

# **The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)**

## **Minutes of Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**Present:**           **Group A:**  
Hardeep Singh Sahota, Kathy Turner, Anju Sharma, Christine Morgan, Dr Shira Lewin Solomons

**Group B:**  
Jo Fageant,

**Group C:**  
Michael Freeman (Chairperson), Sue Cresswell,

**Group D**  
Beth Rowland (Vice Chairperson)

**In attendance:** Emily Waddilove WBC  
Mrs Danni Needs

**Clerk:**           Pat Horne – WBC

**Apologies**       **Group B**  
Lisa Cornwell

**Group C**  
Alan Youd

**Group D**  
Anthony Pollock

**Not Present:**   **Group A**  
Shahid Younis

**Group C**  
Kevin Price

### **1 WELCOME and APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Lisa Cornwell, Anthony Pollock and Alan Youd. Emily Waddilove was welcomed to the Council as a replacement for Helen Currie.

### **2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Michael Freeman was nominated to remain as Chair of the conference by Beth Rowland and seconded by Kathy Turner. Michael was re-elected unopposed.

Beth Rowlands was proposed by Lisa Cornwall as Vice Chair and this was seconded by Sue Cresswell. Beth was re-elected unopposed.

**3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

There was a correction to the minutes dated Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010 Item 10. Pastoral Festival should read Patronal Festival.

Jo referred to the item under 4 SACRE Development event:-

'It was not possible to get secondary Heads of RE together after their training day on 25<sup>th</sup> February. Consideration will be given to a joint event with another Authority, using the new NASACRE training materials.' Jo will bring this up at the Joint SACRE event on 15<sup>th</sup> June.'

**ACTION:-** Jo had no idea what this related to but will ask whether another Berkshire Local Authority will take the lead in organising such an event.

The minutes of the meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> June were accepted as a true version.

**ACTION:-** It was agreed that a Christmas bouquet would be purchased for Helen for her services to the Wokingham SACRE and delivered personally by Michael and Beth, with a meal to be arranged in January or February.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

**i. Jo on Joint Training Events for Secondary Heads of RE**

See above.

**ii. Communications from Humanists Association**

Michael explained the disillusionment of everyone with the previous presentation made by the Humanists when they came to visit. Michael is to meet with the president of the Humanist Association and will report back to the next meeting. He will say that Wokingham SACRE would like a more substantial presentation. Michael pointed out that Wokingham was one of the only SACRES which did not include Humanists.

The role of the Humanists was debated and whether their point of view was simply a philosophical one, although Humanism is an optional part of the national curriculum.

Jo Fageant said that there was information on the Joint SACREs website. It said that Humanists could be co-opted into Group A.

**ACTION –** Michael will meet with the Humanists and put them on to the agenda for either the June or November meeting.

**5. DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

2011-12 Development Plan to be considered.

Helen has produced a draft development plan for the next financial year.

Emily explained about her role and that regrettably she would not have as much time as Helen for SACRE work. She hopes to have some admin. support, but will still have little capacity for doing project work.

Projects were discussed:

- **Project – Develop Wokingham RE trails for primary and secondary use –**  
This is an exciting project (see later comments)
- **Project – Development of materials and lesson plans to support new syllabus –** This has been finished and given to Helen some time ago.  
**ACTION:**-Emily will check if they are on the website and ask Jo to send them to her if they are not there.
- **Project – support RE teachers in their self-evaluation.** Jo feels this project is no longer relevant (see item 8 below).
- **Project – Establish secondary RE network through the secondary Federation.-** A new Federation manager has recently been appointed.  
**ACTION:** Emily will talk to her and to Jo about setting up a network.
- **Project – Develop guidance and exemplars on RE in the new Primary Curriculum.**  
There is no new primary curriculum so this project is no longer relevant.
- **Project - Exhibition at Shute End and press release**  
Exhibit work of SACRE in mall at Shute End – Helen started work on a banner but the photographs are in the wrong format. Unless they can be converted it will be necessary to go into schools and take photographs. Emily is hoping to gain an Admin. Assistant who will be able to do this.  
**ACTION:** Emily will email the document to Shira who will see what she can do with it.  
Beth to provide a list of Council members at the next meeting with a view to establishing a link between SACRE members and Wokingham Council members.  
It was agreed that schools will be asked for examples of children's work. They will be delighted to give it so that visitors to the Mall can look at it.  
Hardeep is the Members' Secretary for the Sikhs and he is on the radio and BBC and could help with promoting the event.  
**ACTION:** Pat to email Building Facilities to see how a slot in the Mall is booked.  
This could coincide with the National celebration of R.E. in March 2011.  
It was agreed that it would be good if a Wokingham RE trail could be produced in time to be displayed. Money could be freed up from the budget (from projects that will not now go ahead) to pay someone to produce the trail  
When Helen returns from her trip she will be asked if she would be prepared to undertake this piece of work. There is also the possibility of asking Hazel Flower, ex Head of RE at Maiden Erlegh.  
**ACTION:** Michael and Beth will ask Helen when they take the flowers.
- **Project – Joint SACRES project on RE in special schools**  
**ACTION:** Jo will approach a teacher at a special school to ask them to take the lead on this.
- **Project - Half day development session for SACRE on teaching RE in secondary schools.** – This may happen once a secondary network is established (see item 6 below – Sue to present at next meeting.) It may be done jointly with another SACRE as discussed in Item 3.
- Review of syllabus to be added to Development Plan.

**ACTION – Emily will update the Development Plan and present it at the next meeting.**

**6. ANNUAL REPORT**

**SACRE to consider the draft of the Annual Report and to agree the report subject to the SACRE's recommendations.**

Michael's foreword has not yet been added to the Draft Annual report.

- Sue Cresswell reported that there is an error in the Piggott exam results. The child who is reported as an F grade a child had to go away to compete in a major Sporting event and missed a paper. Based on his previous paper and his course work he was re-graded and awarded a Grade B.

The report was agreed subject to the addition of the foreword and correction of Piggott results data.

**ACTION – The foreword will be given to Pat w/c 29/11 who will add it to the Annual Report and email it to members.**

**Is there a primary or secondary school that we should invite to address the SACRE that has received excellent examination results?**

- The report could be used for identifying schools e.g. Alan Youd Hawkedon Primary School could be invited to present at SACRE re. good practice.
- Sue will do a presentation at the next meeting based on Piggott's excellent results and how they were achieved. This is currently an informal proposal and a letter will be send to the Head of School outlining what is required.

**7. SACRE SELF EVALUATION**

Section 2 of the Self Evaluation tool to be considered. (circulated)

The meeting focused on 2e and 2f of this document as these were deemed to be the two items that needed priority.

**2e - The SACRE receives limited information about public examination data from the LA. Limited information is provided about wider national and local developments. The SACRE tends to receive information from the LA rather than ask questions of the LA and challenge its work.**

It was felt that it would be easier to challenge the Local Authority if there was someone whose remit was to deal with this. The Local Authority pays Jo to fulfil the role of RE advisor. Beth is in a position to be able to challenge members.

Jo informed Members that on the NASACRE website there is an article on Local Authority support for SACRES. She gave a copy of this to Emily who will make copies for Beth and Michael.

**2f - The SACRE has little contact with or awareness of other local agencies, and rarely has contact with pupils or parents.**

See Section 6 re presentations from schools.

Sue Cresswell will also bring some pupils with her when she gives her presentation.

The other components of Section 2 were postponed until the next meeting.

**ACTION – Jo to look at the updated version of SACRE Self Evaluation which is to be published shortly, and report back.**

**8 PROMOTING SCHOOLS SELF EVALUATION TOOL**

- An online self assessment tool has been developed which any member of staff can access and complete. Schools should be encouraged to do this
- The analysis would mean that a SACRE could get information about schools and, in Wokingham's case; it would give us a picture of what RE in Wokingham Schools looks like. It would only be a partial analysis dependent on which schools in Wokingham choose to fill it in. Schools' information is anonymous but LA level data can be obtained. The tool is free and is on the RE on line website. The data will help the SACRE to celebrate good practice and to identify support that is required. Emily said that the Local Authority will help to promote this with schools.

**ACTION** Jo will draft information for schools and send it to Emily.

**9 SACRE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATION**

Anju Sharma will present an aspect of Hinduism.

This was deferred until the spring meeting when a projector will be made available. (Beth to provide) Anju was thanked for the sweets and savoury snacks which she brought to the meeting.

**10 SCHOOLS' SURVEY ON THE TEACHING OF RE**

Draft to be considered.

It was felt that the survey document could be redundant now that the on line tool is available.

**ACTION – Jo will check if the online tool collects the same information. The tool does not ask about collective worship. It is a legal requirement for this to be offered daily for every child. Ofsted may report on this.**

**11. REPORT FROM NASACRE**

Jo to update.

- There is a new SACRE Self Evaluation document
- Guidance on collective worship has not been updated. There is an ongoing debate about whether it is wise to press the government about this.
- Nasacre may be invited to comment on RE as part of the Curriculum Review.
- People from 53 Local Authorities are working on a collaborative approach to RE in the curriculum. This is quite hopeful.

Refer – NASACRE news letter on Website. (Google Nasacre).

**12. EVALUATION OF JOINT SACRES CONFERENCE**

Report back from Members who attended.

- This was very popular and very practical this year. The focus was RE trails. Schools could take a lead on developing these. They could be shared with the local Community.
- Jo raised some points from the evaluation and the question of the Joint LAs review of the syllabus. Reading SACRE is to meet next week where the decision will be made as to whether they wish to be part of a joint LAs' review. Reading is the last LA to make the decision. The costing will be based on all of those involved contributing. Jo is to meet with colleagues shortly to discuss the model for the syllabus review. She will contact Emily re. the budget required. She will share the model for the review at the next meeting.
- The question was raised about whether everyone wanted to continue with the joint SACREs conference. Each SACRE is charged the same amount regardless of how many delegates attend. It was agreed that the funding arrangements are fine as long as everyone is aware of them.

***It was agreed that the current arrangements would continue.***

**Proposals for the conference next year:-**

- Jo might do something different and encourage people to share their experiences rather than having a speaker.
- Syllabus review could be the focus as the conference is at the time when the new syllabus is being considered;
- A questionnaire to go to schools inviting them to comment on the current syllabus;
- SACRES can bring the results to the conference.
- Only 2 Local authorities have provided any training on the current syllabus.
- Support for schools on the new syllabus could be provided jointly by the 6 LAs.

**ACTION** – Jo to draft Action Plan.

### **13. BUDGET UPDATE**

- Spending so far this financial year equals £170.68 out of a budget of £4,925. The spending has been for SACRE meetings and conference attendance.
- SACRE will pay for someone to do the Trail – hopefully Helen.
- The idea was put forward that Wokingham SACRE could host a tea party.
- Some of the projects budgeted for are not going ahead.

**ACTION** – Emily to revise the budget document and email to members.

### **14. FEEDBACK AND REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF SACRE**

Hardeep – there was a National Remembrance Service where the Sikh Community has been remembering all the Sikhs who made a contribution towards the great wars. There has been a focus nationally.

Michael – a friend went to one of the memorial services in Banbury.

Beth went to a service yesterday where the Mayor had forgotten the Wreath and one had to be borrowed.

Kathy went to the Catholic diocese conference for all Catholic Schools where there was one Muslim and one Jewish speaker. There was a talk on Academies at the Catholic School in Basingstoke.

Jo – there is a big conference in global citizenship taking place in Oxford. This should go into the Newsletter. Some Wokingham Schools were represented.

Sue – the second annual 6<sup>th</sup> form conference was held. Christine Christie spoke on Buddhism. There was good representation from the Muslim Community. The Piggott School had their own memorial service for students killed in the Second World War who were only 17 years of age. The School has its own wreath. They are taking some students to conference in November. The Conference is entitled “who am I?”

Anju – there is a Wokingham Interfaiths Event on Saturday at 6.30 p.m. with a Sikh Speaker.

Shira – Has moved house.

Emily – In mid October Bulmershe had a subject inspection of RE. SACRE will receive feedback. Emily contacted the Head of RE to offer support but the offer was not taken up.

#### **15. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

7<sup>TH</sup> February 2011, 13<sup>TH</sup> June 2011, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011. These were agreed although Lisa has already said that she will not be able to make the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

#### **16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cathy updated re the proposal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> member for the Roman Catholic Church. A decision about nomination will be made by the Parish Council. There are some concerns about the suitability of the person.

Hardeep spoke about concerns fed back about JAC (Just around the corner), a Christian Youth Group. The case is pending police investigation and is a child protection case.