

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)** held at Room 15, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Wednesday, 10 October 2012.

PRESENT

Jane Chipperton (Chairman)

Group A: Sister Aiden Richards Roman Catholic Church Representative
Mary O'Sullivan Roman Catholic Church Representative
Nina Leigh Jewish Representative

Group D: Cllrs: Mrs A Barker, C C Gomm, D Jones and M A G Versallion

Apologies for Absence: **Group A** Marion Roberts
Group B Tom Waterworth
Group C Kathleen Eldridge, J Binks and Chris Spurgeon
Group D Cllr B Wells, Cllr Mrs D Gurney

Officers in Attendance: Mr P Harpin – School Intervention Manager and Virtual School Lead
Mr L Manning – Committee Services Officer

Inquorate Meeting

Members were aware that Paragraph 8.1 of the Constitution required the attendance of least one person from each representative group at meetings of the Advisory Council. Whilst representatives were present from Groups A, B and D there were no representatives from Group C. On this basis the Chairman declared the meeting inquorate. Although formal decisions could not, therefore, be taken by the Advisory Council those Members present decided that they still wished to consider the items listed on the meeting agenda. The outcome of their discussions is as follows:

a) Apologies

The meeting noted that both Linda Hardy (Primary School Representative) and Janet Day (Special School Representative) had retired. It was felt that a letter should be sent to Mrs Hardy thanking her for her contribution.

On behalf of Members the Chairman welcomed Mr Paul Harpin who, as School Intervention Manager and Virtual School Lead Learning and School Support, had succeeded Mr Steve Morrow as the officer responsible for work associated with the Advisory Council. Mr Harpin explained his role to Members following which Members introduced themselves.

b) Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held on 12 June 2012 were received.

Councillor Versallion stated that although his apologies for absence were recorded in the minutes there was no need for this as he was a substitute and had not been requested to attend the meeting.

The Chairman stated that, contrary to what was set out in minute 11/45, she had not attended the NASACRE AGM.

Arising out of minute 11/49, and the reference to filming by RE Today of good practice in RE classrooms, the Chairman showed an extract from the resulting DVD which had recently been released. The meeting noted that teaching notes were available on the related website.

With regard to minute 11/51 it was noted that letters to the Chief Executive of Central Bedfordshire Council and the Head Teacher at Cedars Upper School regarding the hosting of a Holocaust Memorial Day 2013 had not yet been sent.

c) NASACRE – News Highlights

The meeting received issue 34 of SACRE News for autumn 2012. The Chairman highlighted issues of especial interest for Members attention.

d) National Updates

The Chairman advised that a letter had been sent to Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education, regarding the falling number of qualified Religious Education teachers. The meeting noted that this was possibly due to the lack of bursaries for RE teacher training and the resulting decision by teachers to choose other subjects. Members were referred to the RE Council for England and Wales website for additional information.

The meeting also noted that, whilst the introduction of the English Baccalaureate (EBac) had seen a positive impact on the teaching of subjects such as history and geography, schools were not signing up to teach RE.

The School Intervention Manager circulated provisional data for “KS 4 and KS5 Achievement in Religious Education 2012” for schools in Central Bedfordshire and “Achievement in Religious Studies 2012 in CBC” setting out GCSE and A Level results for individual schools teaching Religious Studies. The meeting noted the figures would not be ratified until November.

Following discussion the School Intervention Manager emphasised the need to understand why RE was not proving an attractive subject for

students. He undertook to circulate further information on trends prior to the next meeting once cohort size and national benchmarking became available.

e) Humanist Membership Request Update

At the request of the Chairman this item was brought forward for consideration.

The meeting received papers from the British Humanist Association (BHA) entitled “Why Humanism should be represented on Standing Advisory Councils for RE (SACREs) and Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASCs)” and “About Standing Advisory Councils for RE (SACRES)”. Members were advised that the Association’s Chief Executive was unable to attend an Advisory Council meeting until February 2013 at the earliest. It was noted that a joint meeting of local SACREs from Luton Borough, Bedford Borough, Hertfordshire County and Central Bedfordshire Councils was due to meet on 8 February 2013 at 2.00 p.m. at Priory House, Chicksands. A representative from NASACRE was expected to attend. On this basis it was felt that the BHA Chief Executive should be invited to attend the joint meeting. The Chairman would formally invite other SACREs to attend the meeting whilst the Committee Services Officer undertook to ensure suitable accommodation was available.

f) Development Plan Update

The Advisory Council considered the October update for the SACRE Development Plan and Budget Plan for April 2012 – March 2013. Members worked through each area ‘Focus’ that was listed.

Members first examined ‘Areas for Development’.

With regard to the sample of the current provision collective worship and RE in schools the meeting noted that feedback was still awaited from PSG. Unfortunately Kathleen Eldridge was not present to advise.

Information on standards on spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development arising from Ofsted reports was considered under item j) below.

With regard to SACRE Council Members having the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience of different faiths through presentations at meetings it was felt that the next Advisory Council meeting should consider the opportunity for this to take place during the summer 2013 term.

The meeting was informed that the artefacts held at St Mark’s Church in Bedford and schools were making use of these for the teaching of RE. Members of the Bedfordshire RE Society were undertaking a ‘stock check’ of artefacts so schools could be advised of what was available.

With regard to developing a list of speakers to visit schools it was noted that problems existed with regard to capacity and access to the relevant information. It was noted that the information was not already available on the internet. The meeting considered at length the various means by which the list could be drawn up, Members noting the difficulties involved in achieving this given the length and complicated nature of the task.

Members considered the progress made on the introduction of an RE Quality Mark together with the related costs and the advantages offered by the Mark. The Chairman reported that the outcome of the trial period would be discussed at a meeting on 17 December at the Diocese of St Albans office at Holywell Hill, St Albans.

The meeting noted the 'Areas of Activity'.

The School Intervention Manager undertook to supply an updated version of the Development Plan which incorporated any points that had emerged with the minutes of the meeting. A copy is therefore attached at Appendix A.

g) Schools Survey

The meeting considered the requirement to undertake the Schools Survey and the associated capacity problems. The School Intervention Manager emphasised the need to examine perceptions and establish the reasons for the varying levels of take-up by different schools. It was felt that this matter should be considered at the Advisory Council's next meeting.

h) Annual Report 2012

The meeting considered the need to prepare the Advisory Council's Annual Report for 2012. To assist them copies of the 2011 Annual Report had been circulated with the agenda. Members acknowledged the advantage in dividing the task between various persons. Following discussion:

- the School Intervention Manager undertook to collate the constituent parts of the Report and prepare sections on Standards in Religious Education and Ofsted Visits
- the Chairman undertook to prepare the "Message from the Chair" section
- the Chairman and Kathleen Eldridge would prepare sections on Holocaust Memorial Day, training and the Professional Study Group
- it was felt that a section on the LA Agreed Syllabus and the minutes of the past three meetings of the Advisory Council should be included
- the Committee Services Officer would provide a membership list.

It was felt that there should not be any sections prepared on the NASACRE AGM or Celebrating RE.

The Chairman stated that any photographs or other related information would be welcome.

i) Agreed Syllabus

The meeting noted that training had taken place on 4 July at Marston Moretain with 46 delegates from across all three Bedfordshire councils. On 8 October 37 delegates had attended training at Putteridgebury and a further 25 had signed up for a training session in January 2013. The meeting was informed that training on ICT and RE would take place in February 2013.

Members were advised that a great deal of help had been received from the Bedfordshire RE Society.

j) Ofsted Judgements

The School Intervention Manager circulated a document entitled "Ofsted SMSC comments 2011-2012". He drew Members attention to the inspection dates which ranged from April to July 2012. The meeting noted that 'religious education' was not mentioned but that a new, tougher, inspection framework meant inspections took place into a school's promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.

(Note: at this point Councillor Jones declared an interest as the Chairman of the Governing Body at Hawthorn Park Lower School, one of the schools inspected).

k) Holocaust Memorial Day 2013

The Chairman reported that, due to a lack of capacity, she had asked Vandyke and Cedars Upper Schools in Leighton Buzzard if either would be willing to be the host for the Holocaust Memorial Day in 2013 within Central Bedfordshire. The money normally used by SACRE for this purpose would be given to the school to use. The School Intervention Manager would establish which school would be host.

l) Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Central Bedfordshire SACRE was scheduled to be held on 30 January 2013. As a joint SACRE meeting was now scheduled to be held in the afternoon of 8 February it was felt that the January meeting should be cancelled and the next Central Bedfordshire Advisory Council meeting be held in the summer term.

It was felt that the dates of future meetings should be considered at the next Advisory Council meeting.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. and concluded at 3.40 p.m.)

Chairman.....

Date.....

**Central Bedfordshire
SACRE Development Plan and Budget Plan
April 2012 – March 2013
October 2012 Update**

Aims :- To ensure that high quality RE and Collective Worship opportunities are delivered in Central Bedfordshire schools
 To use the expertise of SACRE Council Members to support the Agreed Syllabus and accompanying scheme of work
 To signpost school RE Subject Leaders to publications and personnel to enhance the RE curriculum within schools

Areas for development

Focus	Frequency/ Time Scale	Key Impact Measure(s)/Outcomes	Update
To sample current provision of collective worship and RE across the three phase system To consult with those schools as to whether further support is required for SMSC to meet the new OFSTED inspection requirements	September 2012 – March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACRE will be more knowledgeable about current provision in schools and will be in a position to make decisions about future training sessions offered to school leaders and RE teachers. 	Feed back awaited from PSG: Further courses offered by 'RE Today' Survey of coverage to be circulated to a sample of schools during Summer Term 2012.
To monitor standards in Personal Development and Well Being and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Spiritual Development (SMSC) in Central Bedfordshire schools through information gleaned from Ofsted reports and RE Subject inspections	Throughout the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACRE members will have a more informed understanding of the quality of work in the identified areas currently in place within the inspected schools 	New style feedback to SACRE following the revised Ofsted Framework. Specific school information shared at October meeting.
To support Professional Studies Group in RE, especially concentrating on Primary Planning.	Termly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RE Subject Leaders will benefit from networking opportunities to share ideas and practice Subject specialists involvement will raise awareness of what good practice in RE teaching looks like 	Offer made.
To provide opportunities for SACRE Council Members to gain knowledge and experince of different faiths through presentations at meetings	Two meetings a year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACRE Council members will be better informed about a wide spectrum of faiths 	To consider for the Summer Term 2013

**Central Bedfordshire
SACRE Development Plan and Budget Plan
April 2012 – March 2013
October 2012 Update**

To provide opportunities for SACRE Council Members to visit schools in Central Bedfordshire to observe RE lessons	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACRE Council members will be better informed as to how RE is being taught in Central Bedfordshire schools 	
CBC SACRE to engage with academies and those schools converting to academy status	As required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All schools within the LA boundary will engage effectively with SACRE for the benefit of pupils. Academies represented at SACRE through appropriate group. 	Academy representation already on SACRE. Full engagement with Agreed Syllabus.
To investigate and promote the use of artefacts within schools and ensure that schools are aware of what is available	Spring term 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All schools have access to appropriate artefacts for the teaching of RE 	Feedback from Chair re. artefacts at St Mark's Church, Bedford
To develop a list of speakers willing to visit schools as a catalyst for debate on RE and Community Cohesion.	Spring term 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All schools will have access to a list of suitable speakers who are willing to visit schools. 	Need to update
To promote the introduction of an RE Quality Mark and support schools to take part in the trial period	Spring term 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All schools will have had an opportunity to learn about and take part in the RE Quality Mark 	Training available for later this term

Areas of Activity

Focus	Frequency/ Time Scale	Key Impact Measure(s)/Outcomes	Update
To ensure that SACRE meetings are organised efficiently on a termly basis and that the following costs are covered :- Teacher supply costs for attending meetings / consultant time Correspondence expenses	April 2012 – March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best value for money will be secured through careful budgeting and administration support The SACRE Council will be effective in fulfilling its statutory duties 	Dates circulated for 10 th October '12 and 30th January '13 to fit member requests.

**Central Bedfordshire
SACRE Development Plan and Budget Plan
April 2012 – March 2013
October 2012 Update**

Subscriptions Venue / refreshment costs			
To arrange for an Annual SACRE report to be sent out to interested parties, including all Central Bedfordshire schools	Autumn term 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SACRE will have fulfilled its statutory duty to publish an account of its work • Schools in Central Bedfordshire will be well informed about the work of SACRE 	Agenda Item for October meeting
To ensure a representative attends the NASACRE AGM	Spring term 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Members, through good quality feedback from representatives, will understand the national agendas and be made aware of good practice emerging from other SACREs across the country 	
To support the 2013 Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) Event	Spring term 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in schools will be given the opportunity to show their work connected to this theme • The lessons of holocaust experiences will be a valuable one for both students and other adults 	

PH October 2012 update

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