

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**HELD ON MONDAY 6 MARCH 2017 AT 6.00PM**

**AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, LICHFIELD STREET, WALSALL**

**Present**

Councillor Craddock  
Councillor Phillips  
Councillor Rochelle  
Councillor Washbrook  
Councillor Gultasib  
Councillor Barker  
Mrs S Blackmore  
Mr P Prasad  
Mrs Karen Donnellan  
Mr Gerry Gomez  
Mrs M Gibbons  
Mr David Lomax (Vice-Chairman)  
Mrs Barbara Groombridge  
Mr M Lad  
Imam Saeed-Ur Rahman  
Mrs Doreen Barrett

**Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Robertson and Mr C Hopkins (Chair).

**Chairmanship of the meeting**

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr Hopkins, Mr Lomax, the Vice-Chairman, took the chair for the duration of the meeting.

**Late items to be introduced by the Chairman**

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

**Local Government (Access for Information) Act 1985 (As amended)**

There were no items for consideration in the private session.

**Minutes of the meeting of SACRE held on 31 October 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of SACRE held on 31 October 2016 were submitted:

(See annexed)

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **Religion and places of worship in Walsall (February 2017)**

The report of the education advisor was submitted:

(See annexed)

The education advisor (Mr Flynn) enlarged upon the report and explained that the information booklet produced would be sent to all Walsall's schools as an aide to RE teachers. It would include contact details for places of worship throughout Walsall so that schools could arrange to visit different religious establishments and help to deepen understanding of other faiths and encourage tolerance and respect.

Mr Lomax suggested that Mr Flynn should be thanked for his hard work in obtaining this information and putting together the document.

Councillor Craddock suggested that the report should be amended and corrected and then a second draft document should be sent to representatives for final amendment before being distributed to schools as an educational resource.

During discussion on possible amendments it was agreed:

- That the photographs of all the churches be removed.
- That information on Judaism and the Baptist church be added.

Councillor Rochelle asked the age of children taught RE in schools. Mrs Blackmore replied that children between 5 and 19 were taught RE or 16 if there was no sixth form. Mrs Blackmore asked if it would be possible to reintroduce RE days like the one held at the Banks Stadium in 2015. Mr Lomax replied that the National Curriculum meant that there was little spare capacity to enable children to attend such events.

After further discussion it was:

### **Resolved**

That representatives send any further proposed amendments to the religion and places of worship in Walsall (February 2017) document to S. Flynn by Friday 17 March. He would then update the document and send the next draft to all representatives and those who had contributed information. The feedback on the draft would then be incorporated and would form the final version which would be sent out to schools.

### **Faith based organisations and key contacts**

A list of faith based organisations and key contacts together with telephone numbers was circulated to members present at the meeting:

(See annexed)

Mr Lomax suggested that the Baptist and Walsall Evangelical Churches should be written to asking that they fill the vacancies for those churches on SACRE.

The group having suggested a number of amendments to the faith based organisations and key contacts list it was:

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the faith based organisations and key contacts list be re-drafted to include all amendments submitted by the group and then after further consultation as described above, for it to be sent to schools as an appendix to the religion and places of worship in Walsall document; and
- (2) That the document be reviewed annually.

### **Report from RE today on implementation of agreed syllabus and other developmental issues**

The education advisor (Mr Flynn) reported that Fiona Moss who was to lead on this item had submitted her apologies because of a family bereavement. The group asked that condolences be passed onto Fiona Moss for her loss.

Mr Flynn reported that SACRE had been thanked for the cross fertilisation of ideas passed to the primary teachers group which would be sharing good practice.

### **It was agreed**

That the professional development programme should be referred to schools for consideration.

### **Late item**

Councillor Phillips, as Mayor of Walsall, indicated that she would be interested to attend the services of other religious denominations during the remainder of her mayoralty which would end on 22 May 2017. She asked if any invitations could be submitted to the Mayor's secretary.



**Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 17 July 2017.

**Termination of meeting**

The meeting terminated at 7.10pm.