



Minutes

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at 7.30pm
at Sutton Civic Centre, St. Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey

Present: Mrs R Johnson (A) Mrs M Cockram (C)
Mr L Bracken (A) Ms M Cucharo (C)
(Groups in Rev D Smith (A) Mr P Henry (C)
brackets) Mrs C Smyth (B) Cllr R Broadbent (D) (Vice-Chair)
Rev M Williams (B) Chair Cllr M Burstow (D)
Mrs P Teasdale (B) Cllr T Crowley (D)

Apologies: Miss V M Stone (C)

In Ms K Evans Observer/Local Authority Representative
attendance: Ms P Smith-Orr Consultant/Observer
Mrs P Garry Clerk

	ITEM	ACTION BY
1./2.	<p>WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Councillor Crowley was welcomed to his first SACRE meeting.</p> <p>Mrs P Teasdale tendered her resignation from SACRE. Mrs Teasdale had been a SACRE member for many years and felt it was the right time to retire. The Chair thanked her for her service to SACRE.</p>	
3.	<p>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR</p> <p>Nominations were invited for Chair and Vice-Chair.</p> <p>Revd Mark Williams was nominated by Cllr Broadbent and agreed to stand. SACRE members were all in favour of appointing Revd Williams as Chair for the period of one year i.e. until Autumn 2016.</p> <p>Cllr Broadbent agreed to stand as Vice-Chair and was unanimously appointed.</p>	
4.	<p>MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 2ND JULY 2015</p> <p>a) Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record with the following inaccuracies noted:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The day of the meeting was Thursday, not Wednesday. <p>All actions had been completed and MW confirmed that he had written a thank you card to Lal Hussain.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Ambassadors for Faith & Belief - this will be an agenda item in the Spring term.</p> <p>RE Exam Consultations – KS4 is nearing completion and some boards have issued draft specifications which will probably be signed off. There have been some changes, mostly the introduction of the requirement to teach two religions and some different elements of assessment. The aim is for it to connect to KS3 and to ensure consistencies from KS1 and KS2.</p> <p>The KS4 categories and themes are more or less the same as those in KS1 and KS2. Each exam board is different – Edexcel have not made many changes and OCR have some interesting content e.g. philosophy and have not previously required schools to teach more than one faith. A member asked whether a school would comply with the government criteria and PS-O explained that schools choose their own exam boards and teach to that criteria.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>SYLLABUS UPDATE</p> <p>The notes from the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 1st October had been circulated with the Agenda. PS-O explained that, following the conference, she had pulled together all the elements into an Agreed Syllabus which was being finalised and checked for formatting. A hard copy was available at the meeting for members to see. The final document would be transferred into a PDF format before circulation by the LA to schools.</p> <p>A planning grid had been included breaking down the elements and suggestions for when to teach them but it was stressed to teachers at a recent network meeting that this was only a guide.</p> <p>In response to a request at the RE network meeting, there will be an addition made in respect of different ways of teaching Christmas and Easter for different year groups.</p> <p>A member asked whether an introduction would be included and it was confirmed that this would come from the LA Head of Education, Colin Stewart. Members felt that there should also be something included from the Chair of SACRE.</p> <p>Members also discussed the wider circulation of the Syllabus and it was agreed that this should be an Information item for school governing bodies.</p> <p>Action: Final version of Agreed Syllabus and NASACRE leaflet to</p>	

	<p style="text-align: center;">be sent to schools by Tuesday 1st December 2015.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to email June Crame, Governor Support, to request that an information item be included in the Spring term sheet to Sutton schools about the new syllabus.</p> <p>Action: Final agreed syllabus to be uploaded to the Local Authority SACRE webpage by Tuesday 1st December 2015.</p>	<p>PS-O/ Colin Stewart</p> <p>PG</p> <p>PG</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>MEETING THE CHALLENGE</p> <p>Members worked in their committee groups to complete each section. These responses will be collated by PS-O to feed into the new SACRE Development plan for January 2016 to December 2016.</p> <p>Some brief discussions took place around some of the items:</p> <p>Item 3 - Confusion around SACREs role in relation to academies and free schools.</p> <p>RB asked about why this was the case. PS-O confirmed that there are no free schools in Sutton and that, in respect of academies, they are not required to follow the agreed Sutton syllabus but we would be encouraging them to do so. She added that teachers from academies do attend the courses that she runs.</p> <p>Item 1. Engaging with Schools</p> <p>Members generally thought that this was done successfully and there is a termly RE network meeting with the RE Consultant (one of the few subject areas that have these. It was recognised that it is more challenging for secondary schools. The cost for attendance is £30 per head and it was suggested that schools must see the “cash value” in sending their teachers. A member asked whether the same people attend but it was explained that it tends to be different people each time. This is thought to be because the RE co-ordinator is often changed as they are often not specialists at primary level and it is thought to be an easy subject. It was also noted that most RE co-ordinators are in the Foundation stage and sometimes don’t have a good knowledge of what to teach in the later years of primary. MC explained that the meetings are very productive and that the last one discussed British Values, Ofsted, collective worship and SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development) more widely.</p> <p>Members said that it would be good to explore why only around 50% of RE co-ordinators are attending.</p> <p>Action: KE to speak to CPD Co-ordinator and ask her to email PS-O with a list of schools that don’t attend by 30th November. PS-O can then make contact.</p> <p>A member asked about the resources available to schools and it was confirmed that these are available through Victor Seymour Primary School. This had been highlighted in the new syllabus together with some Resources sheets that teachers can use.</p>	<p>KE/PS-O</p>

	<p>It was also felt that a wider promotion should be attempted i.e. at the Heads Partnership meetings and with the Forum of Sutton Governors. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerks action in Item 3 to promote the syllabus would cover the governor aspect (it was agreed that a shorter overview of the syllabus could be sent to governors).</p> <p>Item 8 – Need to promote importance of RE in schools and with LAs and DfE</p> <p>It was suggested that a brief item about the new syllabus be put in the Council's "INSIGHT" electronic newsletter and the Council Briefing. The NASACRE leaflet could also be included.</p> <p>It was further suggested that a "shared webspace" could be set up through the London Grid for Learning.</p> <p>Action: KE to investigate whether a shared webspace is possible.</p> <p>Action: PS-O to send an overview of new syllabus and general wording to RB by second week in December. RB will arrange for the publication of this to Councillors and staff.</p> <p>Items 6 & 7 – Sharing good practice across SACREs/Encouraging collaboration and sharing of resources with neighbouring SACREs</p> <p>PS-O explained that the Annual Reports of all SACREs are published on the NASACRE website and that due to the introduction of the standard template they are all very similar. She further explained that the government are looking at a way to analyse these in future.</p>	<p>KE</p> <p>PS-O/RB</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE</p> <p>The development plan actions for the year were reviewed and members were pleased to note that most had been completed. The NASACRE leaflet had not been circulated it was felt that the monitoring aspect of SACRE could be further developed. The Ambassadors of Faith and Belief will be included and the development of the KS3 Syllabus.</p> <p>The plan will be updated and new items identified during the completion of the meeting the challenge document will be incorporated.</p> <p>Action: PS-O to update the Development Plan by 5th January 2015 and clerk will circulate to members</p>	<p>PS-O/PG</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>SACRE ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p>PS-O mentioned that she would be completing this over the next month onto the new template. The GCSE exam results would be included (but it was noted that this data will be un-validated).</p> <p>Action: PS-O to circulate the Annual Report to members for comment by the first week in December, prior to sending off to NASACRE.</p>	

<p>10.</p>	<p>COURSES FOR RE TEACHERS</p> <p>An RE Teachers Network meeting was held on 3rd November.</p> <p>Autumn term - Festival of Light course held this term with 12 attendees.</p> <p>Spring term – Spring festivals.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>SCHOOL VISITS</p> <p>There had been no school visits this term as the syllabus had taken priority.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Brent Model for Collective Worship.</p> <p>Members discussed this and agreed that Collective worship should be looked at more closely. However, they were not in favour of promoting this model to schools as it was felt that Sutton was a very different borough to Brent and also that SACRE’s general view was not to encourage schools to apply for a determination not to do collective worship. It was felt that some guidance and ideas could be developed for schools.</p> <p>Action: Collective Worship to be an agenda item in the Spring term.</p>	<p>PG</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Tuesday 23rd February 2016 at 7.30pm</p> <p>Tuesday 14th June 2016 at 7.30pm</p> <p>Venues to be confirmed.</p>	

Closing Time of Meeting: 9.20pm

Chair’s Signature Date.....