

Standing Advisory Council For Religious Education

held on Wednesday 14th November 2007 at 5.30 p.m.

at the Salvation Army Citadel, Green Lane, Walsall

Present

Mrs. M. Gibbons (Chairman)
Councillor Ault
Councillor Cook
Councillor Yasin
Mrs. S. Blackmore
Rev. E. Snowden
Rev. A. Bateman
Mrs. P.M. Davies
Captain Stubbings
Mrs. J. Jarvis
Pastor B. Powell
Mr. I. Dangor
Father J. Nankivell
Mr. K. Yeates
Mrs. L. Edwards
Mrs. A. Powell

In attendance

Ms. Jeet Sohal, Sikh Forum

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Turner and Rochelle; Mr. Sacha, Mrs. B. Groombridge.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 9th July 2007 were submitted.

(see annexed).

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment:.

Page 1, paragraph 2 – delete “the” on the first line

Page 4, paragraph 5 – delete “dominations” and substitute “denominations” in the last line of resolution (1).

Late items introduced by the Chairman

The Chairman informed the Council that she intended to take the late item relating to the statutory inspections of Anglican Schools/Section 48 in respect of Blue Coat CE Voluntary Aided Junior School.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items for consideration in private session.

Presentation

Ms. Jeet Sohal of the Sikh Forum gave a brief presentation outlining the Sikh religion which was founded by Guru Nanak who was born in 1469. There had been nine Gurus after Guru Nanak. With regard to the history of the Khalsa, this was created by the ninth Guru in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh Ji, effectively the birthday of the Sikh religion and he baptised all the other Gurus.

The Khalsa includes:

- Work hard – Kirt Karo
- Share your food/earnings with those less well off than you – Vand Shako
- Meditate on God's name – Naam Jappo
- Believe in one Guru – EK-ON-KAR
- Believe the holy scriptures to be our living Guru

A baptised Sikh wears the five K's – Kanga, Kesh, Karra, Kirpan and Kaccha and has to pray five times a day.

Members thanked Ms. Sohal for her presentation.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Resolved

That Reverend E. Snowden be appointed Vice-Chairman of SACRE for the remainder of the current municipal year.

Election of spokespersons for the groups

The report of Constitutional Services was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That one person from each group on SACRE be appointed to act as Chair of the group, if necessary, and to take action on urgent business between meetings as follows:

LEA Group	Councillor Ault
Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education	Mrs. S. Blakemore
Other denominations and faiths	Mrs. P. Davies
Teacher representative	Mrs. A. Powell

Draft annual report

The draft annual report was submitted:

(see annexed)

Mr. Taylor outlined the content of the draft annual plan and asked members to check the content of the report and, in particular, to provide information to be included in paragraphs 7.1, 8, 9 and 10. Any additional information or amendments be submitted to Constitutional Services by 30th November 2007, in order that they can be included in the final report for submission to Education Walsall and to Walsall Council.

It was suggested that with regard paragraph 8, links with NASACRE, multi-faith forum, Churches together and the Council could be included. With regard to paragraph 9, one of the major issues related to attendance at the meeting by representatives of the Christian and other religious denominations group on SACRE. With regard to paragraph 10, SACRE meet three times a year in public session. SACRE had appropriate sub-groups and committees to carry out actions approved by SACRE and there was a financial arrangement with Education Walsall in respect of initiatives to support RE. SACRE had agreed arrangements for monitoring the use of the Agreed Syllabus in schools and those taking part had undergone training.

Resolved

That the draft annual report be approved, subject to the inclusion of additional information set out above at the paragraphs indicated, together with any other information that members may wish to submit.

Update on monitoring of the Agreed Syllabus

The report of Constitutional Services was submitted:

(see annexed)

Mr. Taylor informed SACRE that the schools to be visited had yet to be determined and letters advising of the visits would be forwarded to those schools nearer to the date of the visits. Head Teachers would be contacted personally to be given an explanation on the purpose of the visit and unions would be informed of those schools to be used as a pilot with the proposal to roll out the visits.

Resolved

That SACRE note that visits to schools by SACRE members, together with appropriate officers would commence during December 2007/January 2008.

Proposed local conference seminar – progress

Mr. Taylor informed SACRE that it would need to request his participation in a planning group for the conference and to produce an itinerary and financial plan. After consideration of arrangements for the conference it was:

Resolved

- (1) That the conference take place on either the 26th September or 3rd October 2008 at the Bethell Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, subject to availability.
- (2) That Mr. Taylor be authorised to make the arrangements with the Bethell Centre for the conference and to contact other local authorities in the Black Country inviting them to take part in the event.
- (3) That David Taylor be provided with information relating to possible speakers and that a decision be taken by the sub-group in accordance with the urgent action procedure.
- (4) That members wishing to suggest issues for discussion forward them to Constitutional Services by 30th November 2007.
- (5) That investigations take place into the possibility of teachers from “outstanding” schools to run the workshops at the conference.

Self evaluation

The report of Constitutional Services, together with the self evaluation were submitted:

(see annexed)

Mr. Taylor suggested that an action plan be put in place as a result of the self evaluation and that discussions be held at the next meeting. It was necessary for SACRE to plan to become “advanced” within 3 years.

Members again expressed concern at the lack of input from the other denominations and faiths.

Resolved

- (1) That the report be received and used to support an action plan;
- (2) That the action plan be drawn-up to focus on the action required to achieve “advanced” status within 3 years.

5 year development plan

The report of Constitutional Services was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the undermentioned timetable for the development plan for 2008-2013 be agreed:

Year	Action
1 – 2008/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pilot monitoring system for the teaching and learning of RE across the key stages.• Review of the Agreed Syllabus• Investigate training for SACRE members, including roles/responsibilities of members, and the introduction of the syllabus.
2 – 2009/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launch of the Agreed Syllabus
3 – 2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan for SACRE to meet the advanced criteria in the self evaluation.• Monitor collective worship (report on outcome of annual monitoring)
4 – 2011/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote RE as a field of study for older pupils.• Promote the use of an RE website.
5 – 2012/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of Agreed Syllabus.

Statutory inspection of Anglican Schools/Section 48

(a) Christchurch CE Primary School

The report of the National Society was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That a letter of congratulation be forward to Christchurch CE Primary School from SACRE on achieving “good” following the statutory inspection.

(b) St. John’s CE (VC) Primary School

The report of the National Society was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That a letter be forwarded to St. John’s CE (VC) Primary School congratulating them on achieving “outstanding” following the statutory inspection.

(c) Blue Coat CE (VA) Junior School

The report of the National Society was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That a letter be forwarded to Blue Coat CE (VA) Junior School congratulating them on achieving “outstanding” following the statutory inspection.

The Farmington Institute

A copy of correspondence from the Farmington Institute was submitted:

(see annexed)

Mrs. Blackmore informed SACRE that the Institute was linked to Oxford University and allocated up to 25 fellowships within the United Kingdom each year. The fellowship was aimed at teachers within schools and allowed them time out to develop RE or worship within the school. The scheme was worthy of promotion as the Institute paid for supply cover and other expenses and it was worthwhile being part of that organisation.

Resolved

That the correspondence from the Farmington Institute be received and that David Taylor be requested circulate the information to all schools in school news and include it on Education Walsall website.

Standing item: Budgeting requirements for 2007/2008

SACRE was reminded that this matter had been discussed with the item relating to the conference and that the budget could also include:

- Attendance at the NASACRE conference
- CRB checks
- Supply teachers carrying out monitoring of the Agreed Syllabus (£150 per day)
- Costs relating to the review, launch and production of a revised Agreed Syllabus.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.00 p.m.