

# **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

**held on Monday, 18 July, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.**

**at Green Lane Baptist Church, Green Lane, Walsall**

## **Present**

Councillor Fitzpatrick  
Councillor Robertson  
Mr. A. Orlik  
Mrs. M. Gibbons  
Mrs. V. Morris  
Mr. D. Thakker  
Mrs. B. Groombridge  
Father J. Nankivell  
Mr. R. Simmons  
Mr. R. Askari

## **In Attendance**

Mr. Huw Bishop (Church of England)

The meeting was informed that it was, at present, inquorate but could continue to hear information only items at this stage.

## **Appointment of Chairman for the meeting**

Mrs. Gibbons was appointed Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

## **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Barker, Rochelle and Turner, Mrs. S. Blackmore, Mr. C. Hopkins, Father M. Leadbeater, Mr. D. Lomax.

## **Action Plan - Update**

Mr. Richards referred to the Action Plan submitted at the last meeting and an update had been requested from Mr. Blaylock. The Action Plan also related to the five year Development Plan and how the agreed syllabus was supporting RE in schools, what schools were using it and how it was being used, as well as its impact on the quality of learning in schools. SACRE had carried out visits to schools to ascertain this

information and Mr. Blaylock had been supplementing this during the fifteen days of his time that had been purchased to support SACRE.

Mr. Richards referred to a recent re-structuring in which a new post had been created around well being and community cohesion and introduced Rema Saggu who was responsible for teaching and learning, together with Sandhu Moran who would assist Members in school visits and thereby increase the number of visits able to take place.

With regard to resources to deliver the agreed syllabus, the Committee was informed that Mr. Blaylock was in the process of producing work units to develop themes within the syllabus. Questionnaires had been sent to schools requesting information on the resources required. In order to gather this information, a questionnaire would be circulated to all schools and visits carried out by Members of SACRE. The evidence gained so far indicated that schools were at different levels and had not yet established what resources would be required to deliver the syllabus.

Three units of work had been prepared by Mr. Blaylock and SACRE was requested to indicate whether they felt that the units would be useful for distribution to schools:-

(see annexed)

With regard to staff training, Mr. Simmons requested that this be looked into as it took place during the school day and presented problems regarding staff cover.

Mr. Richards informed SACRE that “well being” was raised by Ofsted and would need to be given a higher priority.

SACRE noted the information provided and thanked Mr. Richards for being pro-active.

At this juncture, the meeting became quorate.

### **Appointment of Chairman for 2011/12 Municipal Year**

#### **Resolved**

That Mr. C. Hopkins (Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education) be appointed Chairman of SACRE for the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

### **Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the 2011/12 Municipal Year**

#### **Resolved**

That Councillor Robertson (Local Education Authority) be appointed Vice-Chairman of SACRE for the 2011/12 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 (as amended)**

The Committee was informed that there were no items for consideration in the private session.

### **Resignation of Mr. K. Yeates (Teacher representative)**

SACRE noted the resignation of Mr. K. Yeates, teacher representative, who retired at Easter.

### **Minutes**

#### **(a) Minutes - 14 March, 2011**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March, 2011 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March, 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **(b) Strategy Sub-Group - 13 June, 2011**

The minutes of the meeting of the Strategy Sub-Group held on 13 June, 2011 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Strategy Sub-Group held on 13 June, 2011 be received and noted.

#### **(c) Matters Arising - West Hill Project**

SACRE was informed that the bid was not submitted to West Hill but that the information that was now available could be used for a bid for 2011/12.

Mr. Bishop informed SACRE that he was the Chair of the Interim Executive Board of Blue Coat School and would contact the Interim Head Teacher with a view to requesting that the link with SACRE on the tour guide project continues.

Mrs. Morris reminded SACRE that all secondary schools in Walsall were approached, out of which ten had committed £100 towards the tour guide project, Blue Coat held that funding; "Faith in Action" monies had been used and the remainder was with Blue Coat School.

Mr. Bishop undertook to look into this matter.

Mr. Richards apologised to SACRE for the application not being submitted and the Clerk undertook to forward the West Hill application to Mr. Richards when it arrived in 2012.

### **Resolved**

That the present position be noted.

### **Election of Spokespersons for the Groups**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

That the following Members be appointed as Spokespersons for the respective Groups for the current Municipal Year:-

Mr. D. Thakker	-	Christian and other religious denominations group
Mr. R. Simmons	-	Teacher representative
Mr. C. Hopkins	-	Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education
Councillor I. Robertson	-	Local Authority representative

### **Appointment of Strategy Sub-Group and progress on the five year Development Plan**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Members adjourned to their groups to discuss the matter.

### **Resolved**

(1) That the following Members be appointed to the Strategy Sub-Group:-

Councillor Robertson	-	Local Authority representative
Mr. C. Hopkins	-	Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education
Mrs. V. Morris	-	Other Faiths and religious denominations representative

- (2) That the remainder of the five year Development Plan be agreed as follows:-

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

The launch of the Agreed Syllabus had taken place and had been in use in schools from September 2010.

To date, two new members of SACRE had attended training sessions, however these sessions are no longer available but NASACRE can bring trainers into Walsall for a day session if required at a cost of approximately £300.

- (3) That the dates and venues for the Sub-Group be agreed as follows:-

Monday, 19 September, 2011 - Pleck Methodist Church, Bescot Road

Monday, 6 February, 2012 - Pleck Methodist Church, Bescot Road

Monday, 11 June, 2012 - Pleck Methodist Church, Bescot Road

Meetings to commence at 4.30 p.m.

### **Action Plan - Update**

Mr. Richards informed SACRE that the information from Mr. Blaylock was still awaited.

### **Resolved**

That the update on the Action Plan be submitted to the next meeting.

## **SACRE/Multi-faith Forum Working Group - Feedback**

Mrs. Morris informed SACRE that the SACRE/Multi-faith Forum Working Party, set up to raise awareness of activities each group had been involved in and was pursuing, had been held when it was agreed that SACRE and the Multi-faith Forum should look into this and the Faith Tour Guiding Course was introduced as a result. This complemented each group as the aim was to improve the quality of visits to places of worship. It was envisaged that the groups would continue to work together to raise the profile of quality encounters in places of worship.

Mr. Askari informed SACRE that the Multi-faith Forum was organising a big event which had previously proven very popular and was open to everyone.

Members referred to the ICOCO report and there was an opportunity for SACRE to get involved by donating or offering voluntary help, this would raise the profile of SACRE. Mrs. Groombridge referred to the Food and Faith event which would be held at the Town Hall between 12 and 4 p.m. on Saturday, 26 November, 2011 and felt that SACRE should be represented.

### **Resolved**

That the information submitted be noted.

## **Display of Children's Art in New Art Gallery - Progress report**

With regard to the display of children's work in the New Art Gallery, Mr. Blaylock had contacted the Gallery but there was no art available at the moment for display.

SACRE was informed that the Gallery was usually booked years in advance.

## **SACRE/Multi-faith Forum Working Group**

The Committee was advised that this matter had been dealt with earlier on the agenda.

### **Funding**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mr. Richards confirmed that the £5,000 funding for SACRE from Walsall Children's Services - Serco would continue but a decision would be required on the support provided by RE Today.

### **Resolved**

That the information and report be noted and a further report be submitted to the next meeting to update SACRE on the funding position.

## **Funding for Faith Tour Guiding Course**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

That the contents of the report be noted and the information contained therein be used as the basis of an application to the West Hill Project for 2012 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

## **Grant for Induction for Police, NQTs, WHG**

Mrs. Morris referred to the need for induction for staff of various organisations coming to work in Walsall to enlighten them on the cultural issues and their implication on the day-to-day inter-action with local people in Walsall. It had been indicated that the ghettoism was greater now than some ten years ago and issues had been highlighted in relation to Asian teenage boys. It was felt that an induction of public service staff coming to work in Walsall would benefit from an awareness of aspects of respect and networks as well as appropriate communication within different cultural settings in Walsall. This would empower staff and provide them with information of appropriate persons to communicate with. Walsall Housing Group had expressed an interest in receiving training for their community workers and would be happy to pay the appropriate fee. Mr. Richards undertook to look into the possibility of including this in the NQT programme.

Mrs. Morris indicated that someone with an in depth knowledge of Walsall would be appropriate to deliver such a session. It was felt that the sessions should be open to anyone coming to work in the Borough and it was envisaged that young people could come along to give a presentation.

It was agreed that Mr. Askari work with Mrs. Morris to put a programme together for the delivery of an induction session.

### **Resolved**

That the progress report be noted.

## **Dates for future meetings**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Robertson informed SACRE that, in line with previous practice, prior to Ramadan, a free meal would be provided on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2011 at 8.45 p.m. This was provided between the Christian and Asian Charity and Christian and Muslims were welcome.

Mr. Simmons informed SACRE of the event that took place on 6<sup>th</sup> June to give out awards for Faith Guiding. The presentation event had been a success.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That in order to comply with the current constitution, SACRE hold meetings for the 2011/12 Municipal Year as follows:-

Monday, 10 October, 2011

Monday, 12 March, 2012

Monday, 9 July, 2012

- (2) That meetings rotate between suitable venues to be agreed and commence at 5.30 p.m.

### **Termination of Meeting**

The meeting terminated at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman .....

Date .....