

# The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

## Minutes of Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011

**Present:**           **Group A:**  
Shahid Younis, Kathy Turner, Dr Shira Lewin Solomons Lisa  
Cornwell

**Group B:**  
Jo Fageant,

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

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

**In attendance:** Emily Waddilove WBC  
Maria Willman

**Clerk:**               Pat Horne – WBC

**Apologies**       **Group A**  
Christine Morgan  
Anju Sharma

**Not Present:**   **Group A**  
Hardeep Singh Sahota

**Group D**  
Anthony Pollock

### 1    **WELCOME and APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Anju Sharma, who could not be present for personal reasons and Christine Morgan. The Chair welcomed Maria Willman, who hopefully will become the new Roman Catholic representative. A nomination will be sent to Emily

### 2.   **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

- On Page 1 both Beth Rowland's and Lisa Cornwell's names were spelt incorrectly. These have been corrected.
- On Page 2 4ii under Matters Arising 'Jo Fageant said that there was information on the Joint SACREs website'; this should read Joint NASACRE website.
- Michael referred to the comment listed for him under 'Feedback from Members of SACRE' and said that he had mentioned the Memorial Service in Banbury because it linked to the previous comment from Hardeep.

The minutes of the meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> November were accepted as a true version.

### 3 MATTERS ARISING

- I. **Joint LAs training event - Jo**  
Jo reported that this is on the Development Plan for next year. It has not moved forward yet. People who are relatively new to the SACRE will learn about their role.
- II. **Thank you to Helen – Michael**  
Michael took two gifts to Helen on behalf of SACRE. One was amaryllis plants in chrome coloured ceramic bowls and the other a book in landscape featuring First Class Railway Journeys of the World. Helen wished to say 'Thank You' for that. Helen had sent Michael a thank you card and this was passed around to all present.
- III. **Materials to support syllabus – Emily**  
Emily will upload materials to support the syllabus onto the Wokingham website and remove materials that are out of date. The web page needs to be promoted. The Banner that Helen is working on will have the web link on it.
- IV. **Joint project on RE in special schools – Jo**  
Jo reported that this had been difficult to organise but she has found a potential teacher. She will write to all Special schools. There will be a self funding conference.
- V. **Schools' presentations – Emily**  
This was discussed at the last meeting and it was decided that it would be a good thing for schools to come in and give a presentation. Pupil work has been requested to show in the Mall Gallery and there has been an enthusiastic response to this. Teachers who are submitting work could be approached to give presentations. Emily has also been contacted by the Acting Head of Department at Waingel's College, Stephen Vegh who was keen to find out about SACRE and who could be asked to present. Stephen is running a workshop for RE teachers about setting up a network. Teachers could be invited via the network to give presentations.  
  
Stephen is running a whole day of workshops on the 4<sup>th</sup> March and he has said that any SACRE members would be welcome to attend.  
**ACTION:** Members to let Emily know if they want to attend the training day.
- VI. **School Self Evaluation Tool/Schools' Survey – Emily**  
A web link to the tool is included in the website handout. The survey drafted by Helen Currie will not now be needed as the Schools' Self Evaluation tool covers the same questions. This tool needs to be promoted to schools. (This is included in the development Plan)
- VII. **Bulmershe School RE Inspection – Emily**  
The report for this is on the Ofsted website Overall the Department was judged satisfactory but there are significant areas for development especially at Key Stage II where there are weaknesses in the curriculum. Emily has emailed the member of Staff at Bulmershe who line manages the RE department to outline support available e.g. the syllabus/CPD following the syllabus review/the network/The self evaluation tool. There has not been any response to the email.
- Viii **New Member Nomination – Kathy Turner**  
This was dealt with under 'welcome'.

Lisa Cornwell wished to bring up the matter of JAC which was raised by Hardeep at the end of the Any Other Business in the minutes of the last meeting. Lisa said that she knew JAC very well. She read from a letter from

Andy Couldrick, Director of Children's Services which completely exonerated JAC from any blame in this incident.

**4. MALL GALLERY EXHIBITION**

Emily said that Helen Currie has agreed to take on the responsibility for the exhibition including gathering pupil work; producing the banner and producing an RE trail. The Exhibition will take place from the 28<sup>th</sup> February to the 25<sup>th</sup> March, which will coincide with the National Celebration of RE. Helen has suggested a launch to which SACRE members, the Press, teachers and pupils can be invited. The launch date is to be decided but will be during the first week of the exhibition. Emily will confirm as soon as possible. There has been a good response from schools to the request for pupil work. The Forest School have created Zen gardens and Colleton did a three day project on Sikhism.

**ACTIONS: - Emily to add the event to the 'Celebrating RE' website.**

**Emily to invite the ex-Buddhist member, Christine Christie to the launch.**

Michael read an email from Helen providing an update on progress:-

Helen wished to ask Kathy Turner where the Roman Catholics worshipped before their current place and Kathy will respond to Helen on this.

**ACTION:-Michael commented that he lives in Sturgess Road and the Reverend Sturgess was an old inhabitant of Wokingham. He was advised to let Helen know about this.**

**ACTION:-**For contact Helen: - Reading 931 1201  
Or [Hels.Currie@BTopenworld.com](mailto:Hels.Currie@BTopenworld.com)

**5. DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Draft Development Plan was discussed at the last meeting. Following the discussions this has been revised and two handouts were circulated, 1) the development plan for the current year with notes on progress and 2) the plan for next year. See attached documents.

**6. REVIEW OF SYLLABUS**

The review of RE syllabus will be undertaken in collaboration with other Berkshire SACRES. All six Local Authorities have agreed to work together, although not all have committed to the funding required.

- Jo has drafted a questionnaire for schools about the current syllabus. Jo will send this to Emily for circulation to members for comments. It will be sent to Schools before Easter to be collated in time for the SACRES' conference in June/July 2011.

The dates for the joint SACRES conference are either 21.6, 28.6, 29.6.

Jo explained that members of faith communities will have an opportunity to be involved in the syllabus review process.

Shahid enquired about the schools that have become Academies and Jo said that her understanding was that Academies must still teach RE.

There was a discussion about the English Baccalaureate. RE is not included in the Humanities that will count towards the EBACC.

**ACTION:- Jo will send documents relating to the EBACC debate to Emily for forwarding to members. Members may wish to write to their MP to ask them to sign the Early Day Motion calling on the government to recognise RE in the EBACC.**

**7. SACRE MEMBER'S PRESENTATION**

This had to be carried forward to the next meeting due to Anju's absence.

**8 PRESENTATION ON RE AT PIGGOTT SCHOOL**

Sue Cresswell

The presentation included a very impressive power point presentation written by a student to inform other students about the RE course.

Thanks were afforded to Sue for the presentation.

**9 FEEDBACK AND REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF SACRE**

- Lisa said that this is the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible. There have been a couple of talks on the history of the bible and next week a number of Bible Societies will continue to read the King James Bible over a period of two weeks.
- Sue said that there had been a Diocesan inspection of RE at the school, triggered by the school's Ofsted inspection in December.'
- Shira said that she had been working on curriculum development and re-designing a text book for orthodox use. They are planning for the festival of Purim which will take place on a Sunday in March this year.
- Jo said that she has been occupied with the debates about the Baccalaureate and the curriculum review. There is a new Bishop of Reading who will take office in April. He has been in Ethiopia for 12 years.
- Beth reported that Danny Needs (who attended the last meeting) and her husband have decided that their marriage is over and they should be remembered in everyone's prayers.
- Michael mentioned to Shahid about the Cambridge press issue of 'Islam in Reading' and the fact that the cost of this is £1,000. but available to him for £500.

**10. REPORT FROM NASACRE**

Jo reported that Nasacre has been very busy dealing with the issue of the English Baccalaureate. The Vice Chairperson of Nasacre has put a short paper on the Nasacre website on the responsibility of Local Authorities to provide SACREs and to support them. Wokingham BC is fulfilling its obligations. Two flyers were referred to one on the free conference on 31.3 in Birmingham entitled 'Whose RE is it anyway'. Another flyer promoting the NASACRE AGM – Jo is attending but other SACRE members may wish to attend. Costs can be covered for one or two people.

**ACTION:-Members interested in attending either of these events should let Emily know.**

**11. SACRE SELF EVALUATION TOOL**

A revised version is now available. This to be looked at at the 13<sup>th</sup> June meeting.

**ACTION: - C/F SACRE Self Evaluation Tool to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

**12. BUDGET UPDATE**

Emily went through the budget expenditure 2010 -2011  
Handout circulated.

Budget total £4,926, Spending to date = approx £2,309. Remainder likely to be spent on Helen's time, the banner and the trail.

If it is deemed necessary there is a little more available to SACRE.

**13 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

13<sup>TH</sup> June 2011, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

Lisa has already given apologies for the 13<sup>th</sup> June.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Emily explained that there was a handout listing useful RE websites.
- Pat now has an alternative email address for SACRE business which is [Pat.Horne@talktalk.net](mailto:Pat.Horne@talktalk.net)
- Vacancies:-
  - Buddhist – Emily to contact the Shanti-deva Centre.
  - There is a CE Vacancy to replace Pam Gordon. Jo reported that there are two good people being considered.
  - Free Church Vacancy – To replace Lynn Hawkins at the Salvation Army. **EMILY TO FOLLOW UP.**
  - The Teachers' Unions – There are vacancies for PACT and ASCL. Emily had an email from the Headteacher at Sonning Primary School who wishes to represent NAHT.
- The British Humanists. Michael has been in touch with the Humanists with the aim of organising a high profile speaker. He will report back at the June meeting.

**ACTION – Michael to meet with the Humanists in London and report back in June.**

- Annual report:-

Michael apologised for the tardiness of the Chairman's forward to the annual Report due to illness.

The report will be uploaded to the Wokingham SACRE website Page and promoted to schools.

- Members were asked to update their email addresses.

Attached: Development Plan documents; 2 x event flyers; 4<sup>th</sup> March workshops; budget update; websites list.