

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)** held at Room 15, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford on Tuesday, 1 February 2011.

PRESENT

Jane Chipperton (Chairman)

Group A:	Sister Aiden Richards	Roman Catholic Church Representative
	Mary Sullivan	Roman Catholic Church Representative
	Mohsin Malik	Muslim Representative
	Ven Akurala Samitha	Buddhist Representative
	Tirath Bhavra	Sikh Representative

Group B:	Tom Waterworth	Church of England Representative
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Group C:	Kathleen Eldridge	Secondary RE Specialist, Redborne Upper School
	Jacquie Binks	Middle Schools Rep, Etonbury Middle School
	Linda Hardy	Primary School Rep, Toddington St Georges Lower School
	Janet Day	Special School Rep, Weatherfield Special School

Group D:	Cllrs:	Mrs A Barker, D Jones and D J Lawrence
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Apologies for Absence:	Group A	Marion Robers, Nina Leigh
	Group B	Rev Anne Crawford
	Group C	Chris Spurgeon
	Group D	Cllrs Mrs C F Chapman MBE and J Street

Officers in Attendance:	Mrs M Clampitt	– Committee Services Officer
	Mrs C Jagusz	– Committee Services Officer
		– School Improvement Advisor

SACRE/10/8 **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held on 22 September 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman clarified some points with regards to the minutes as set out below.

- (i) Continual Professional Development (CPD) – the local authority (LA) commissioned Redbourne School to run the event. Teresa Fry would be contacted and asked for future dates.
- (ii) The Humanist will be written to and invited to attend the autumn meeting.
- (iii) Clare Harding will be invited to attend the autumn meeting.

SACRE/10/9 SACRE Annual Report

The School Improvement Adviser to SACRE provided the Committee with an update on the Annual Report. The majority of information had been received for the annual report. The Teachers group would be approached to provide information on the agreed new syllabus. The main purpose of the annual report was to promote the work of the SACRE.

The Group discussed how the annual report should be produced and circulated. Previously the report had been a glossy document which had cost approximately £800 to produce. The Group agreed that the document did not have to be produced in a glossy format. It was suggested that the report be prepared in both greyscale and a colour version for the web. Both Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council were being contacted to arrange for a SACRE page on the website.

It was agreed that the report would be sent as a PDF document and a weblink to all schools and governors.

SACRE/10/10 HMD Feedback

The Holocaust Memorial Day service was held at Biddenham school. The 6th form facilitated the student groups. The exhibition was sponsored by Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire SACRE and St Albans Diocese. The event was reported in the Times & Citizen and by Three Counties Radio in Melting Pot. It was noted that other schools had difficulty getting to the exhibition.

The exhibition was well planned and thought out. It was noted that the children from the Muslim faith embraced the whole experience.

The difficulty was to keep the exhibition fresh each year. It was hoped that the exhibition would be jointly funded in the future and directed to a larger audience. The Chairman asked for volunteers to take over the preparation for this event as she would not have sufficient time available.

SACRE/10/11 OFSTED Report Outcomes

The Local Authority Adviser informed the Group that 16 schools had been reviewed with 12 of the schools reports having been published. The results were the following:-

Overall:-	3 Outstanding	All Lowers
	4 Good	3 Lowers, 1 Special
	5 Satisfactory	2 Lowers, 3 Middles
SMSC:-	2 Outstanding	All Lowers
	9 Good	3 Middles, 5 Lowers and 1 Special
	1 Satisfactory	1 Lower

There were no key issues relating to SMSC.

The Group agreed to invite the head teachers from the outstanding schools to attend a future SACRE meeting to explain how they receive outstanding OFSTED ratings.

Schools provided information for self evaluation and briefing pre inspection. The difficulty has been that OFSTED is rating personal development but looking for SMSC. Complaints had gone up nationally by 70% on OFSTED judgements.

SACRE/10/12 Celebrating RE Month

The Chairman informed the Group that the Eastern Region had submitted a bid for joint funding for over 25 teachers to meet in Ely and Cambridge to discuss ideas for Celebrating RE Month. The meetings had teachers from all phases with great ideas but difficult to draw in Teachers from other schools.

The Celebrating RE website had a feature on the Eastern Region in the February newsletter. The Group were informed that Schools could enter a competition to design an image for the new Agreed Syllabus as part of Celebrating RE Month for the month of March. Schools can use the Spirited Arts website for ideas as there were 30,000 entries per year to this website. Biddenham School had prepared a talking heads collage, Luton had prepared a conference on Islam.

An email was attached to the agenda from Pricilla Barlow, Consultant for the East of England Faiths Council (EEFC) had written offering assistance with the preparations for the celebrating RE month.

Bedford Council of Faiths was holding a Faith Fest between the 8 – 11 March. The Faith Fest would be open to schools across Bedford and Central Bedfordshire Primary Schools and would be held at Bedford Modern School above the swimming pool, which had been donated for the occasion. The Diocese has donated a secretary. The nine faiths invited to provide information and work with pupils and activities.

The Group were informed of other events to be held during March as follows:-

National events – Westminster launch at the House of Commons at the beginning of March.

NASACRE event would be a 1 day conference in March. The subject would be “Whose RE is it anyway?”

Gifted and talented days in Central Bedfordshire and St Albans Cathedral

The Local Authority Adviser agreed to contact the Central Bedfordshire Arts Officer to ascertain if Celebrating RE artwork could be displayed in the art corner of the restaurant at Priory House.

SACRE/10/13 NASACRE Correspondence

The Chairman met with the Chair of the NASACRE at the Victoria and Albert Museum in December and discussed the concerns re SACRE following the proposed LA cuts and how the SACREs were affected nationally. Local Authority Support for SACREs was circulated with the agenda. NASACRE had looked at the law which specified what was expected of a SACRE and what support should be provided. The information was provided for noting. The Chairman confirmed that there had not been a dedicated RE adviser for 12 years in the LA and SACRE needed to consider how they could support the work of the SACRE.

It was noted that a questionnaire was being sent to all LAs asking how many advisers were being lost.

SACRE/10/14 Correspondence

The Group discussed the White Paper for Education which was issued on 21/10/10 and the future delivery of RE. It was agreed that it was a legal requirement to teach RE but because it was not specifically mentioned within the EBacc (English Baccalaureate), some schools had begun to remove it from the curriculum.

The Group agreed that the SACRE would write to the Director of Children's Services, schools and Central Government asking them to remind schools that RE is still required even if not mentioned in the EBacc (English Baccalaureate). In addition, the Schools Forum to be lobbied for continuation of RE on the curriculum.

SACRE/10/15 Date and Venue of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on 16 June 2011.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. and concluded at 3.20)

Chairman

Date

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