

# **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

**held on Monday, 8 October, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.**

**at Pleck Methodist Church, Bescot Road, Walsall**

## **Present**

Councillor Barker  
Councillor Rochelle  
Mr C. Hopkins  
Mrs M. Gibbons  
Mrs V. Morris  
Mr D. Thakkar  
Mrs B. Groombridge  
Mr R. Simmons  
Mrs R. Broughton-Mills

## **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Fitzpatrick, J. Fitzpatrick, S. Blakemore, Mr R. Askari

The Chairman informed members that the meeting was inquorate but was of the view that the issues on the agenda could be discussed.

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and everyone present introduced themselves.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the remainder of 2012/13 Municipal Year.

It was agreed that this item stand deferred to the next meeting.

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

There were no late items or introduction 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.

## **Minutes**

(a) Meeting - 16 July 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2012 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Members agreed to note the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2012.

(b) Strategy Sub-Group - 19 September 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2012 were submitted.

(see annexed)

The Sub-Committee minutes held on 19 September 2012 were agreed subject to the inclusion of Councillor Rochelle in the list of those attending.

## **Voice for RE - Correspondence**

A copy of correspondence from The Department for Education was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Chairman reminded members that he had written to the Secretary of State for Education expressing SACRE's concern about the status of RE within the curriculum and, in particular, that RE be included in the English Baccalaureate measure of school performance. It was agreed that the response be noted.

## **National Subject Review of Religious Education**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

It was agreed that the information be noted.

## **Five Year Development Plan**

The report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Members referred to the problems with regard to members being invited to visit schools.

The training of SACRE members and a visit to a neighbouring Local Authority could be investigated.

SACRE requested that Earl Richards look at Ofsted reports, and their examination of PHSE to ascertain whether the information contained therein could assist with monitoring.

With regard to Academies, the Chairman stated that the funding agreement for the Academy should include the teaching of RE; some schools achieve this through citizenship. It would prove difficult for SACRE to monitor RE although this is part of its role.

The action in relation to SACRE meeting the advanced criteria in the self evaluation information be submitted to the next meeting setting out the requirements and progress so far.

### **Action Plan Update and SACRE Self Evaluation**

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

The Chairman gave a brief report on the update on distribution of units of work and the clarity on the provision of social; moral; spiritual and cultural teaching in schools and the material that RE today could provide. The Chairman commented that excellence should be dispersed across several schools rather than a single school of excellence; Beacon Schools had stronger emphasis on different areas. Schools could visit other schools to look at good practice. The Chairman stated that Church Schools would be interested in helping but it was important that Community Schools identified where good practice had been identified and invite others to visit. Mr Simmons indicated that governors received reports and the information could be passed on to SACRE.

### **National Society Statutory Inspections - S48**

(a) Old Church C.E. (VC) Primary School, Darlaston.

The report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mr Simmons indicated that the schools could be invited to give a short presentation to the meeting when their reports would be received.

The Chairman stated that the report looked at collective worship but not RE.

(b) St. Giles C.E. (CC) Primary School, Willenhall.

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

It was agreed that the reports be received.

**Venue for next meeting**

It was agreed that future meetings of the sub-group and SACRE take place at the Council House, Walsall. The members present thanked Mrs Gibbons for her hospitality.

**Termination of Meeting**

The meeting terminated at 6.55 p.m.

Chairman .....

Date .....