

Central Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



**Central
Bedfordshire**

please ask for Helen Bell
direct line 0300 300 4040
date 10 October 2013

NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Date & Time

Tuesday, 22 October 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

Venue at

Room 15, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

To: The Chairman and Members of the STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE):

Group A	Roman Catholic Church (2) Free Church (3)	Sister Aidan Richards Mary O'Sullivan Marion Roberts
	Muslim (1) Hindu (1) Sikh (1) Jewish (1) Buddhist (1)	Mohsin Malik Tirath Bhavra Nina Leigh Ven. Akurala Samitha
Group B	Church of England (3)	Jane Chipperton Rev. Anne Crawford Tom Waterworth
Group C	Head Teacher Secondary RE Specialist	Anita Whitehurst, Head of St Swithuns VA Lower School Kathleen Eldridge, Redborne Upper School

Middle School Rep	Jacquie Binks, Etonbury Middle School
Primary School Rep	Lucy Chapman, Toddington St Georges Lower School
Special School Rep	Vacant

Group D Mrs A Barker, Mrs R J Drinkwater, C C Gomm, Mrs D B Gurney and R B Pepworth

[Named Substitutes:

Cllrs: M A G Versallion and N Warren]

Officers:	Paul Harpin	- School Intervention Manager, CBC
	Helen Bell	- Committee Services, CBC

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**

To receive apologies for absence.

2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2013 as a true and correct record.

(attached)

3. **A focus on Judaism**

4. **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects Ofsted Subsidiary Guidance**

To note Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects subsidiary guidance from Ofsted.

(attached)

5. **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects Comments from Ofsted April 2013- July 2013**

To note Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects comments from Ofsted April 2013- July 2013.

6. **GCSE and A Level Outcomes in Religious Education**

To note GCSE and A Level outcomes in Religious Education.

(attached)

7. **Development Plan Update**

To note an update on the Development Plan.

(attached)

8. **Annual Report**

To note the Annual report 2013.

9. **Date of next meeting**

To note that the next meeting of SACRE will be held on Wednesday 22 January 2014 at 2.00p.m, Room 15, Priory House, Chicksands.

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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)** held at Council Chamber, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford on Tuesday, 18 June 2013

PRESENT

Chairman –Mrs Jane Chipperton (elected at the meeting)

Vice-Chairman – Cllr Mrs Doreen Gurney (appointed at the meeting)

Group A	Sister Aidan Richards Mary O’Sullivan Tirath Singh Bhavra Nina Leigh Ven. Akurala Samitha	Roman Catholic Church representative Roman Catholic Church representative Sikh representative Jewish representative Buddhist representative
Group B	Jane Chipperton	Church of England
Group C	Anita Whitehurst Lucy Chapman Kathleen Eldridge Jacquie Binks	Headteacher, St Swithun’s VA Lower School Sutton VA Lower School Redbourne Upper School Etonbury Academy
Group D	Cllr Rita Drinkwater Cllr Roger Pepworth Cllr Mark Versallion	Member of Central Bedfordshire Council Member of Central Bedfordshire Council Member of Central Bedfordshire Council (acting as a substitute for Cllr C Gomm)
Officers in attendance	Paul Harpin Mel Peaston	School Intervention Manager and Virtual School Lead Committee Services Manager
Apologies for Absence:	Cllr Angela Barker Rev. Anne Crawford Cllr Charles Gomm Mr Mohsin Malik Mrs Marion Roberts Mrs C Spurgeon Mr Tom Waterworth	

L/04/67 **Election of Chairman**

Jane Chipperton was nominated, seconded, and duly elected as Chairman until the first meeting of the SACRE in 2014/15.

L/04/68 **Appointment of Vice- Chairman**

Cllr Doreen Gurney was nominated, seconded and duly appointed as Vice-Chairman until the first meeting of the SACRE in 2014/15.

L/04/69 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence are as set out above.

It was noted that Marion Roberts had resigned.

L/04/70 **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the last meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment: Cllr Doreen Gurney and Jacquie Binks to be recorded as having sent their apologies for absence.

L/04/71 **SACRE Membership**

The SACRE recalled that the last meeting had been inquorate and reviewed the membership for the various membership groups.

It was noted that additional representation should be sought from sections of the local community to maintain full membership, as follows:

- Free Church
- Hindu
- Special schools

All the members present were asked to draw on any contacts they had to secure appropriate representation.

It was noted that Gypsies and Travellers were not currently listed among the representative groups. A suggestion was made that NASACRE be consulted on representation from these communities.

A question was raised as to the status of Academy representatives. This would be checked after the meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. that all members of the SACRE consult their contacts with a view to securing full representation of all groups on the SACRE;
2. that the Lead Officer consult with the Free Churches Group to seek their representation;
3. that the Lead Officer consult NASACRE on including representation from the Gypsy and Traveller communities;
4. that the Lead Officer check the status of Academy representatives.

L/04/72

NASACRE Feedback

The Chairman tabled notes which had been compiled by herself and the Hertfordshire SACRE representative following the NASACRE annual conference held on 23 May 2013 in Birmingham.

It was noted that the keynote speakers, Alan Brine HMI (national lead for Religious Education) and Dr Mark Chater (Director of Culham St Gabriel's) had spoken about the current position of RE in schools and the future of SACREs.

It was noted that RE matters were "locally determined" and therefore there would be no national review.

The NASACRE conference had concluded that it would be necessary for SACREs to develop some innovative thinking to respond to the challenges.

RESOLVED

1. to receive the notes of the NASACRE annual conference;
2. to note the conclusions of the conference.

L/04/73

SACRE Development Plan 2013-14

The SACRE received and considered the draft SACRE Development Plan April 2013/March 2014.

A suggestion was made that in addition to the proposals the SACRE should measure the take-up of RE at GCSE and 'A' Level on an annual basis.

The Lead Officer indicated that he would monitor take-up of the short RE course, which was not currently recognised within the formal examination framework.

Further to discussion, the SACRE concluded that it would be premature, until there were more Free Schools in Central Bedfordshire, to focus on RE delivery in Free Schools.

During a series of contributions by SACRE members on the Development Plan, the following points were made:

- A Professional Studies Group at Redbourne School had focused on RE but it was unclear whether this would be continuing. The Lead Officer undertook to establish the position.
- In view of the excellent RE work carried out in many schools, the SACRE concluded that it would be valuable to shine a light on the experience of the children and report it at SACRE meetings. Lucy Chapman offered to present an outline of the RE work in Sutton VA Lower School and Kathleen Eldridge offered the same on Redbourne Upper School.
- Nina Leigh offered to give a talk about Judaism at a future SACRE meeting; her offer was gladly accepted.
- Visits to places of interest: these could include a visit to a Sikh Gurudwara, offered by Tirath Singh Bhavra, and a visit to Sutton Lower School in view of its links with community groups.
- A reminder was given that a supply of RE resources was centrally available and a suggestion was made that an article on this be included in Central Essentials .
- Further to a discussion about the need for a Faith Directory the Lead Officer indicated that he would seek information on available data from the Teaching School.
- The RE Quality Mark: it was noted that this cost approximately £400 and that eight Central Bedfordshire schools had expressed an interest. SACRE members with experience of the process advised that it was a testing but valuable assessment, involving the whole school and its governors, and that the SACRE might wish to offer some financial contribution. It was considered that the RE Quality Mark merited full discussion at a future meeting.
- The main item for the next meeting would be the SACRE Annual Report. A creative approach was sought to make this a more compelling document, and SACRE members were asked to offer photographs of appropriate events.
- Holocaust Memorial Day : Further to debate, the SACRE concluded:
 - this was often seen as a civic event rather than a religious matter, and the SACRE should not lead the memorial activities
 - an approach should be made to seek Council support to mark the day.

RESOLVED

1. the Plan should be amended to include “ measure the take-up of RE at GCSE and ‘A’ Level” under the heading “annual”;
2. the Lead Officer to establish whether Redbourne School was continuing to host a Professional Studies Group for RE;
3. that Nina Leigh would give a talk about Judaism at the autumn meeting of the SACRE;
4. that Lucy Chapman would give a talk about RE work in Sutton VA Lower School at the spring meeting of the SACRE;
5. that a future meeting would showcase RE in a secondary school, the meeting possibly to be held at Redbourne School;
6. that a future meeting would consider visits by the SACRE to external organisations such as a Sikh Gurudwara and Sutton Lower School;
7. that the RE Quality Mark be an agenda item at a future meeting;
8. that an article be placed in Central Essentials on the availability of RE resources for schools’ use;
9. the Lead Officer would establish what information was available from the Teaching School on faith contacts;
10. that modest financial support be offered to the 8 schools which had expressed an interest in gaining the RE Quality Mark, from the SACRE budget held within the Council;
11. that a creative approach should be taken to the production of the SACRE Annual Report, including interesting and relevant photographs, possibly sourced through SACRE members;
12. an hour of the next meeting should be spent on considering the role of the SACRE;
13. to approve and adopt the SACRE Development Plan 2013-March 2014, subject to amendments to reflect the matters indicated above;
14. to thank the Lead Officer for all his work in preparing the Development Plan.

L/04/74

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Experiences - Ofsted Feedback

The Lead Officer provided a table of OFSTED comments in relation to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in schools.

It was noted that many of the comments were rather bland. The SACRE's encouragement for take-up of the RE Quality Mark would enable the "values" comments to be assessed in a context of increased vigour.

Comments were made that in the context of a general decline in the teaching of RE and its lack of presence in the OFSTED inspection scene, this SACRE could make use of its Development Plan and Annual Report to celebrate and promote a positive approach.

Cllr Versallion, the Council's Executive Member for Children's Services, indicated that he was willing to write to OFSTED enclosing a copy of the summary report and pointing out the lack of rigour in assessing spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in Central Bedfordshire schools.

RESOLVED:

1. **to note the summary of OFSTED's comments;**
2. **to note that Cllr Versallion, in his role as Executive Member for Children's Services, would write to OFSTED pointing out the lack of rigour in assessing spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in Central Bedfordshire schools.**

L/04/75

Dates of Future Meetings

RESOLVED:

To note the arrangements for future meetings as follows:

- **Tuesday 22 October 2013, 2.00pm. Room 15 Priory House, Chicksands, Central Bedfordshire Council**
- **Tuesday 22 January 2014, 2.00pm. Room 15 Priory House, Chicksands, Central Bedfordshire Council.**

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

Evaluating pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development

102. When considering how well the school promotes pupils' SMSC, inspectors should take into account the impact of the range of opportunities provided for them to develop their self-esteem and confidence.

Defining spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

103. Pupils' spiritual development is shown by their:

- beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's feelings and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- willingness to reflect on their experiences.

104. Pupils' moral development is shown by their:

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and their readiness to apply this understanding in their own lives
- understanding of the consequences of their actions
- interest in investigating, and offering reasoned views about, moral and ethical issues.

105. Pupils' social development is shown by their:

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- willingness to participate in a variety of social settings, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- interest in, and understanding of, the way communities and societies function at a variety of levels.

106. Pupils' cultural development is shown by their:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage
- willingness to participate in, and respond to, for example, artistic, musical, sporting, mathematical, technological, scientific and cultural opportunities
- interest in exploring, understanding of, and respect for cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

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Ofsted SMSC 2012-2013

Lower Schools by date order

School	Inspection date	Overall grade	Spiritual, moral, social and cultural comments (new inspection framework)
Stanbridge	25/04/13	2	No comments
Lawnside	26/04/13	2	The behaviour and safety of pupils The pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is good.
Mary Bassett	03/05/13	2	The leadership and management The wide range of activities promotes their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well.
Templefield	22/05/13	3	The school has the following strengths Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good. The behaviour and safety of pupils are good The school's regular promotion of moral and social values, such as respect and honesty, is an important factor underpinning the pupils' good social development. Pupils clearly know right from wrong and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions.
Southcott	13/06/13	2	The leadership and management Leaders ensure that pupils develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding well. For example, inspectors observed an assembly where pupils were encouraged to think about the life of Gandhi. The impressive and appropriate response from pupils showed their maturity and a high level of reflection.
Laburnum	14/06/13	2	The leadership and management Extra-curricular activities such as a drawing club, 'speed-stack' club and others for sport and music contribute to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well. Religious studies, topics about Aborigines and stories about different cultures, including Travellers' way of life, support pupils' achievement and help them understand values such as tolerance and respect.

Middle Schools by date order

School	Inspection date	Overall grade	Spiritual, moral, social and cultural comments (new inspection framework)
Priory Academy	26/04/13	2	The leadership and management The school promotes strong values of tolerance and mutual respect, and this helps to ensure that the pupils' moral, social, spiritual and cultural development is good.
Brooklands Academy	13/06/13	2	The leadership and management Many students are keen to take part in a wide range of out-of-school activities, visits to theatres, art galleries and museums. All these contribute well to students' academic and personal development, including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
Burgoyne	14/06/13	2	The leadership and management Social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is strong. The curriculum provides many opportunities to develop a clear set of values. In lessons, pupils expressed and clarified their own views and beliefs and showed empathy towards other pupils' views and ideas. Pupils have been involved in a 'faith tour' to visit the mosque and a church, and visits to heritage sites such as Kentwell Hall and Wimpole Hall. The school also has links with a school in Ireland and with other local schools.
Edward Peake	04/07/13	2	The leadership and management The school curriculum is carefully monitored to ensure that pupils receive a wealth of opportunities, including a number of clubs and societies that foster their interests in the wider world. Pupils' spiritual, moral and social development is particularly well supported.

Upper Schools by date order

School	Inspection date	Overall grade	Spiritual, moral, social and cultural comments (new inspection framework)
Stratton Academy	25/04/13	3	<p>The leadership and management</p> <p>The school has recently revised the way subjects are delivered. Students now take a more manageable number of GCSE courses and have more work-related options, particularly in the sixth form. A wide range of outside visits and out-of-school activities increase students' enjoyment and experience of school. The school farm offers high-quality learning experiences for many students who greatly benefit from the more practical approach to learning. All these experiences contribute well to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.</p>
Van Dyke Academy	25/04/13	3	<p>The school has the following strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The curriculum, including in the sixth form, contributes well to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. <p>The quality of teaching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers provide good opportunities for students to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. For instance, in an outstanding drama lesson in Year 9, students showed in their performances how deeply they thought about the lack of rights for a prisoner of conscience.

Nursery Schools by date order

School	Inspection date	Overall grade	Spiritual, moral, social and cultural comments (new inspection framework)
The Lawns Nursery	03/05/13	1	No comments.

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Achievement in Religious Studies 2012 in CBC

School	Candidates	GCSE Full % Achieve A*-C 2013	Candidates	GCSE Short % Achieve A*-C 2013	Candidates	A Level % Achieve A*-C 2013	Candidates	AS Level % Achieve A*-C 2013
All Saints Academy	x	x	122	14.80%	x	x	x	x
Cedars	304	61.2%	x	x	19	73.7%	8	75.0%
Central Bedfordshire PRU	x	x	2	100.0%	x	x	x	x
Harlington Upper	242	87.2%	70	24.3%	20	80.0%	10	30.0%
Manshead	253	67.2%	x	x	2	50.0%	2	50.0%
Queensbury	188	67.0%	17	5.9%	15	80.0%	4	50.0%
Redbourne	328	62.5%	x	x	13	84.6%	4	100.0%
Samuel Whitbread	27	96.3%	x	x	6	66.7%	3	33.3%
Sandy Upper	18	100.0%	182	59.3%	x	x	2	50.0%
Stratton	254	58.3%	24	25.0%	x	x	x	x
Vandyke	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Total CBC 2013	1614	71.4%	417	38.2%	75	72.5%	33	55.5%

Source: 2013 Provisional KS 4/5 Checking Exercise Data - EPAS

Date: 24/09/2013

Produced By: Learning Performance Team

Provisional Data taken from EPAS on 9th October 2012

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**Central Bedfordshire
SACRE Development Plan
April 2013 – March 2014**



Aims :- To ensure that high quality RE and Collective Worship opportunities are delivered in Central Bedfordshire schools
 To use the expertise of SACRE 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 October 2013
To monitor comments re. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Spiritual Development (SMSC) in Central Bedfordshire schools through information gleaned from Ofsted reports and RE subject inspections	At each termly SACRE Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACRE members will have a more informed understanding of the quality of provision currently in place within the inspected schools 	Specific school information shared at Autumn Term Meeting 2013
To review GCSE and A level results in Religious Education from the summer of 2013	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review results, celebrate achievements and consider any implications for the future. 	Provisional data shared from Summer Term 2013
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 	Autumn Term 2013 update
To provide opportunities for SACRE Council Members to gain knowledge and experience of different faiths through presentations at meetings. Presentations will reflect different age groups and types of schools.	At two meetings a year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACRE Council members will be better informed about a wide spectrum of faiths 	Focus upon Judaism from Nina Leigh October 2013

**Central Bedfordshire
SACRE Development Plan
April 2013 – March 2014**



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 	To be reviewed at October 2013 meeting
To investigate and review the use of artefacts within schools and ensure that schools are aware of what is available	Autumn Term 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All schools have access to appropriate artefacts for the teaching of RE 	Feedback from Chair October 2013
To promote the introduction of an RE Quality Mark and support schools to take part in the trial period	Summer Term 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support up to ten schools which attended training and awareness raising last autumn (2012) with feedback to other CBC schools 	Update October 2013

Areas of ongoing 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 Subscriptions Venue / refreshment costs	April 2013– March 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best value for money will be secured through careful budgeting and administrative support SACRE will be effective in fulfilling its statutory duties 	Dates circulated for 2013 / 14 to fit members' requests.
To arrange for an Annual SACRE report to be sent out to interested parties, including all Central Bedfordshire schools	Spring term 2014	<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

**Central Bedfordshire
SACRE Development Plan
April 2013 – March 2014**



To ensure a representative attends the NASACRE AGM	Summer 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 be reviewed at January 2014 meeting
To support the 2014 Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) Event	Spring Term 2014	<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 	Update and review at October 2013 meeting

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