

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

held on Monday, 16 July, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.

at Pleck Methodist Church, Bescot Road, Walsall

Present

Councillor Ditta
Councillor Rochelle
Mrs. S. Blackmore
Mr. C. Hopkins
Mrs. M. Gibbons
Mr. D. Lomax
Mr. D. Thakker
Mrs B. Groombridge
Mr. R. Simmons
Mr. R. Askari

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Barker, J. Fitzpatrick, S. Fitzpatrick, and Turner; Father M. Leadbeater, Mrs V. Morris and Mrs R. Broughton-Mills.

The Chairman opened the meeting and announced that although the meeting was inquorate, the items not requiring a decision could be dealt with. Everyone present then introduced themselves at the meeting.

SACRE was informed of the resignation of Mrs P. M. Davis a representative of the Methodist faith.

Presentation by Faith Development Officer

Mr.G. Nembhard, Faith Development Officer at Walsall Council gave a brief presentation on the work he was undertaking between the local authority and the multi-faith network in the borough. His role would be to strengthen the multi-faith network, liaising with strategic partners, promoting the interface multi-faith event and promoting cohesion.

Mr. Nembhard informed SACRE that he chaired the West Midlands Multi-Faith Forum and would be able to assist with promoting Walsall with the West Midlands Multi-Faith Forum. The West Midlands Multi-Faith Forum had a small board of members that dealt with business and a wider executive council which consisted of members from various forums and met on a quarterly basis. Meetings generally took place in Birmingham for ease of travelling as the membership included representatives from Coventry and Leamington.

The website for the forum was www.wmfaithsforum.org.uk, and provided interesting information for members. He referred to work with organisations following the riots and efforts where being made to introduce faith into the heart of everything as faith had a valuable input.

SACRE thanked Mr. Nembhard for his presentation and wished him every success in his role.

Launch for Units of Work - Update

Mr. Blaylock gave a brief presentation to SACRE and circulated a document outlining guidance and support for the teaching of RE for year groups 1 to 6:-.

(see annexed)

The units were launched at the conference on the 5th July 2012 when approximately 30 attendees were present; the units were supplemented by a CD which would complement the units of work. The schools not represented at the conference would be given the opportunity to purchase the CD at a cost of £20.00. The disk was entitled "Broad Mind Deep Thoughts."

Mr. Richards confirmed that information relating to the conference would be posted on "The Well" and would be promoted through the subject leaders training session. The CDs would supplement the agreed syllabus.

Mr. Blaylock referred to the gifted and talented pupil conference which was held by Sandwell and Walsall SACREs and funded from a national trust that supported Religious Education; both authorities provided the administration and venue for the event. Year 8 pupils were pupil guides for Year 5 pupils and almost 100 children were involved in the day. Certificates were awarded to the Year 8 pupils for their work. Twenty-one teachers were in attendance. Consideration should be given to ways of self-funding an activity away-day.

Mr. Blaylock asked SACRE whether it should run this type of event for Walsall schools.

SACRE noted the outcome of the launch for the Units of Work and the gifted and talented pupil conference.

Unit of Work – finding reasons to care through religious stories

A copy of the Unit of Work was submitted.

(see annexed)

SACRE noted that the Unit of Work "finding reasons to care through religious studies" had been included in the launch of "Units of Work to schools."

Walsall SACRE – a voice of RE

A draft letter was submitted.

(see annexed)

At this juncture, the meeting become quorate.

Resolved

That the letter supporting the R.E. Curriculum be forwarded to the Secretary of State for Education including the emphasis by Walsall schools on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development together with a CD entitled “Broad Mind Deep Thoughts”.

Action Plan update

The Action Plan was submitted.

(see annexed)

Mr. Richards informed SACRE that the information in the Annual Report sets out progress on the Action Plan.

Resolved

That the progress on the Action Plan as set out in the Annual Report be noted.

Annual Report of SACRE

The annual report of SACRE was submitted.

(see annexed)

Mr. Richards drew SACRE’s attention to the context of the report included on page 5 of the document, he confirmed that the newsletter had gone out to schools to alert them to current issues. The Action Plan was set out from page 16 of the report; he confirmed that information on RE could be accessed via “The Well” and newsletter as well as the work being undertaken by RE Today. Links to the RE Today website could also be included.

With regard to advanced criteria, the contact with RE Today and the Walsall Support Team should secure compliance. No monitoring of collective worship had taken place as schools had been reluctant to allow SACRE members into their schools. The use of the agreed syllabus had not been established as visits to school had ceased. Units of Work had been provided to support and supplement the syllabus and it was suggested that supporting collective worship could be included in subject leader and NQT training programmes.

Resolved

- (1) That the Annual Report be approved;
- (2) That the Annual Report be referred to Council for information.

Appointment of Chairman for 2012/13 Municipal Year

Resolved

That Mr. Colin Hopkins be appointed Chairman of SACRE for the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

Appointment of Vice-Chair for 2012/13 Municipal Year

Resolved

That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

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 (as amended)

There were no items for consideration in the private session.

Minutes

(a) 12th March, 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2012 were submitted.

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the minutes of meeting held on 12th March 2012 be approved as set out subject to the inclusion of Mrs. M. Gibsons and Mr. R. Simmons in the list of apologies for that meeting.

(b) Strategy Subgroup – 11th June 2012

The minutes of the Strategy Sub-Group of 11th June 2012 were submitted.

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the minutes of the Strategy Sub-Group held on 11th June 2012 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. C Hopkins | - | Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education |
| Councillor Rochelle | - | Local Authority Representative |
| Mr. R. Simmons | - | Teacher Representative |
| Mrs. M. Gibbons | - | Christian and other religious denominations group |

Appointment of Strategy Sub-Group and progress on the five year development plan

Resolved

(1) That the following members be appointed to the Strategy Subgroup:-

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Mr. C. Hopkins | - | Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education |
| Councillor Rochelle | - | Local Education Authority |
| Mr. R. Simmons | - | Teacher Representative |
| Mrs. V. Morris | - | Other faith and religious denominations representative |

(2) That consideration of the five year development plan be deferred to the next meeting.

(3) That Sub-Group meetings be held on Wednesdays during September 2012, February 2013 and June 2013, final dates to be agreed with the Members.

National Society Statutory Inspection - Section 48

(a) St Michael's CE (CC) School

The section 48 report was submitted.

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report be received and noted.

(b) Birchills Church of England (VC) Primary School

A copy of the National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report be received and noted.

Dates of future meetings and start time

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That in order to comply with the current Constitution, SACRE hold meetings for the 2012/13 Municipal Year as follows:-

Monday, 8th October, 2012

Monday, 11th March, 2013

Monday, 15th July, 2013

That the meetings rotate between suitable venues to be agreed and commence at 6.00 p.m.

Outcome of Westhill Project Bid

The outcome of the Westhill Project Bid was submitted.

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the outcome of the Westhill Project Bid be noted.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.15 p.m.

Chairman

Date