

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

**This meeting
may be filmed.**



**Central
Bedfordshire**

please ask for Miss H Bell
direct line 0300 300 4040
date 22 October 2015

NOTICE OF MEETING

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Date & Time

Tuesday, 3 November 2015 at 2.00 p.m.

Venue at

Council Chamber, 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)	Sister Aidan Richards Mary O'Sullivan
	Free Church (3)	Marion Roberts
	Baptist	Jo Ann Gaunt
	Muslim (1)	Mohsin Malik
	Hindu (1)	
	Sikh (1)	Tirath Bhavra
	Jewish (1)	Nina Leigh
	Buddhist (1)	Ven. Akurala Samitha
Group B	Church of England (3)	Jane Chipperton Rev. Anne Crawford Tom Waterworth
Group C	Lower School Rep	Lucy Chapman, Sutton Lower School

Secondary RE Specialist	Kathleen Eldridge, Redborne Upper School
Middle School Rep	Jacquie Binks, Etonbury Middle School
Special School Rep	Janet Day, Weatherfield Special School
Anita Whitehurst	St Swithuns School, Sandy

Group D Cllrs (Chairman), (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A Barker, F Firth, C C Gomm, Mrs D B Gurney and A Ryan

[Named Substitutes:

Cllrs: D Shelvey, T Swain and M A G Versallion]

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

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AGENDA

1. **To confirm the appointment of Chairman**

2. **Apologies**

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

To approve the minutes of the last meeting of SACRE held on 7 July 2015 and discuss matters arising.

(attached pages 7 to 12)

4. **NASACRE discussion document**

5. **Faith Debates**

To review the Faith Debates document.

(To be circulated at the meeting)

6. **Development Plan**

To note the Development Plan.

(attached pages 13 to 15)

7. **Religious Education GCSE, AS and A Level results**

To note the Religious Education GCSE, AS and A Level examination results.

(attached page 17)

8. **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Comments**

To note Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural comments from NASACRE.

(attached pages 19 to 20)

9. **RE Conference**

To note that all SACRE Members are invited to attend the RE Conference on Saturday 18 June 2016.

10. **Date of next meeting**

To note that the next meeting of SACRE will be Tuesday 2 February 2016, Council Chamber, Priory House, Chicksands, shefford.

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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)** held at Room 14, Priory House on Tuesday, 7 July 2015.

PRESENT

Group A	Mary Sullivan	Roman Catholic Church Representative
	Marion Roberts	Free Church Representative
	Mohsin Malik	Muslim Representative
	Nina Leigh	Jewish Representative
	Ven Akurala Samitha	Buddhist Representative
		Hindu Representative
		Sikh Representative
Group B:	Rev. Anne Crawford	Church of England Representative
Group C:	Lucy Chapman	Lower School Representative, Sutton Lower School
	Kathleen Eldridge	Secondary RE Specialist, Redborne Upper School
	Jacquie Binks	Middle Schools Rep, Etonbury Middle School
	Janet Day	Special School Rep, Weatherfield Special School
	Anita Whitehurst	St Swithuns School

Group D: Cllrs: Mrs A Barker, F Firth and Mrs D B Gurney

Apologies for Absence: **Group A** Sister Aiden Richards
Group B Jane Chipperton, Tom Waterworth
Group C
Group D Cllr C Gomm and Cllr A Ryan

Substitutes: **Group A** None
Group B None
Group C None
Group D Cllr MAG Versallion in place of Cllr C Gomm
Cllr T Swain in place of Cllr A Ryan

Officers in Attendance: Mr P Harpin – School Improvement Consultant
Ms M Peaston – Committee Services Manager

SACRE/15/27.Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Having secured her agreement in advance of the meeting, Jane Chipperton was proposed and seconded in her absence for the position of Chairman.

RESOLVED to elect Jane Chipperton as Chairman for the remainder of the 2015/16 municipal year.

Cllr Doreen Gurney was proposed and seconded for the position of Vice-Chairman.

RESOLVED to elect Cllr Doreen Gurney as Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the 2015/16 municipal year.

Cllr Gurney took the Chair for the meeting in the Chairman's absence. She welcomed the new members of the SACRE and visitors to the meeting.

SACRE/15/28.Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2015 were approved as a correct record subject to an amendment in minute 14/19 to replace the name Nina Leigh with the name Jackie Binks (as the representative of Etonbury School who had made a presentation at the meeting). The minutes were then signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

SACRE/15/29.SACRE Membership Update, Including Faith Groups

The School Improvement Consultant, Paul Harpin, reported action which he and Jane Chipperton had undertaken following the last meeting to establish the reasons that some representatives in Group A had not recently attended meetings. Mr Harpin advised that Tirath Bhavra had been suffering some severe health issues and had therefore been unable to attend. The meeting commented on the valuable contribution that Mr Bhavra had made at earlier meetings. Mr Bhavra, who had not been present at the beginning of the meeting, arrived at that point and was warmly welcomed.

RESOLVED to note that further action would be taken by Paul Harpin to encourage Muslim and Buddhist attendance or replacement representation.

SACRE/15/30.The RE Professional Study Group

Lucy Chapman, Lower School representative (Sutton Lower School) stated that the Professional Study Group's (PSG's) aims were:

- To share good practice with RE colleagues
- To make suggestions for RE resources for teachers to use
- To share updates in RE.

The SACRE discussed various issues about PSGs within education including:

- PSGs used by lower and middle schools compared to upper schools. A comment was made that there was a current lack of PSG presence in upper schools which was a concern shared by the SACRE
- The very positive response and feedback presented by Lucy Chapman from schools which have an active PSG
- Suggestions about how schools such as Redborne Upper School can help non-specialist teachers of RE
- That colleagues within a PSG can share practice, give support and make suggestions on visits, visitors and resources for RE.

The discussion concluded:

- that the PSG feedback presented by Lucy Chapman indicated the high quality of this group's work
- the expertise and energy in the group were motivating, in particular in the context of the difficulties in recruiting specialist RE teachers
- practical points shared at meetings were most helpful.

The Chairman thanked Lucy Chapman for her presentation.

SACRE/15/31. **New Draft Development Plan 2015-2016**

The SACRE reviewed the Draft Development Plan for April 2015-March 2016. The need to consider the capacity and the resources of the Standing Advisory Council to undertake the programme of work was taken into account. The proposed focus at each of the meetings through the year was supported.

In response to a question, it was noted that Van Dyke Upper School had taken the decision not to offer RE GCSE not because of a lack of resources or support, but for other reasons. It was therefore acknowledged that the SACRE was unable to impact on the school's lack of interest in this area.

A discussion ensued on the SACRE's ability to influence the teaching of RE in schools. It was noted that some excellent work was being carried out in Lower and Middle Schools but that this tended to level off in some Upper Schools, including Academies. Although there was a statutory duty to devote a minimum of 5% of the curriculum to RE the SACRE had no powers to enforce this. The importance of supporting school Heads of Department with the RE remit through for example the RE Professional Study Group was acknowledged.

The School Improvement Consultant reassured new SACRE members that RE teaching had evolved to become inclusive and comprehensive.

A proposal was made to add to the Development Plan a task on establishing how schools were using RE lessons.

A suggestion was also made that plans be prepared for a visit to a school by the SACRE membership.

Note: Subsequent to the meeting an invitation was issued to the SACRE to visit Redborne Upper School, and arrangements would be made accordingly.

RESOLVED that the proposed Development Plan be approved, subject to the addition of a new focus item as follows:

Focus	Time scale	Outcome measure	Update
Investigate how schools are using their RE lessons	By the end of the summer term 2016	To enable a programme of support to be developed as appropriate	Spring Term 2016/17

In view of comments made by Tirath Bhavra about the Faith Tour involving 3000 young people, he was asked to report further on this at the next meeting.

Mr Bhavra also commented that it was now 70 years since the atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima leaving a legacy of destruction and devastated lives. He considered that it would be appropriate for the SACRE to consider issues in relation to the even greater power of modern weapons and therefore the need to encourage actions at every level to build peace in the world.

RESOLVED to add the following items to the agenda for the next meeting:

- A report from Tirath Bhavra on the Faith Tour
- Consideration of issues in light of the power of modern weapons and the need to strive for peace.

SACRE/15/32. "Take a Stand" Feedback

The School Improvement Consultant, Paul Harpin, reported on the "Take a Stand" exhibition which the SACRE had agreed to support through a donation of £400 in view of the benefits it would bring to the host school (Henlow Church of England Academy) and other schools in the area.

Mr Harpin's visit fortuitously happened to coincide with an OFSTED inspection and the inspectors welcomed the quality assurance provided by a SACRE representative.

The exhibition, which was staged in the library, focused on people who had championed the cause of civil liberties including Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi and Anne Frank. A reflections board placed at the end of the exhibition enabled students to make comments, which demonstrated some of the insights that students had arrived at through the exhibition.

The exhibition was thought provoking and the comments demonstrated that the students had been receptive to the messages. High quality resources were used, and it was well-managed. Mr Harpin concluded that this was an initiative

which the SACRE could feel proud to have supported and provided an example of how the SACRE could contribute to increasing the perceived value of RE and citizenship.

RESOLVED to note the report.

SACRE/15/33. **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Comments from Ofsted**

The SACRE received its regular update on OFSTED evaluations for understanding of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural values in schools.

It was noted that only seven OFSTED inspections had been carried out during the period. Of these, five had received a grading of “good”, one had been graded “requires improvement” and one Middle school Academy had received a grading of “serious weaknesses”, although comments indicated that a range of extra-curricular activities as well as the assemblies programme help students to learn about other cultures and develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding.

RESOLVED to note the report.

SACRE/15/34. **Feedback from NASACRE**

As Jane Chipperton was unable to attend today’s meeting Paul Harpin reminded SACRE members that an email link to a document considered by the NASACRE had been forwarded to everyone in advance of this meeting. Although the document was 66 pages long it provided interesting reading, and the recommendations in particular would be the subject of an item at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the recommendations contained in the document would be the main focus of the next meeting.

SACRE/15/35. **National Updates**

In view of Jane Chipperton’s absence, the update would be provided at the next meeting.

SACRE/15/36. **Date of the next meeting**

The SACRE noted that the next meeting would be held on 3 November 2015 at 2.00pm.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. and concluded at 3.00 p.m.)

Chairman

Date

**Central Bedfordshire
SACRE Development Plan
April 2015 – March 2016**



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
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 each termly meeting.
To review GCSE and A level results in Religious Education from the summer of 2015	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review results, celebrate achievements and consider any implications for the future. 	Autumn Term 2015
To support the 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 2015 and at subsequent meetings
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 	Autumn Term 2015 and at subsequent meetings

**Central Bedfordshire
SACRE Development Plan
April 2015 – March 2016**



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 	Autumn Term 2015
To investigate and review the use of artefacts within schools and ensure that schools are aware of what is available	Autumn Term 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All schools have access to appropriate artefacts for the teaching of RE 	Feedback from Chair
To further promote the introduction of an RE Quality Mark and support schools to take part in the trial period	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support a small number of schools who attended training and awareness raising with feedback to other CBC schools 	Summer Term onwards

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 2015– March 2016	<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 2015 / 16 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 2016	<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 	Spring Term 2016

**Central Bedfordshire
SACRE Development Plan
April 2015 – March 2016**



To ensure a representative attends the NASACRE AGM	Summer Term 2015 and 2016	<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 	Feedback from Chair of SACRE June 2016
To support the 2016 Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) Event	Spring Term 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lessons of holocaust experiences will be a valuable one for both students and other adults 	Spring Term 2016

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Central Bedfordshire Achievement in Religious Education 2015

School DfE	School name	Candidates	GCSE Full % Achieve A*-C 2015	Candidates	A Level % Achieve A*-C 2015	Candidates	AS Level % Achieve A*-C 2015
8236905	All saints	131	57			3	0
8234011	Cedars	246	68	7	71	5	40
8234000	Central Beds UTC	-	0			0	
8234083	Harlington	245	85	25	60	6	50
8235401	Manshead	259	83	10	70	1	100
8234002	Queensbury	145	68	6	67	4	50
8234003	Redborne	139	94	28	86	10	70
8234079	Samuel Whitbread	35	83	7	71	1	0
8234078	Sandy	7	71	10	80	2	0
8234005	Stratton	27	78			12	83
8234096	Vandyke	-	-			0	
Central Bedfordshire LA		1234	77	93	73	44	57

Source: 2015 Provisional KS 4/5 Checking Exercise Dataset

Date:19/10/2015

Produced By: Learning Performance Team

Includes Pupils at the end of their Key stage

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Ofsted Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) comments
April – July 2015

Lower Schools by date order

(Grade 1= Outstanding Grade 2 = Good Grade 3 = Requires Improvement 4= Serious Weaknesses / Special Measures)

School	Inspection date	Overall grade	Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) comments
Stanbridge	08/06/15	Monitoring Inspection	Behaviour and safety of pupils Your well-structured plan for assemblies provides good opportunities for the development of the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It effectively supports the pupils' personal and social development while establishing shared values across the school community.
Westoning	02/07/15	2	The leadership and management The school promotes pupils' spiritual, moral social and cultural awareness well through, for example, visits, visitors and assemblies. Provision for pupils' personal development, together with the strong support for it through the curriculum, gives pupils a good understanding of British values, which equip them well for life in modern Britain.

Primary Schools by date order

School	Inspection date	Overall grade	Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) comments
Thomas Whitehead Houghton Regis	05/05/15	Note of monitoring visit	Teaching and learning – strengths Spiritual development and RE feature in all classrooms with prayer/ reflection corners. The only aspect of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development that is less obvious is cultural development given that this is a multicultural school.

Middle Schools by date order

(Grade 1= Outstanding Grade 2 = Good Grade 3 = Requires Improvement 4= Serious Weaknesses / Special Measures)

Upper Schools by date order

School	Inspection date	Overall grade	Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) comments
Stratton, Biggleswade	24/04/15	2	The leadership and management Good promotion of students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development has a positive impact on their safety and well-being. Spiritual and cultural experiences are supported well through school visits and visiting speakers. The school farm is a valued resource that is used well to contribute to all students' personal development.

Special Schools by date order

School	Inspection date	Overall grade	Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) comments
Oak Bank	08/07/15	1	This is an outstanding school Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is exceptional. They are supported to high levels of personal and social awareness. The school's values of respect and tolerance for diversity are promoted in everything that it does. Behaviour Pupils are highly reflective about their behaviour and very clear as to what they need to improve further. Their spiritual development is excellent as a result, as they show a much deeper understanding of themselves and others including others' beliefs and lifestyles. Pupils' moral, social and cultural development is also outstanding because of the range of experiences pupils take part in and the ways in which these are used to help pupils to understand why, for example, laws and rules are necessary.