

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)** held at Room 15, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford on Thursday, 16 June 2011.

PRESENT

Cllr Jane Chipperton (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs D B Gurney (Vice-Chairman)

Group A:	Sister Aiden Richards	Roman Catholic Church Representative
	Mary Sullivan	Roman Catholic Church Representative
	Mohsin Malik	Muslim Representative
	Nina Leigh	Jewish Representative
	Ven Akurala Samitha	Buddhist Representative

Group B:	Tom Waterworth	Church of England Representative
-----------------	----------------	----------------------------------

Group C:	Kathleen Eldridge	Secondary RE Specialist, Redborne Upper School
	Jacquie Binks	Middle Schools Rep, Etonbury Middle School
	Janet Day	Special School Rep, Weatherfield Special School

Group D:	Cllrs:	M Versallion D Jones J Jamieson
-----------------	--------	---------------------------------------

Apologies for Absence:	Group A	Marion Roberts
	Group B	Rev. Anne Crawford
	Group C	Chris Spurgeon Linda Hardy
	Group D	Cllr D J Lawrence, Mrs A Barker, C Gomm

Officers in Attendance:	Miss H Bell	– Committee Services Officer
	Mr S Morrow	– School Improvement Officer

SACRE/11/1 **Welcome**

Members of the SACRE team were welcomed to the first meeting of the municipal year 2011/2012.

SACRE/11/2 **Minutes of the Last Meeting and Issues Arising**

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2011 be approved as a true and correct record.

SACRE/11/3 Appointment of Chairman

Nominations were invited for the Chairman of the Central Bedfordshire SACRE for the Municipal year 2011/2012

RESOLVED

that Jane Chipperton be elected as Chairman for the Municipal Year 2011/12.

SACRE/11/4 Appointment of a Vice Chairman

Nominations were invited for the Vice-Chairman of the Central Bedfordshire SACRE for the Municipal Year 2011/2012

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mrs D B Gurney be elected as Vice Chairman of SACRE for the Municipal year 2011/12.

SACRE/11/5 Suggested Amendment to Constitution

The team were advised that a request had been made for an addition to the Membership on SACRE. If an addition to the membership was agreed it would mean an amendment being made to the SACRE Constitution.

During ensuing discussion, the Team agreed that the person who had submitted the request to join SACRE be invited to the next meeting to present their case and thereafter a decision be made with regard to whether or not the membership of SACRE be varied. Furthermore, the Team expressed the need for the Constitution to be amended to ensure that applications for repeat applicants would only be considered on an annual basis only.

RESOLVED

(1) that the applicant be invited to attend the next meeting of SACRE to present their case for joining the Membership of SACRE

(2) that the Constitution of SACRE be amended to ensure that consideration of applications from repeat applicants be considered on an annual basis only.

SACRE/11/6 Agreement of SACRE Development Plan

The SACRE received and considered the SACRE development Plan April 2011 – March 2012.

Following detailed consideration of the development plan, it was noted that there had been no take up from SACRE Members to visit schools. In addition, the Team noted that a Holocaust Memorial day had been held in Bedford School last year which was successful. It was suggested that in future it would be good for Central Bedfordshire Council to become more involved in Holocaust day rather than all of the events being school focused.

NOTED

That the SACRE Development plan April 2011 – March 2012 be noted.

SACRE/11/7 OFSTED Report Outcomes Spring Term 2011 and RE Updates

The SACRE was advised of OFSTED report outcomes Spring term 2011 and RE updates. The School Improvement Officer, Central Bedfordshire circulated results of the OfSTED inspections. It was agreed that a letter of commendment be issued to schools which had achieved an outstanding OFSTED result. The School Improvement Advisor would draft the letter.

A SACRE member commented that it would be of interest to make OFSTED comparisons with both neighbouring Authorities and nationally. In addition, it was felt that it would be beneficial to benchmark across other Authorities.

RESOLVED

(1) that the School Improvement Advisor would undertake to write to schools commending them of their OFSTED result.

(2) that the School Improvement Advisor investigate the possibility of making comparisons and benchmarking OFSTED results with neighbouring Authorities.

SACRE/11/8 Report from NASACRE AGM

The Chairman had attended the NASACRE AGM and reported that the conference was of high quality. She also noted that the future of NASACRE was uncertain due to financial pressures.

The NASACRE AGM would be held on 6 October 2011.

RESOLVED

That the update on National Association of SACRE's be noted.

SACRE/11/9 Bedfordshire RE Society Report

The SACRE received and considered a presentation from the Chairman on Bedfordshire RE society report.

RESOLVED

That the Bedfordshire RE society report be noted.

SACRE/11/10 OFSTED Review and SMSC

The School Improvement Advisor informed the SACRE of the OFSTED inspection review 2012 which focused on leadership and management, overall effectiveness, behaviour and safety and OFSTED review and SMSC.

NOTED

that the OFSTED inspection review be noted.

SACRE/11/11 Celebrating RE Legacy

The SACRE received and considered a presentation from the Chairman concerning celebrating RE month March 2011.

NOTED

That the presentation on celebrating RE month March 2011 be noted.

SACRE/11/12 EBAC and Letter to Schools

Members were invited to consider a letter that had been drafted on behalf of SACRE regarding Religious Education and the Proposed English Baccalaureate. Following consideration it was agreed that the letter be sent to all schools on behalf of SACRE.

During ensuing discussion upon the letter and baccalaureate, concern was expressed with regard to the amount of time spent on religious education in schools which was unfortunately being reduced and in some cases being side lined.

RESOLVED

That the letter regarding Religious Education and the proposed English Baccalaureate be issued to all schools on behalf of SACRE.

SACRE/11/13 Correspondence received since last meeting

NOTED

that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting of SACRE.

SACRE/11/14 AOB

It was noted that a Spirituality Conference would be held at Cardinal Newman School, on 28 June 2011, all SACRE Members were invited to the event.

An application for a lap dance club had been submitted to Bedford Borough Council. The application site was in close proximity to Bedford School and a Church. SACRE memebtrs were invited to submit comments to the Chairman by the end of June 2011.

SACRE/11/15 Date and venue of next meetings (Autumn Term 2011 and Spring Term 2012)

NOTED

(1) that the next meeting of SACRE be held on Wednesday 5 October 2011 at 2.00 p.m in Room 15, Priory House, Chicksands, shefford.

(2) that an informal training session be held for all SACRE members prior to the formal SACRE meeting at 1.00 p.m.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 1.00 p.m. and concluded at 2.21 p.m..)

Chairman

Date