

AT A MEETING of the
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
held at Halterworth Primary School, Halterworth on 25 June 2013

PRESENT

Chairman

p Councillor Roz Chadd (Hampshire County Council)

Vice-Chairman

p Councillor Charles Choudhary (Hampshire County Council)

p Councillor Mrs Fiona Mather	-	Hampshire County Council
p Councillor David Simpson	-	Hampshire County Council
a Mr Mohammed Ansar	-	Muslim
a Mrs Jackie Chong	-	Roman Catholic
a Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato	-	Muslim
Mrs Pat Fry	-	United Reformed Church
p Mrs Lisa Gilmour	-	Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints
p Mrs Maeve Gordon-James	-	Buddhist
a Mr Colin How	-	Methodist
p Mr Chris Hughes	-	Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
p Mrs Elizabeth Jenkerson	-	Baha'i
a Ms Jackie McGregor	-	Salvation Army
p Miss Margaret Matthews	-	Society of Friends
Mrs Jo May	-	Baptist Union
Mr Richard Moss	-	Buddhist
Mr Harjap Singh	-	Sikh
Major Suryaparsad Upadhya	-	Hindu
p Mr. Michael Zeffertt	-	Jewish
Mr Tony Blackshaw	-	Church of England
p Mrs Joyce Johnson	-	Church of England
p Ms Caroline Welch	-	Church of England
p Rev Howard Wright	-	Church of England
p Mrs Maureen Barnes	-	Teachers' Association
p Mrs Linda Miatt	-	Teachers' Association
p Mrs Jane Pridmore	-	Teachers' Association
a Mrs Patrizia Timms Blanch	-	Teachers' association
a Mrs Elaine Bellchambers	-	Higher Education – Co-opted
a Mrs Gill Heron	-	Academy – co-opted
p Miss Chris Robinson	-	Humanist – Co-opted
a Miss Ceri Taylor	-	Special School – co-opted

- a Mrs Jane Warren - Higher Education – co-opted
- p Ms Patricia Hannam - Support Officer
- a Mrs Judith Lowndes - Support Officer

Also present as observers were Councillor Peter Edgar, Mrs Deborah Mayo, RE Co-ordinator for Halterworth School, and the Very Reverend Trevor Beeson.

Prior to the start of the meeting Mrs Deborah Mayo and children from Halterworth Primary School gave a presentation to Members. Their presentation included a display of the children’s work, schemes of work and a slide show of various aspects of the school’s RE work alongside a short performance by the school choir. Brief talks were also given by Matt, a youth worker from the New Life Church in Romsey who gives assemblies in the school and provides transition support for year 6 pupils in Romsey schools and Hilary Marshall the schools link governor for RE. Two students who started a monthly RE group explained that they had started the group initially to find out about each other’s religions (one was a Christian, the other a Muslim) but this had expanded; they also showed a presentation they had produced for a meeting on Shinto.

Councillor Chadd welcomed everyone to the meeting, introducing the three new Councillor Members, Charles Choudhary the Vice-chairman, Fiona Mather and David Simpson. She also welcomed Mrs Lisa Gilmour as the representative of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, which was now a member of Group A of SACRE, and Miss Chris Robinson, the new Humanist representative.

Councillor Edgar, the Executive Member for Education, began by complimenting the school on their presentation. He spoke briefly to Members, indicating how important he felt RE was in schools and SACRE was to the Local Authority. He felt that RE was more important than ever in today’s society, particularly in developing and maintaining relationships between communities, schools and religious bodies. He noted that he was disappointed that there had been a run down of collective worship in schools as he felt this should set the tone for the day.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs Judith Lowndes, Ms Ceri Taylor, Ms Jackie McGregor, Mr Colin How, Mrs Jane Warren, Mrs Elaine Bellchambers, Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato, Mrs Jane Warren, Mr Mohammed Ansar, Mrs Gill Heron and Mrs Jackie Chong.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the

Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

No declarations of interest were made.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman subject to the correction of an error in minute number 139 – Colin Hughes should have been Chris Hughes.

4. MATTERS ARISING

143 – it was noted that the Advanced Skills Teachers had been written to.

5. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman began by expressing her own and the Council's gratitude to Councillor Anna McNair Scott for her hard work and commitment as Chairman of SACRE and that she would be greatly missed.

She was delighted to announce that a group of year 9 and 10 pupils from Perins School (a converted academy) had been recognised as champions for RE in the RE Council's search for Young Ambassadors for RE. Members were shown the student's powerpoint which they are to present to the All Party Parliamentary Group, the Hampshire secondary teachers' conference and to Youth Voice. A letter had been sent to the school congratulating them.

She told members that a letter had been sent from Councillor McNair Scott in her previous capacity of Chairman to the Secretary of State for Education expressing Hampshire SACRE's concerns about what is happening to RE. Copies of the letter were circulated.

Jane Pridmore was invited to explain a motion that had been passed at the recent A.T.L conference; she indicated that many delegates had spoken on the state of RE. The conference had agreed to work strongly to promote the teaching of RE and to lobby the government to ensure the adequate training of RE teachers and they recognised the importance of SACREs and their work.

6. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations

7. MEMBERSHIP

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE on the membership of SACRE.

For the benefit of new members on the Council, Patricia Hannam explained the statutory format of SACRE and the process by which new groups are admitted. It was noted that two members would be retiring, Linda Miatt, one of the representatives from the Teachers' Association, and Elaine Bellchambers, a co-opted member representing higher education who had been a member of SACRE since 1998. Both were thanked for their work on SACRE.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

The Chairman, with the agreement of the Council, moved Item 14 on the agenda to this point.

8. RE COUNCIL AND ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP UPDATES

The Council received a verbal update from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE, on the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) followed by a tabled report; copies of this and the RE Council's draft Review and consultation questionnaire were circulated (Item 14 in the Minute Book).

Members were informed that the APPG for RE had raised as a national concern to government the importance of training teachers in RE and their on-going professional development. It was stressed that within Hampshire this was still good.

Changes in teacher training had led to a reduction in the number of RE places in academic institutions - Winchester University had seen a reduction for 2013/14 from 10 to 5 places and Chichester was similar. It was envisaged that more teacher training would be done in schools under the Teaching Schools or Schools Direct initiatives; although only 1 RE teacher is being trained at a Teaching School in Hampshire. A more worrying concern was there had been a reduction in the number applying to teach RE; it was indicated that this would not be a problem in 2013/14.

For the benefit of the new Members on SACRE Patricia Hannam gave an overview of the place of RE in the curriculum and the reason behind the RE Council's Review of RE. It was explained that the draft programme would never be statutory. She indicated that both herself and Judith Lowndes, the Primary Inspector for RE, were comfortable with the draft programme, and that on the whole the Purpose of Study and Aims were compatible with Hampshire's Agreed Syllabus. There was considerable discussion among Members about the words 'know and understand', 'appraise' and 'evaluate'

which were used in the Aims of document. It was questioned whether the use of the phrase 'worldview' was the most apt.

Patricia Hannam encouraged all Members to respond to the document via the survey and emphasised that this had to be done by 5 July 2013, which was a very short timescale. She indicated the type of responses that she would be sending, noting in particular question 28, where she felt that the draft programme did not have enough in it to allow effective progression and challenge. Members were encouraged to pass the document on to other people or groups they felt would be interested in responding.

It was noted that there had been a number of interventions by the Secretary of State and the DfE to shift the emphasis away from RE and that curriculum consultations and GCSE subject reviews had not included RE, nor was it included in the list of humanities. The Secretary of State was pleased that the RE Council was undertaking its review.

The Council's attention was drawn to the fact that from September 2013 no report on RE (IT and Citizenship were also excluded) would be made to parents at the end of Key Stage 3, nor would an attainment target be given.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.
- That SACRE Members and Hampshire schools should be encouraged respond to the RE Council's Review of RE.

9. MONITORING SUB-GROUP

The Council received a report from the Monitoring Sub-group on their activities and discussions (item 8 in the Minute Book).

Patricia Hannam was pleased to note that A level RE was currently surviving in Local Authority schools. The Sub-group had discussed the report on the responses to the Agreed Syllabus questionnaire that had been sent to schools. There was some concern about the low number of primary responses, but it was felt that broad inferences could be made from the data. It was noted that teachers were reporting increased confidence in evaluation and assessment and that there was a step by step improvement in GCSE results. Members were informed that to maintain these improved standards schools needed to have access to a well-supported pedagogy and a good curriculum. She drew attention to the fact that success of the Agreed Syllabus would be seen over time; the full effects of the Agreed Syllabus would be seen when the first cohort of children had been taught using it from primary level through to GCSE.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

10. SOUTH-WEST SACRE CONFERENCE

Elizabeth Jenkerson informed Members about the South-West SACRE conference that she and Tony Blackshaw had attended on 14 March 2013. She noted that the conference had been mainly directed at teachers, but had been useful in giving an appreciation of what teachers have to do.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

11. NASACRE AGM AND CONFERENCE

Chris Hughes updated Members about the NASACRE AGM and Conference that he and Elizabeth Jenkerson had attended on 23 May 2013. The two main speakers, Alan Brine and Mark Chater, had both been deliberately challenging about the state of RE and its future and the general feeling was that the future was not rosy. They had met other SACREs using our Agreed Syllabus and they noted that many SACREs do not have a budget.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

12. JOINT SACRE

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE about the meetings of the Joint SACRE networking meetings (item 11 in the Minute Book).

Patricia Hannam explained the background to these networking meetings which were continuing to expand, and stressed their value in terms of the knowledge and insight from those attending. Hampshire would continue to offer leadership of the meetings, which would be held twice a year. It had been agreed that Hampshire would offer induction training to other SACREs. She informed Members that she had attended the Isle of Wight SACRE and that she and Judith Lowndes would be running courses there for Primary teachers and on subject knowledge. Michael Zeffert and Elizabeth Jenkerson were taking part in student enrichment organised by Portsmouth SACRE.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

13. YOUTH VOICE

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE about Youth Voice (item 12 in the Minute Book).

She informed Members that the fourth meeting of Youth Voice would be held on 10 July 2013. There were seven schools involved, each bringing six students, three year 9 and three year 10 and the aim was to get a range of schools taking part. At their last meeting they had elected a chairman and secretary. The Young Ambassadors from Perins School would be presenting to Youth Voice at the July meeting. It was explained that the group did not aim to replicate SACRE and was not an interfaith forum, but was a vehicle for young people to express their views on the RE that they were being taught in school, which would be used in the next review of the Agreed Syllabus.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

14. IMPACT OF TEACHING SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES ON HAMPSHIRE RE

The Council received a verbal report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE about the impact of Teaching Schools and academies on Hampshire RE (Item 13 in the Minute Book).

She indicated that the Local Authority currently had very good relationships with academies. She noted that more primary academies were likely and that the key would be to maintain good communication with them. She also informed members that Cove School was to become a Co-operative Trust School, which was neither a maintained school nor an academy. Teaching Schools were being watched closely and the aim was to maintain a close relationship with these.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE noted the report.

15. RE QUALITY MARK

The Council received a report from Patricia Hannam, the County Inspector for RE about the RE Quality Mark.

She explained the award to members and indicated that both she and Judith Lowndes, the Primary Inspector, felt that the Quality Mark was in harmony with the principles of the Agreed Syllabus and suggested that SACRE should recommend schools to apply for it. Concerns were raised about the cost of this to schools and its value. It was noted that this was an initiative being taken up around the country to try and counteract some of the negative things

happening in RE. Members discussed the award and a suggestion of offering a Hampshire or regional Quality Mark.

RESOLVED:

- That SACRE would discuss this item further at the November meeting.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman expressed thanks to Deborah Mayo and Halterworth School for hosting the meeting.

Lisa Gilmour offered to make a short presentation before the meeting on 25 February 2014 and the Rev. Howard Wright would host the meeting in June 2014 at Four Marks Church.

Elizabeth Jenkerson informed Members that the 2013 Interfaith Lecture would be on 20 November.

Lisa Gilmour offered her apologies for the meeting on 12 November and would send a substitute.

17. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 12 November 2013 at 1.30 pm in the Mitchell Room, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester.

Prior to the meeting Mr Colin How would give a talk on Methodism.