

# **The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)**

## **Minutes of the Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

**Present:** **Group A:** Sukhdev Bansal, Catherine Jinkerson, Christine Morgan, Dr Shira Lewin Solomons

**Group B:** Rev. Lisa Cornwell, Rev. Patrick King

**Group C:**  
Sue Cresswell, Michael Freeman (outgoing Chair), Nigel Matthias, Celia Thatcher, Stephen Vegh (incoming Chair)

**Group D**  
Cllr David Lee, Cllr Beth Rowland (Vice-Chair)

**Clerk to the SACRE:** Anne Coffey

**LA Representative** Jan Lever

**Apologies:** **Group A**  
Anju Sharma  
Shahid Younis

**Group C**  
Sue Cresswell

**Guest:** Linda Galpin (R.E. Inspired)

### **1) WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Michael welcomed members, and informed them of the later arrival of guest Linda Galpin. Apologies were received from 3 members.

### **2) ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

Anne asked for nominations for the post of Chair; David nominated Michael, seconded by Christine. Stephen nominated himself, seconded by Lisa Cornwell. A secret ballot was held, with Stephen being elected Chair. Anne asked for nominations for the post of Vice-Chair; Christine nominated Beth, seconded by David. There being no other nominations, Beth was re-elected as Vice-Chair. Lisa proposed a vote of thanks to Michael, which Stephen delivered, thanking Michael for his sterling work as Chair for the years 2007 to 2015; Michael and all other members congratulated Stephen on his election.

### **3) FORMAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### **4) MATTERS ARISING.**

Matters arising from the June meeting were all listed on the agenda along with progress/outcomes as follows:

2) GLP presentation: Anne has distributed copies.

4.1 Buddhist: Another letter was sent to the Buddhists. There is still no reply. The Chair will have to send a follow-up and perhaps copy to the National Organisation.

- 4.2 SACRE publicity flier: This will be revised by Jan as soon as Development Plan 2015-2016 is completed and projected plans for 2016-2017 are clearer.
- 4.6 Secondary Conference/Secondary Networks: Stephen's idea (24/02/2015) re this needs to be re-stated in tandem with Jan's items 6) and 9).
- 4.8 Writing to NASACRE re new examinations. This needs to be done in November 2015.
- 4.9 Wessex Hub news – only when relevant to the SACRE or SACRE Hub as per agreement 08/06/2015.
- 4.12 West Berkshire inter-active R.E.Trail and unused WBC SACRE R.E. Trail: Chair to pursue this January 2016 onwards.
- 5) News from Faith members. This item to be moved to A.O.B. unless a member has a vital item to be presented.
- 7) Details re the Link Officer's meeting with Finance: to be reported by Jan under Agenda Item 6).

## 5) DRAFT ANNUAL REPORTS TO BE APPROVED

Members all had a copy of the 2013-2014 draft annual report which was unanimously approved. Jan explained that the only information to add to the 2014-2015 draft annual report was that of exam results, which would be included in a column at the back as in the previous year's report. Michael asked for dates to be included. **Action: Jan to add information on exam results to 2014-2015 Annual Report.**

## 6) CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND BUDGET PLAN FOR F.Y. 2015-2016 FOR APPRAISAL AND AGREEMENT.

Jan gave a presentation on development plans for 2015-2017, including what support teachers would like.

**6.1** Jan explained that the subject leader training did not happen as a half-day training session. Most primary RE teachers at the network meeting were new RE subject leaders so it was decided to deliver the training content at the network meetings. Training will be given at the next network meeting instead of a dedicated training half-day, thus saving £250.

**6.2** Jan gave a presentation on the following ideas for using the remaining funds in the SACRE budget:-

i) Develop the directory of places of worship. Jan wants to develop the Crossing the Bridges project launched at the Joint SACREs Conference. The advisers have created a consistent booking procedure for the directory, along with information forms and evaluation forms for schools and places of worship to complete. Catherine suggested that schools could go via the SACRE, which Jan agreed with. Jan has a pro-forma enquiry-based example for visiting places of worship (*example for Christianity provided*). Five other versions have been produced for other religions. All these materials will be available on WBC website, Oxford Diocese website and Discovery RE website as soon as finalised and shared with Culham St Gabriel's Trust who gave the initial funding for the project.

Shira mentioned that she and her husband (Rabbi Zvi Solomons) were visiting schools to educate children about the Jewish faith and thought that other faiths could do the same, as well as schools visiting places of worship. She has a database of schools. She pointed out that teachers might not know as much as faith representatives; conversations need to take place before the visits.

ii) A subject leader training manual which Jan is creating.

iii) A co-ordinator for the Pan-Berks Hub. The six Berkshire SACREs decided two years ago that it would be productive to work together more. A successful bid was tendered to Culham St Gabriel's for funding. Since then there have been two hub

meetings where the Chairs of each SACRE came together. The 'Crossing the Bridges' Project is the first project to be undertaken by the Hub. However, the three advisers (Jo Fageant, Anne Andrews and Jan Lever) have all been working voluntarily for the hub. For things to move on and be sustainable, there needs to be a paid co-ordinator. All six SACREs could share the cost. The hub would form the infrastructure for the Revised Syllabus Review. Costings assume that the 6 SACREs would agree to the plans; five SACREs have already agreed in principle.

iv) Jan also suggested the 6 SACREs fund the continuation of the 'Crossing the Bridges' Project for a further 2 years to build a full directory of places of worship willing to host school visits. David asked what the project co-ordinator would do; Jan explained they would be talking to hosts, dealing with forms, receiving feedback, working with all Berkshire SACREs and teachers to ensure children and young people get the maximum learning out of visits to places of worship and that teachers are enabled to organise such visits

v) A further suggestion was to fund the purchase of the latest R.E. Today book on R.E. and British Values for all Wokingham schools.

Stephen proposed that we accept all plans proposed by Jan; unanimously agreed.

Beth introduced Linda Galpin from R.E. Inspired, who had already met with Michael and Sue. She is a teacher and a Christian children's worker for Churches in Woodley, attending St James' Church, as well as being a member of R.E.Inspired. It was unanimously agreed to invite Linda to join the SACRE to fill the vacancy that currently exists for a representative of the Church of England. **Action: Clerk to ask Diocese to endorse Linda; once endorsed, Clerk to request LA to appoint her.**

## **7) SHORT WRITTEN REPORTS ON TEACHER NETWORKS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **a) Secondary Networks b) Primary Networks 7) c) Subject Leader Training.**

Celia asked if there was any mileage in primary and secondary schools working together. Stephen reported that Waingels is working on this. It is difficult to engage secondary schools. Nigel said the current concern is that the syllabus is very academic.

## **8) SHORT ORAL REPORTS FROM THE R.E. ADVISER/L.A. REPRESENTATIVE**

**a) Discovery R.E.** Jan can offer a short presentation on Discovery R.E., which is enquiry-based. Jan and colleagues put it together and it particularly fits the Pan-Berks syllabus. 60% of Wokingham schools are using the programme.

**b)** Jan suggested that a project plan was needed for the syllabus review; in spring 2017 we need to start the review process planning.

**c)** Michael suggested it would be interesting to have an R.E. teacher actually giving the SACRE a sample R.E. lesson, so that the SACRE has an even better idea of how R.E. is taught.

**d)** Nigel said there is a strong chance that secondary Heads of R.E. will have a planning day in Feb 2017. Stephen added that it will be a Federation Day. **Action: Stephen to advise Clerk when event is confirmed.**

**e) Feedback on the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Conference/ c) SACRE Projects: Crossing the Bridges** – the Crossing Bridges project was launched at the conference in June. Beth found it very exciting. Jan thought it was an extremely good idea to bring SACRE members and R.E. teachers together.

**f) National Updates Relating to Education and R.E** Jan reported there are R.E-related developments relating to assessment progressing but there was nothing to share. In the Spring there may be more about the assessment of R.E. Schools with Discovery R.E. will be given new material. Jan is keeping an eye on national discussions.

There is discussion over whether Collective Worship will remain statutory and issues will be brought into open discussion following the Clarke/Woodhead Report.

The Church of England has a big project identifying which concepts are taught at which level/year group, as there is concern regarding the lack of theological literacy in Christianity teaching, .e.g. the theology underpinning Easter etc.. This has sparked discussion with other religions.

Catherine suggested that one can look at ministry information for different years. Jan referred to the current agreed syllabus covering beliefs, belonging and behaviour.

Shira asked if Jan would share what she had.

**9) PRESENTATION: 2016-2017 Development Plan.** This was covered earlier by Jan.

**10) A.O.B.**

**a) Kathy Turner – appreciation.** Michael displayed a Certificate of Appreciation which Anne had produced for Kathy Turner, who has left the SACRE. Anne will post it to Kathy. The Roman Catholic Diocese is currently trying to find a replacement to offer the SACRE; Father N'Dong of Woodley has been suggested. **Action: Anne to send certificate to Kathy; also follow up Lesley Wilde, Secretary to the Director of Schools, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, who has said she will contact Fr N'Dong with details of the role.**

**b) SACRE self-evaluation tool** – Michael suggested the SACRE may like to use this tool devised by NASACRE. It would be helpful in the event of Ofsted inspecting the SACRE.

**c) The [Lambeth Declaration](#) and the Pope's Encyclical Letter '[Laudato Si'](#)** Michael referred to the Popes concern about climate change. The European Union has dealt badly with refugees; what about the future, when some countries badly affected by climate change will produce even more refugees? There has been a multi-faith declaration. The Pope's address is Laudato Si, available in book form. The Pope says that the damage we are doing to the planet is a mortal sin.

**d) R.E. How Do I Do It?** This is an R.E. book commissioned by Oxford University for Jan to produce for R.E. teachers, initially for teacher training. It is an eight-step programme and has been positively reviewed in the Church Times. Jan offered a copy to each SACRE member.

**Michael:** At the end of the meeting, Michael reiterated that he was pleased that Stephen was elected Chair. He himself would now be the ATL representative; he informed members that the ATL and NUT have begun discussions about creating a new union.

**Celia:** Celia is leaving soon to have her baby but will stay in touch.  
The meeting finished at 8pm.