

The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of Meeting on 25th February 2013

Present: **Group A:**
Anju Sharma, Christine Morgan, Kathy Turner, Sukhdev Bansal

Group B:
Rev. Maurice Stanton-Saringer, Rev. Lisa Cornwell

Group C:
Stephen Vegh, Michael Freeman, Lesley Green, Hilary Winter

Group D
Cllr Beth Rowland, Cllr Kate Haines

Co-opted
Daniel Thompson, Humanist

In attendance: Jan Lever, LA Consultant

Clerk: Anne Coffey – WBC

Apologies **Group A**
Shahid Younis, Dr Shira Lewin Solomons

Group B
Jo Fageant

Group C
Sue Cresswell

1) WELCOME and APOLOGIES

Michael Freeman, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting including new member Stephen Vegh, RE teacher at Waingels College, replacing Kevin Price as NUT representative. Everyone introduced themselves. Apologies were received from Shahid Younis, Sue Cresswell, Dr Shira Solomons and Jo Fageant.

2) MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12th MEETING

Michael proposed the minutes be accepted as a true record, Beth seconded, all in favour.

3) MATTERS ARISING

- a) Training information from Jo for Education News bulletin – ongoing.
- b) Feedback from MF/EW/JL meeting with Richard Stanley – Michael explained Emily Waddilove's previous involvement with SACRE; she now oversees the SACRE budget within WBC. Emily is attending agenda-setting meetings with Jan, Michael and Anne to report on the budget and discuss the development plan. This is strengthening the SACRE link with WBC. Richard and Emily are very positive about the development plan, especially the support for teachers in relation to the revised syllabus. As a result of the development plan and good communication, the SACRE budget has been agreed for this year. It was agreed to continue improved communication with Emily and Richard, e.g. Anne to send Minutes to them. They were both happy with the network

meetings and Richard offered the use of Education News as a communication tool. Jan would like a group of teachers to write something for it. Beth pointed out that Richard will be leaving at the end of March, though no official notification had been sent to Children's Services. She suggested that news from SACRE could go in the termly Governors' newsletter. David Armstrong or Sylvia McDonald are the contacts. Sylvia would need material before April for the next issue. Michael informed the group that as part of his activity he has been making links with other SACREs e.g. the joint launch for the Revised Syllabus. He hopes the SACRE will gradually build an online bank of resources. **Action: Jan to co-ordinate material for the newsletters.**

- c) Website – WBC website is being updated. Information on RE and SACRE is currently on the Wokingham Schools Learning Community site at this location <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools/wslc/school-learning-community/learning-and-teaching/religious-education>. This will be moved to a new microsite called Wokingham Schools Hub, hopefully by April/May. Anne is currently going through all RE/SACRE pages, updating, removing or replacing documents and checking links within documents.
- d) Progress report from Daniel regarding Humanist appendix – Daniel has received information from Jo and spoken with BHA regarding resources but family illness has held him back. He is hoping to refocus now. Michael asked for a framework by the June meeting in order to publish by Christmas.
Action – Daniel to provide basic framework for next meeting.

4) SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Jan reported that everything is going to plan.

Section A. Jan asked about point 6 (members presenting aspects of their faiths to the group). Stephen thought it a good idea to hear about faiths as it would be useful for class work. It was agreed that members would share personal aspects/experiences with the group. Michael suggested that Stephen talk about his work at Waingels for the next meeting. **Action – Stephen to prepare a short talk about Waingels RE.**

Section B. Primary network meetings are really going well, with 20+ teachers at the latest meeting. They are positive, co-operative and really enthusiastic. Lesley confirmed this. The secondary network meeting is on March 6th; Stephen reported that he had also heard positive feedback from secondary meetings. Jan will be covering assessment at the next meetings. Stephen suggested a transition event to improve primary/secondary links in some areas. Michael suggested news about network meetings to go on main WBC website; AC to investigate possibility. (RE info on schools' WSLC site, not main website). **Action: Anne to investigate possible locations on WBC website for network meetings news.**

The newsletter will be resumed now that the syllabus has been launched.

Section C. When asked what support is needed, teachers really want a list of speakers, also trips for teachers to places of worship. In the new plan there is an action to provide a list of people willing to talk about their faith and enter into dialogue with children. Induction, training and quality assurance will be needed. Volunteers will be invited (from inter-faith forums and SACREs initially) and asked about their faith, which age group would be suitable, what themes to cover, etc.. The aim will be to end up with a focused directory. Jan has a colleague based in Reading with whom she will work to visit potential speakers. An induction day is planned for June, with

the aim of having the directory ready by the end of this school year. In addition, the directory will hold information on how feasible it would be to bring children to places of worship. The cost of constant updating has been accounted for in the budget. Everyone is happy for Jan to begin work on the list; Michael asked her to send members a plan of action, for clarification. **Action – Jan to send out a plan of action regarding the directory of speakers.**

5) DIRECTORY OF SPEAKERS

Covered in 4) above.

6) NETWORK MEETINGS

Covered in 4) above.

7) ANNUAL REPORT

Michael has not yet written the foreword as he would like input from members. Beth suggested including something about schools' work and network meetings. Anju asked about the RE trail – Michael suggested the clergy need to be made aware of it and Hilary felt it was more valuable to have the list of speakers (practical difficulties with taking secondary students out of school for the RE trail). A local SACRE conference might be held next year now the syllabus has been launched.

Amendments were noted – page 6, 2.2.4. Should be 5% instead of 0.5%. Table to be inserted.

Page 7, 2.5, last sentence - Daniel commented that only the NASUWT is involved in the 'working to rule'.

Maurice suggested mentioning that the change in the Ofsted framework has been very difficult to monitor effectively and know what is going on. Discussion followed on the effect government policy is having on RE teaching. Jan reported that an all-party parliamentary group is working on the supply of RE teachers; also the Church of England is looking at what should be on the curriculum in C of E schools and the RE Council is setting out what the RE community would like. There are actually some positive pieces of work taking place.

8) WESTHILL/NASACRE AWARDS

These young inter-faith project awards are funded by a grant from the Westhill Foundation and managed/co-ordinated by NASACRE. Jan would like to put a bid in for the 2013/14 awards for local projects that involve schools, for a project that looks at diversity through RE. The application has to be in by the end of March. Anju suggested that it is worth contacting Wokingham Inter-Faith group which looked at a similar idea a few years ago. Jan will bring up at the secondary network meeting in March. Michael asked for all members to think of ideas for an event and email Jan, copying Beth, Anne and himself. **Action – all to email Jan with ideas for a project.**

9) CALENDAR/DIARY

Anne has created a rolling calendar/diary of events, festivals, meetings etc., which will be updated on a monthly basis and uploaded to the website. Members suggested amendments and additions for Anne to action. Stephen complimented Anne on the work which had gone into the calendar and said he would find it useful in school. Any further amendments/additions to be emailed to Anne. **Action – all to email any calendar additions/amendments to Anne.**

10) NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Maurice - reported that he will be retiring on June 30th, so the next SACRE meeting will be his last and he will need a successor. Andrew Proud, area Bishop of Oxford will need to be informed.

Daniel - informed the group that the British Humanist Association has a new President, Jim Al-Khalili. Berkshire Humanists are not very active at present, but there are celebrants who could be contacted for speakers.

Sukhdev – advised of an Inter-Faith event sometime in November.

Beth – informed the group that she is a Director of Berkshire Credit Union, working with local authorities on universal credit. Credit Unions are stepping into the breach when people need financial help and are also helping people with money management. Beth explained how useful it is, in case anyone would like to invest in it.

Daniel – CND has launched new educational resources including information about pressure groups and how they operate, also resources looking at Hiroshima from a moral and scientific viewpoint. They can be found on the CND Peace Education website <http://www.cnduk.org/information/peace-education/teaching-resources>
Daniel will try to bring resources for the next meeting.

Stephen – commented that Wokingham SACRE appears to be a very committed council.

Michael mentioned that he found the Reading SACRE Chair and members all very pleasant and involved in their work. The Chair is very keen on making Reading a centre for faith visits.

11) DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Next meeting is Monday June 3. Autumn term meeting is Monday November 11.

12) AOB

Beth – There will be an RE Inspired conference 'Inspiring Faith in Schools' at Waingels College on Saturday March 9th, from 10am – 3.30pm for teachers, governors and all Christians working in and with schools.

Michael – thanked Jo and Jan for all their work on the revised syllabus and network meetings and presented Jan with a gift and card as a sign of members' appreciation. Jo being absent, Anne will take care of her gift and card until the next meeting on 3rd June.

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 8:40pm.