

The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of Meeting on 26th April, 2012

Present:

Group A:

Shahid Younis, Dr Shira Lewin Solomons, Anju Sharma, Christine Morgan

Group B:

Jo Fageant, , Rev. Lisa Cornwell

Group C:

Sue Cresswell, Lesley Green, Hilary Winter, Michael Freeman

Group D

In attendance: Jan Lever, LA Consultant

Clerk: Anne Coffey – WBC

Apologies

Group A

Kathy Turner, Sukhdev Bansal

Group D

Cllr Kate Haines

Not Present:

Group A

Hardeep Singh Sahota

Group B

Rev. Stanton-Saringer

Group C

Kevin Price

Group D

Cllr Beth Rowland (Vice Chairperson)

1. WELCOME and APOLOGIES

Michael Freeman, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Kathy Turner, Cllr Kate Haines and Mrs Sukhdev Bansal (potential new member from Sikh community).

2. STATUTORY SYLLABUS REVIEW

Jo F noted that the meeting was not quorate as there was no representative from Group D. However, the other groups were represented so could vote to agree the syllabus and Group D could vote subsequently. The syllabus was not completely finalised as some information had been received the previous week, but Jo would update the document as soon as possible and updates would be accessible via the link to the website. Faith groups had worked on their specific sections. As the complete syllabus is so lengthy, shorter exemplars of the main updated sections were passed around. Although the full document was not presented, the SACRE as a whole was in a position to know what the final document would look like.

Introduction

Jo pointed out that the introduction had not been agreed by the group. It had been reduced from the lengthy original version as it was felt that teachers tend to overlook lengthy introductions and focus on what to deliver. However, they could be directed to the more comprehensive information in the national framework. Much of what had been removed related to the current curriculum which in fact keeps changing. Jo took the group through the sections of the introduction and all agreed that keeping it to a minimum was an improvement.

The *How to use the key stage sections...* this section was summarised.

Using the syllabus to plan RE in schools – the bulk of the work on ‘learning about’, ‘learning from’ etc. was done by teachers. The flow chart drawn up by teachers would need improving in format.

Attainment/assessment is unchanged. APP version of levels will be in the appendices.

The *attainment targets/levels* grid has the same wording as the national statutory framework but some text had been slightly moved around.

There are sections for each key stage from Foundation Stage onwards. The group had already seen and approved the summary pages and key questions for the 16-19 stage.

Teachers requested a shorter syllabus but more guidance. Having a divider between the legally required information and the suggested guidance contained in appendices, with hyperlinks from the beginning summary and throughout the document, should satisfy teachers’ request.

Submission to WBC

Theoretically the current document (minus appendices) could go to the council now to satisfy legal requirements. Publication of the full syllabus could be electronic as well as hard copy and would include a growing collection of resources, plans, etc.. The council would need to see the document by **Monday May 14th** with a covering report, for the full council meeting on **May 24th**. The date of online publication will be advertised online and in the Education News bulletin.

Website

Discussion arose as to where the syllabus could be published electronically, i.e. on a centralised website, rather than six groups each hosting it. It was agreed that Wokingham SACRE should take the lead and get costings for commissioning a centralised website to publish the syllabus.

ACTION Shahid, Anne and Jan to get quotes and bring to the next meeting.

Syllabus Launch

The syllabus needs to be printed by the earliest launch date and at the printers well before.

Launch dates:

June 27, East Berks (RBWM and Slough), venue tbc.

June 29, Wokingham/Reading, 9am – 3pm at the LDS Church on The Meadway, Reading. MF advised that all SACRE members are invited, although he is unsure if he can attend.

July 5, (afternoon only) Bracknell Forest at Easthampstead Park.

July 11, West Berks, venue tbc.

All four dates to be advertised in each authority; all training dates to be available to teachers in all six areas. Wokingham/Reading event to be free to teachers within those boroughs, any from outside the area would have to pay whatever their own area would charge.

Jo queried what was covered by the budget – venue, training, JF/JL time, publication?

Publishing

Anju emphasized the importance of deciding on the style and type of cover for the publication. It was agreed to keep the mix of portrait and landscape formats; to have dividers with titles on the tabs and to keep the differently coloured ink headings.

Acknowledgments to be at the end, no names, just six SACREs. Jo and Jan to acknowledge contribution from teachers.

Each SACRE to have a different foreword; Wokingham's to be signed by the Chairman and Andy Couldrick (Interim Chief Executive, WBC). Foreword does not have to be ready by council submission date.

ACTION Michael to write a foreword.

Jan informed that she had a designer contact who could design the cover. She would get quotes for designing the cover and tidying certain pages e.g. flowchart, and also for the whole document. This could be offered to the other SACREs and a request made to share the costs.

ACTION Jan to get quotes from designer contact.

Approval

Michael put the question: Do those present agree that we approve the syllabus? The result was unanimous approval.

3. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS – June 11th, 2012.

The next meeting might be slightly different - the Chairman wanted members to think about where we are going next and focus on the coming year as he would like to develop and strengthen the profile of the SACRE.

SACRE members were to revert to providing reports from their faiths.

The Humanist issue was unresolved but once the syllabus was completed Michael intended meeting with a representative and possibly inviting him to the November meeting.

ACTION Michael to contact Humanist representative once syllabus launched.

ACTION Shahid to prepare a short presentation on the Hajj for next meeting.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Michael and Jan would be attending the NASACRE AGM on Wednesday May 23.

MF had an email invitation to a local faith schools debate; he asked Anne to circulate.

ACTION Anne to circulate invitation to members.

Jan was busy implementing the development plan; as part of that there had been RE network meetings for schools. The next secondary schools RE network meeting was a joint Reading /Wokingham one at Piggott, Tuesday May 4 , 4pm. Primary for Wokingham, Thursday May 31, 4pm Southlake.

ACTION Anne to advertise in Education News.

Michael informed the group of an education debate being held by Reading Inter-Faith Group.

ACTION Anne to scan and circulate the information.

Jan was busy implementing the development plan. Part of that involved RE network meetings. The next secondary schools network meeting to be a joint Reading/Wokingham meeting at Piggott School on Tuesday May 8, 4pm. Next primary network meeting for Wokingham only to be on Thursday May 31 at Southlake Primary School, 4pm.

ACTION Anne to publicise via Education News.

Anne had acquired more handbooks for those who required them and would bring them to the next meeting.

ACTION Anne to bring handbooks to next meeting.

The chairman declared the SACRE meeting closed at 20.30.