

The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of Meeting on 11th June 2012

- Present:**
- Group A:**
Shahid Younis, Kathy Turner, Anju Sharma, Sukhdev Bansal
 - Group B:**
Rev. Maurice Stanton-Saringer, Rev. Lisa Cornwell
 - Group C:**
Sue Cresswell, Hilary Winter, Michael Freeman
 - Group D**
- In attendance:** Jan Lever, LA Consultant
- Clerk:** Anne Coffey – WBC
- Apologies**
- Group B**
Jo Fageant
 - Group C**
Lesley Green
 - Group A**
Christine Morgan
- Not Present:**
- Group A**
Dr Shira Lewin Solomons
 - Group C**
Kevin Price
 - Group D**
Cllr Beth Rowland (Vice Chairperson), Cllr Kate Haines

1. WELCOME and APOLOGIES

Michael Freeman, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Jo Fageant, Christine Morgan, Lesley Green.

Michael welcomed Sukhdev Bansal as a new member, representing the Sikh community. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS (6th Feb and SYLLABUS MEETING 26th April)

Minutes of both meetings were accepted.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- I. Membership (Humanist and Sikh) – Michael needed to confirm the November meeting date before inviting a Humanist representative to attend. Under SACRE regulations, a Humanist can be co-opted but not become a full member or vote. Sue Cresswell suggested inviting Daniel Thompson, a Humanist she had met. Michael needs his contact details.
ACTION – Michael to send invitation to Daniel.
- II. New Sikh member – Anju had contacted Sukhdev, whom Michael had welcomed.

- III. Contact with Helen Currie – Michael will contact Helen to invite her to attend network meetings rather than the Revised Syllabus Conference. **ACTION – Michael to contact Helen.**
- IV. Network meetings – Jan reported that the first primary network meeting for RE Co-ordinators had been held on May 31st and had been extremely successful. It was hosted by South Lake Primary School and 23 teachers attended. She was very encouraged at how positive the attendees were – all were positive and some were especially glad of the support as they had not had RE training. Rev Stanton-Saringer noted how many teachers are responsible for RE without having had specialist training. He offered to contact the Diocese about the possibility of offering free training. **ACTION – Maurice to contact the Diocese re training.**
- Jan informed the meeting that WBC has reservations about the SACRE running network meetings although accepts that they will be needed for embedding the syllabus. This year will be all right but the council has indicated that next year it is unlikely to support them, stating lack of parity with other subjects as the reason. Hilary commented that secondary schools have other independent network sessions anyway; Jan agreed that this related more to primary schools. Sue reported that the May 8th secondary network meeting had also been successful, with 12 attendees and a great deal of positivity.
- V. Investigating trainer for Muslim faith – Shahid has spoken to people and is awaiting responses; he will follow up. **ACTION – Shahid to follow up re trainer for Muslim faith.**

4. BUDGET UPDATE

- a) Budget - Jan informed the meeting that WBC had appeared to have cut £1,000 from the SACRE Development Plan – no reason given. This will be investigated by Jan and Michael. **ACTION – Jan and Michael to investigate.**
- b) Syllabus production - all six LAs will share the cost of the syllabus design (approx. £200+). Reading and Wokingham to share the printing costs for their 150 copies (82 for Wokingham = 1 for each school, + SACRE members and a few extra). Each copy will cost approx. £16. Format will be a white ring binder containing hard copy of the syllabus, with a plastic pocket on the front for the cover. Inside the folder there will be a CD containing the syllabus and the appendices.
- Jan suggested holding back the newsletter for now and having Helen at a network meeting instead of the launch conference, to ensure syllabus costs can be fully covered, now that the budget has seemingly been reduced by £1,000. Charges for attendance at the Reviewed Syllabus Conference launch have been set at £30 per delegate for WBC maintained schools, £155 for non-maintained schools. Hilary expressed misgivings at such a gross disparity in charges and those present agreed. As the LA is not running the event, she queried the reasoning for such a high charge for academies. There is also the cost of supply cover to factor in. All agreed that the Chairman should write to WBC to enquire a) why the £1,000 had seemingly been taken from the budget and b) why the charge for non-maintained schools was so high. Reasons to support the enquiry include the lack of consistency; the fact that training is not supported by WBC; the statutory duty of the SACRE to support schools in their RE teaching; the responsibility of the SACRE being primarily to the children for them to have teachers who have been trained in RE, and the high

fee could deny them this; the training should be available to everyone and the high price could be a deterrent to some schools.

c) Costs for website – Jan’s graphic design contact does not do websites. Shahid clarified the brief needed, i.e. designing the site, running on the server and maintaining the site. Michael asked Shahid to bring quotes to the next meeting. Anne had previously forwarded a quote to Jan and Michael for comparison.

ACTION – Shahid to get a quote for the November meeting.

Michael advised that timing of a website launch needed considering, i.e. it would be best to allow teachers to become familiar with the new syllabus first; a website could be the next stage.

5. AGREED SYLLABUS PROGRESS

This has been covered in 4a).

6. AGREED SYLLABUS LAUNCH/CONFERENCE/PROGRAMME

a) The launch - is on Friday June 29th. A flyer has gone out, another is to go out this week, containing the programme. The first hour will set the context, then the meeting will break into age-phased groups to familiarise themselves with the syllabus. Coffee break to be followed by more specific study of the planning process, then lunch, followed by key stage workshops. Jo and Jan will facilitate. An invitation had gone out to SACRE members on May 30th.

b) Approval of Chairman’s foreword – All present approved Michael’s foreword, subject to some minor amendments. **ACTION – Michael to amend foreword and send to Jan/Anne.**

7. SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

a) Review and update – Jan said the development plan is progressing as scheduled, with everything happening in order. However, the newsletter and Helen’s workshop are being held back in case the extra funds are needed. The conference will be the biggest event, with the network meetings being a real bonus.

Michael mentioned that the NASACRE AGM had emphasised the importance of RE in a multi-cultural Britain and that RE will remain part of the curriculum. The syllabus conference will look at the way forward and provide feedback for the new development plan; ideas need to lead to actions.

b) Proposal for creative project within plan – Michael thought that Helen could lead an RE trail. He suggested the idea of using ‘Sacred Places’ as a theme for a creative project, which could evolve from RE trails and form the basis of an exhibition. General approval from members, will come back to this later.

c) Work-plan from September - the plan will take us to March but in September we need to be thinking about next year in time for budget decisions. Next year will be all about supporting the syllabus.

8. NETWORK MEETINGS –

These have already been covered in Matters Arising.

9. REPORT FROM NASACRE –

Jan summarised the AGM in notes which were distributed with two papers from the meeting, ‘SACRE + Teachers of RE = Good Learning’ by Lat Blaylock, and ‘Collective Worship Revisited’, a paper for interest.

Jan found Lat Blaylock an inspiring speaker whose presentations were very relevant as they were all classroom- based. She also found it very interesting how RE

teaching differs in other countries. Although RE is in a period of change and people were worried when it was not included in EBacc Humanities, there is good work happening and the situation is not as bad as it was feared.

Alan Brine (Ofsted) at the AGM mentioned a new Ofsted framework; SMSC can only be helpful to RE. Vigilance is needed but there is a lot to be positive about. The AGM was also a good opportunity for networking.

10. PRESENTATION BY SHAHID –

Shahid will be giving his presentation in November.

11. NEWS FROM MEMBERS –

- Sukhdev – RSR will be holding inter-faith programmes in November.
- Sue – For 5-6 years, Piggott has had trainees from Oxford Brookes University, but funding has been cut so there will be no more.
- Lisa – A Diamond Jubilee street party was held on Tuesday, in the church hall because of the weather.
- Maurice – played the part of the Archbishop at a primary school's mock coronation.
- Jan – showed a cutting from a free Reading paper of 27th April, about REInspired. Linda Galpin is the contact for this area. Jan thought SACRE could run some discussions. **ACTION – Anne to copy the cutting for members.**
- Michael – after the last ATL branch meeting, Michael was invited to join the Reading, Bracknell and West Berks SACRES and will consider joining them.
- Shahid – spoke of the Community Trust Saturday School in which he is involved and how 200 children wrote messages to the Queen, which were put into a book and sent to Her Majesty. The media picked up on it and publicised it. Web location is http://www.getreading.co.uk/news/education/s/2114935_heartfelt_thanks_for_inspirational_queen

12. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS –

Agreement that subsequent meetings should be as follows:- Monday November 12th, 2012, Monday February 25th, 2013, Monday June 3rd, 2013.

13. AOB

- SACRE CALENDAR - Michael suggested it would be useful to have a calendar of events, e.g. SACRE meetings, inter-faith meetings, network meetings etc., which could go on the WBC website. **ACTION – All to send details to Anne who will collate the information.**
- Shahid – Shahid invited members to his house for Ramadan. Fasting begins July 20th. Date agreed is Friday August 10th, Shahid will send details.
- - He had received a query regarding the civil marriage consultation taking place and the implication for teachers. General consensus was that teachers would explain diversity of opinion and views of differing faiths.

- - Shahid spoke of his involvement in an International Peace Conference led by children at the House of Commons in April, where pupils from the Community Trust Saturday School made speeches about how war affects children. He told the group that a DVD had been made and could be used as a resource.
- Anne – distributed copies of 'A Handbook for SACRE Members'.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the SACRE meeting closed at 8:45pm.