

The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of Meeting on 13th June 2011

Present: **Group A:**
Shahid Younis, Kathy Turner, Dr Shira Lewin Solomons, Christine Morgan

Group B:
Jo Fageant, Revd Stanton-Saringer

Group C:
Sue Cresswell, Lesley Green

Group D
Beth Rowland (Vice Chairperson), Kate Haines

In attendance: Emily Waddilove WBC

Clerk: Pat Horne – WBC

Apologies **Group A**
Anju Sharma, Nicola Muir

Group B
Rev Lisa Cornwell

Group C
Michael Freeman (Chairperson), Hilary Winter

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

Group C
Kevin Price

1 WELCOME and APOLOGIES

In the absence of the Chairperson, Beth Rowland welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the new members present, Cllr Kate Haines, Rev Stanton Saringer and Lesley Green. Introductions were made by everyone present. Apologies were received from Rev Lisa Cornwell, Nicola Muir, Anju Sharma, Michael Freeman and Hilary Winter.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING MONDAY 7th February 2011

Under Matters Arising, Page 2 point vii, Bulmershe School RE Inspection, it should read 'at Key Stage 3'.

The minutes of the 7th February 2011 were accepted as a true version.

3 MATTERS ARISING

I. **Materials to support the syllabus – Emily**

Emily reported that the website had been out of date but has now been updated. There is an RE page with the syllabus; a resources page with materials to support the syllabus; and a SACRE page with annual reports and development plans. (The link for the SACRE page is included in the list of websites on the attached handout) Also on the RE page are two leaflets – one on RE in Wokingham, and one on collective worship.

II. **Schools' presentations – Emily**

Emily suggested that All Saints, Colleton, and The Forest could be asked to present at meetings. These schools submitted work for the recent display. An RE teacher at Waingels who is running the network has also expressed interest in the SACRE. However, meetings next year will be as short as possible because of the Syllabus Review, so presentations will have to be postponed.

III. **Membership – Emily**

A handout (attached) was distributed listing the current members, with the exception of Kate Haines as it was not known that she was to join the SACRE. There are several new members. Apart from those present at the meeting, there is a new Free Church Member, Nicola Muir from the Salvation Army, and a new ASCL member, Hilary Winter. There are vacancies for Roman Catholic and Buddhist members, and for a PAT representative (PAT is now called 'Voice'). Emily has not had a response to her email to the Shantideva Centre.

ACTIONS - Emily to advertise for a 'Voice' member in the Education News bulletin. Emily to contact the Berkshire Buddhist group.
Sue to ask about a Buddhist member at the Inter faith forum.

IV. **Humanists - Michael**

Michael had an action to meet with the Humanists in London and to report back to the meeting. In his absence Beth gave an abbreviated history of contact with the Humanists for the benefit of new members.

ACTION – this item is C/F to November due to Michael's absence.

4. **MALL GALLERY EXHIBITION/ RE trail**

A copy of the Wokingham Town RE Trail, produced by Helen Currie, was given to each member. Every school with KS2 pupils has been sent a copy of the trail. The trail and additional photos will be uploaded to the website.

ACTION – Emily to liaise with Helen re uploading the trail to the website.

The Launch event for the exhibition was reported to be good, with the Press present together with children from All Saints school. One part of the exhibition showed the RE Trail, the other showed children's work. It will be displayed at the Joint SACREs conference. Helen has agreed to organise a tour of the display to the places of worship featured in the trail. Members were asked whether there should be any additions or amendments to the display. Beth suggested that it would be a good idea to explain what the SACRE does and have some bullet points explaining what RE is in terms of the local syllabus. The display could also tour places of worship outside Wokingham.

ACTIONS - Any ideas for the display to be emailed to Emily.
Emily to liaise with Helen re the tour of the display.

5. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Emily explained that all items at the beginning of the plan are the ongoing work of the SACRE. The part that needs to be monitored is that relating to projects:

- ***Establish a Secondary RE network through the Secondary Federation –***
This has been established. Sue Cresswell will attend the first meeting on the 23rd June. Sue will mention to the network that they may wish to consider amending the RE trial for use at KS3.
ACTION – Sue to feedback on the network meetings in future meetings.
- ***Promote use of the Wokingham RE trail in Primary Schools –***
The trail has been sent to Primary schools. Schools could be contacted during next year to get feedback on use of the trail.
- ***Promote Schools' Self-evaluation tool -***
Copies of an example of a completed tool were distributed and discussed. (This document is on the Better RE website – see link on websites list)
Schools can make use of this on line tool to evaluate their provision. Information submitted by schools can be shared and discussed in SACRE meetings. (Information available will not be attributed to specific schools) The tool covers the teaching of RE, and does not include collective worship. Questions at the end of the tool ask about such things as staffing and the time spent on the teaching of RE. These are questions that the SACRE were keen to gain information on and were to be covered in the survey that Helen drafted. Included in the development plan is a briefing session for schools on the tool.
ACTIONS – Emily to place an item promoting the tool in the Education News bulletin.
Sue to promote the tool at the secondary teachers' network meeting.
Lesley to tell church school head teachers about the tool.
- ***Joint SACREs training event for SACRE members -***
This will need to be postponed as Jo does not have capacity to organise it this year. It is likely that this would not be a joint event as other LAs have not expressed an interest.

6. REVIEW OF SYLLABUS/JOINT SACRES CONFERENCE

Jo to present plans and lead discussion about establishing the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

The Joint SACRES Conference is to be held on the 28th June. Currently Emily, Kathy, Anju, Michael and Christine have said they will attend. The conference is currently low on numbers. It is costed on the basis of five representatives from each SACRE attending. Currently there are only 18 delegates across the 6 SACRES. Shira and Kate expressed interest in attending. Hilary Winter has also said that she will attend.

Jo fed back on the responses from Wokingham schools to the questionnaire about the syllabus (see attached handout). She pointed out that what some teachers have identified as strengths, others have identified as areas for development. Jo felt that in general the responses were quite positive. The suggestions for changes were quite idiosyncratic and people were asking for

changes that would enable them to do things that in fact the current syllabus already enables them to do. Responses indicated the need for ongoing training so that new staff are familiarised with the syllabus.

ACTION – Jo to email the questionnaire responses summary to Emily for uploading on to the website.

7. SACRE MEMBER'S PRESENTATION

This item had to be cancelled due to the fact that Anju was not present.

8 SACRE SELF EVALUATION

Jo reported that there will be a new Self Evaluation tool for SACREs. This will hopefully be available soon. It will be trialled in Bucks and in Hounslow. Wokingham SACRE could ask to be involved in the trial.

ACTION - Involvement in the trial to be discussed with Michael.

Discussion of Section 4 of the current tool (attached)

Section 4 covers advising on and monitoring collective worship. In terms of advising on collective worship, a few years ago the SACRE produced a guidance booklet for schools. This is good quality and could be promoted to remind schools about it. A hard copy could be printed for each school if the budget allows.

ACTION – Emily to promote the booklet via Education News.

It is difficult for the SACRE to monitor collective worship. Ofsted reports do not generally comment on collective worship, but Diocesan inspection reports can provide useful information to the SACRE on collective worship in church schools. A few Church of England schools have been inspected recently (see attached document). Inspection reports can be accessed on the Diocesan website. The SEF Toolkit for church schools includes collective worship. Piggott has recently conducted a review of collective worship. School staff invited to speak at meetings could be asked to talk about collective worship at their school. The SACRE can share good practice that it becomes aware of.

9 REPORT FROM NASACRE

Jo to update, including feedback on two conferences.

Jo attended the NASACRE AGM on 11th May. The keynote speech was about SACREs engaging with young people.

Jo also attended a NASACRE conference on the 31st March entitled 'Whose RE is it anyway?' The report of this very successful conference is available on the NASACRE website.

There were impressive contributions to the conference and AGM from young people. Consideration will be given to having Youth SACREs, youth members on the NASACRE executive and a Youth element on the NASACRE website.

Jo reported that there is some concern about the future of NASACRE. In many Local Authorities there have been RE advisers who have facilitated SACRE meetings, but most of them have been made redundant as part of Local Authority cutbacks. If SACREs do not continue to support NASACRE, its future will be called into question.

10. FEEDBACK AND REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF SACRE

Shira said that she has finished work on the curriculum project.

Jo has arranged for a very good trainer to deliver three training courses next year for Primary school teachers in the Diocese. There will also be sessions on collective worship.

ACTION – Jo to send information about the training sessions to Emily for sharing with Wokingham schools.

Sue Cresswell reported that she took 50 students on a very successful trip to Italy.

Shahid said that he was looking forward to Ramadan and was extending an invitation, as before, to the beginning of the fast. Ramadan begins at the start of August.

ACTION - members to suggest suitable dates to Shahid.

Christine Morgan said that she had spent today on a bus which tours schools providing information on Christianity to KS3 students. This will visit several secondary schools in the coming weeks.

11. BUDGET UPDATE

Budget 2010-11

The final spend is £5,900 (see attached document for further detail)

Budget 2011-12

The budget total of £10,840 for this year is higher than for previous years because of the funding required for the syllabus review and because it includes the costs for the time of the LA officer. Consultancy costs may be lower depending on the amount of work involved in preparing the display for the tour of places of worship (see attached document for further detail).

12. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

7th November 2011, 6th February 2012, 11th June 2012.

(The June date is provisional. The meeting will need to take place before the council meeting at which the syllabus will be approved, and dates for council meetings in the summer have not yet been set.)

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Shira has some major concerns about inaccuracies in a GCSE text book. It was agreed that she will look at the book in more detail (she could borrow the book from The Piggott during the school holiday) and will draft a letter to the exam board/ publisher. If she brings this letter to the next meeting, the SACRE can decide whether it should be sent from the SACRE.

ACTION – Shira to draft a letter for the next meeting.

Agreed syllabus conference

Emily explained that the Agreed Syllabus Conference (which will meet on the dates above during the coming academic year) is a different committee from the SACRE, and that all SACRE members' should be asked whether they are happy to sit on the ASC, and members' organisations should be asked whether they are happy for their representative on the SACRE to represent them on the ASC. Emily asked if members could check with their faith groups

or teaching unions that they were happy for them to sit on the ASC. If she doesn't hear anything she will assume that those members present at the meeting and their organisations are happy for them to sit on the ASC.

ACTION – Emily to contact members not present at the meeting.

Jo explained that as she is writing the syllabus, it would not be appropriate for her to be a member of the ASC. We may therefore wish to include an additional C of E representative.

ACTION – Lesley to talk to head teachers of church schools regarding an additional C of E member.

Attached: List of websites; List of members; Development plan 2011-12; summary of syllabus questionnaire responses; SACRE self evaluation tool section 4; List of schools that have been inspected this year; 2010-11 budget; 2011-12 budget.