developing, established or advanced.

Church schools have section 48 National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools, within three weeks of an ofsted inspection, which measures the schools on their Christian character and impact of collective worship as well as other aspects associated with the schools. Unfortunately ofsted no longer looks at the quality of RE. as there were only four Church of England Aided schools in Walsall it would be necessary to obtain information on the other schools.

Mr. Hopkins queried whether any information on RE in schools could be obtained from the S.E.F. for use by SACRE. Schools Improvement Partners could be requested to ask schools about the quality of RE and resources within their school on an annual basis.

With regard to key area number 2e of the self evaluation form on information and advice, it was felt that SACRE recommend that the LA buy-in specialist consultants to work with schools. The Local Authority should be reminded that SACRE performed a statutory function with regard to RE in schools.

Mr. Hopkins confirmed that SACRE needed the support of a senior officer to enable it to carryout its functions.

Mrs. Blackmore indicated that the work of SACRE could be promoted via trade unions and teacher networks.

It was anticipated that the revised Agreed Syllabus would be launched in January 2010 and it linked in with the national framework.

SACRE Members could provide their knowledge for places to visit and the Council's equalities section could be asked for any information.

Members requested that the clerk relay their general concerns regarding the engagement of the Council at a strategic level in this process, the importance of the launch of the Agreed Syllabus and whether Serco could be instructed to assist SACRE to carry out its functions.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 5.10 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: