

SACRE Strategy Sub Group / Agreed Syllabus Working Group

held on Monday, 22 June, 2009 at 4.30 p.m.

at Pleck Methodist Church, Bescot Road, Walsall

Present

Reverend E. Snowden (Chair)
Councillor C. Ault
Father J. Nankivell
Mrs. S. Blackmore
Mrs. V. Morris
Mrs. M. Gibbons

In attendance

Mr. D. Taylor – Consultant for Walsall Children's Services - SERCO
Ms. Faz Rahir – Teacher at Blue Coat School
Ms. K. Beggum – Head of Humanities, Joseph Leckie Business College
Mrs. G. Ensor – Walsall MBC

Apologies

There were no apologies submitted.

Notes of meeting held on 27 January, 2009

The notes of the meeting held on 27 January, 2009 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the notes of the meeting held on 27 January, 2009 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Late items to be introduced by the Chairman

There were no late items for introduction by the Chairman.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items for consideration in private session.

Review of Agreed Syllabus

The progress report and draft agreed syllabus were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mr. Taylor referred to version 10 of the draft syllabus and confirmed that the “I can” statements indicated on page 34 of the document would be included in the appendices of the final version. For information, an RE inspection of Fibbersley School would take place next week and following a discussion with the Head Teacher, some descriptors at level 5 had been forwarded to the school. It was hoped that the outcome of the inspection would highlight any inconsistencies with the draft agreed syllabus.

Mr. Taylor confirmed that his contract ceased at the end of today and was, at the moment, unsure who would be taking over his role with SACRE.

It was hoped that any amendments identified this evening would be included in version 11 of the draft syllabus which would then be submitted to the 13 July meeting for approval.

With regard to the acknowledgements listed on page 2, these would need to be identified and included; the contents on page 3 were still being worked upon;

Page 6 would need to be signed off by the Director of Children’s Services;

Page 9 – pupil progress should be reported to parents at the end of each year; schools should be complying with the syllabus by September 2010 this would give sufficient time for schools to programme in training on the new syllabus. Mrs. Blackmore undertook to carry out training for primary RE teachers on the new syllabus; school visits could provide an indicator on attainment.

Members were requested to consider whether “how to use the agreed syllabus” was clear for others to use.

Page 17 – this was brought into line with the non statutory guidance consultation document;

Page 19 – QCA guidance on themes was awaited;

Page 28 – “learning across the curriculum” would be attached as an appendix;

Page 31 “general teaching requirements” would appear after “legal requirements”;

Page 34 the “I Can” statements to be included as an appendix;

Page 38 – each year would be displayed on a separate page and a flavour of activities / themes could be lifted; this would enable teachers to develop their own programme;

Page 39 – change text for Plenary to read “when doing plenary, determine:-...”;

Page 47 secondary schools would need to liaise with primary schools in respect of the transition units; this could be enlarged upon during the training sessions / network meetings;

Page 53 (B) move to the “I Can” statements to show attainment;

Page 59 statements follow through and should give enough evidence;

Page 65 – change to major world faiths and show more breadth;

Page 67 – take out “key features” and include a web link for festivals and important dates; include websites for contacts for visits and resources.

Mrs. Morris undertook to include information for Baptists and the Working Group was advised that Mrs. Davies would write the Methodist statement. With regard to the different denominations within Christianity, it was necessary to show where these could be found and include a named contact and email address.

Father Nankivell stated that “Mohammed” was mentioned many times and appeared to give a slant. Mrs. Blackmore referred to the need to edit the document from the perspective of the diocese.

Page 73 to include the Chair, teacher representatives, local authority representatives and the Christian denominations and other religious denominations.

The “notes” page would remain in the final document for the personal use of schools.

Members were requested to provide Mr. Taylor with any comments within seven days.

With regard to the launch of the document , it was suggested that this should take place on 24 November, 2009 and that arrangements be staggered during the day, with teachers given a task to complete and it would be a requirement to sign from the hard copy of the agreed syllabus. Staff would be requested to indicate whether they would like to be part of a network.

Mr. Taylor stated that an article could be included in the September issue of School News regarding the launch of the syllabus and that it would be used within schools from September, 2010.

Resolved

- (1) That the amendments proposed above be agreed;
- (2) That the Agreed Syllabus, when approved, be launched on 24 November, 2009.

Other Issues

Councillor Ault informed the group that he had attended a NASACRE Conference in Birmingham on 4 June, 2009 at the Council House, Birmingham.

Father Nankivell informed the group that he had been working on the list of churches and that “church links” had undertaken to provide a list; he undertook to check on the progress.

Councillor Ault confirmed that he submitted a SACRE annual report to Council and that the document had been challenged, Councillor Ault confirmed that he had addressed the challenge and given some background information on the role of SACRE.

Mrs. Morris referred to her attendance at a Muslim Conference at the Town Hall, Walsall when an imam from one of the London Mosques addressed the audience.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 6.35 p.m.