

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

held on Monday, 13 July, 2009 at 5.30 p.m.

at Salvation Army Citadel, Green Lane, Walsall

Present

Councillor Ault
Councillor Cook
Councillor Turner
Mrs. S. Blackmore
Reverend Elizabeth Snowden
Mrs M. Gibbons
Captain T. Stubbings
Mr. Dhiren Thakker
Mr. R. Simmons
Mrs. Ellen Taylor

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor K. Phillips, Councillor Rochelle, Mr. Anthony Orlik, Father Michael Leadbeater, Mrs. P. Mullins, Mrs. Barbara Groombridge, Mr. Shah Nawaz, Ms. Jeet Sohal, Mr. K. Yeates and Mrs Lynn Edwards.

As the meeting was inquorate, Mr. Taylor reported on the proposed conference for sixth formers from Walsall Schools and Colleges and informed SACRE that the schools and colleges would need to reach a consensus on whether the conference should take place and it would be necessary to consider whether or not the conference should be held after the publication of the revised Agreed Syllabus.

Proposed SACRE Conference 2010 arrangements

Mr. Taylor informed SACRE that the 10 March, 2010 had been reserved as the date for the conference and a provisional booking had been made at the Banks's Stadium, Bonser Suite with three additional break out rooms. Education Walsall would provide the budget and it was suggested that the cost for the attendance at the conference should be levied at £150 per delegate.

It was suggested that Gloucester Diocese be invited to talk to delegates about resources.

Mr. Simmons undertook to do a short presentation to the next meeting of SACRE on the holocaust following a convention he had attended.

At this juncture, the time being 5.50 p.m., the meeting became quorate.

Appointment of Chairman for the 2009/10 Municipal Year

Resolved

That Reverend E. Snowden be appointed Chairman of SACRE for the current municipal year.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the 2009/10 Municipal Year

Resolved

That Captain Stubbings be appointed Vice-Chairman of SACRE for the current municipal year.

Late items to be introduced by the Chairman

There were no late items to be introduced by the Chairman.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items for consideration in private session.

Minutes

(a) 9 March, 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March, 2009 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March, 2009 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

(b) Agreed Syllabus Working Group – 22 June, 2009

The notes of the Agreed Syllabus Working Group held on 22 June, 2009 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the notes of the Agreed Syllabus Working Group meeting held on 22 June, 2009 be received and noted.

Election of spokespersons for the Groups

The report of the Executive Director (Resources) was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the following Members be appointed as spokespersons for the groups to deal with urgent business between meetings:-

Reverend E. Snowden (Church of England)
Captain T. Stubbings (other faiths and religious denominations)
Councillor C. Ault (Local Authority Representative)
Mr. R. Simmons (Teachers Association Representative)

Appointment of Strategy Sub-Group / Agreed Syllabus Working Group and five year development plan - progress

The report of the Executive Director (Resources) was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Members adjourned to their groups to discuss the matter.

Resolved

1. That the following Members be appointed to the Strategy Sub-Group / Agreed Syllabus Working Group:-

Mr. R. Simmons	}	Teachers Representatives
Mrs. E. Taylor	}	
Mrs. M. Gibbons	}	Other faiths and religious denominations
Mr. D. Thakker	}	representatives
Mrs. S. Blackmore	-	Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education
Councillor D. Turner	-	Local Authority Representative
Reverend E. Snowden	-	Ex-officio Member

2. That those Members on SACRE not present at the meeting be requested to indicate whether or not they would wish to join the Members listed above to form the Agreed Syllabus Working Group to ensure as wide an input into the revised Agreed Syllabus as possible.

3. That the remainder of the five year development plan be agreed as follows:-

Year 2 – 2009/10	-	Launch of the Agreed Syllabus.
Year 3 – 2010/11	-	Plan for SACRE to meet the advanced criteria in the self-evaluation.

- Monitor collective worship (report on outcome of annual monitoring).
- Year 4 – 2011/12 - Promote RE as a field of study for older pupils.
- Promote the use of an RE website.
- Year 5 – 2012/12 - Review of Agreed Syllabus.

4. That the dates and venues for the Sub-group / Agreed Syllabus Working Group meetings be agreed as follows:-

Monday, 21 September, 2009 – Green Lane Baptist Church
 Monday, 8 February, 2010 – Pleck Methodist Church, Bescot Road
 Monday, 21 June, 2010 – Pleck Methodist Church, Bescot Road

Meetings to commence at 4.30 p.m.

Progress on review of the Agreed Syllabus

Mr. Taylor informed SACRE that Ms. Rosemary Rivett from RE Today had agreed to go through the draft of the document and to meet with Mr. Taylor on the 14 July for that purpose. The revised document would then be submitted to the Agreed Syllabus Working Group at its meeting in September prior to submission to the Agreed Syllabus Conference and SACRE.

Mr. Taylor recommended that SACRE should review the content of the Agreed Syllabus every year to ensure that the syllabus continues to be relevant, this would reduce the task when the next five year review became necessary.

Mrs. Blackmore suggested that 10% of schools be visited to look at the use of the Agreed Syllabus within those schools and use monitoring and feedback to update the Agreed Syllabus. Mr. Taylor confirmed that it was anticipated that the launch of the revised Agreed Syllabus would take place around Christmas and it was expected that schools would amend their planning of the curriculum from September 2010.

SACRE placed on record their thanks to David Taylor for his work on the revision of the Agreed Syllabus.

Resolved

That the progress on the review of the Agreed Syllabus be noted.

Establishment of Agreed Syllabus Conference

The report of the Executive Director (Resources) was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That an Agreed Syllabus Conference be established consisting of all Members of SACRE.

Proposed Conference for sixth formers from Walsall Schools and Colleges

Resolved

That the report given by Mr. Taylor at the commencement of the meeting on details for a conference for the 16-19 age group be postponed to September 2010 to coincide with the use of the revised Agreed Syllabus in schools.

Proposed SACRE Conference 2010 arrangements

Mr. Taylor reported at the commencement of the meeting on proposals for a SACRE Conference in March 2010.

Resolved

That the SACRE Conference 2010 be held on 10 March 2010 in the Bonser Suite of the Banks's Stadium, Walsall with a cost of £150 being set per delegate.

Self-evaluation - Action Plan

A copy of the self-evaluation action plan was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

1. That all Members of SACRE be contacted to ascertain their interest in sitting on the working group to consider the self-evaluation action plan;
2. That the working group be requested to focus on addressing key areas that are identified as 'developing' with a view to moving these forward.

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools:-

(a) Bloxwich CE VC Primary School

The National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That SACRE congratulate Bloxwich Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School on their recent successful statutory inspection.

(b) St Michael's CE (C) Primary School

The National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That SACRE congratulate St Michael's Church of England (C) Primary School on their recent successful statutory inspection.

Dates of future meetings

The report of the Executive Director (Resources) was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

1. That, in order to comply with the current constitution, meetings of SACRE for the 2009/10 Municipal Year take place as follows:-

Monday, 12 October, 2009
Monday, 8 March, 2010
Monday, 12 July, 2010

2. That the meetings be held at the Salvation Army, Citadel, Green Lane, Walsall commencing at 5.30 p.m., subject to availability of the venue.

Visiting schools by SACRE Members

Mr. Taylor suggested that from Spring 2010 a selection of schools be visited to look at the use by schools of the Agreed Syllabus. SACRE could also look at resources and raise questions about collective worship. In response to a request, Mr. Taylor recommended that Oakwood or Old Hall Special Schools could be included in the list of schools to be visited.

Resolved

That the Chair, in conjunction with Mr. Taylor, prepare a letter regarding two visits by SACRE to be included in the school news bulletin setting out information about SACRE, its role and that it will be in contact with them in the near future.

Any Other Business

Mr. Simmons informed SACRE that Elwood School, formally Daw End School, was registered in March 2008 and a recent inspection assessed the school as 'good' in spirituality and moral values.

Councillor Ault referred to a challenge by Members of the Council when he delivered the SACRE Annual report and referred to the information he had given to Members as a result of their query.

Councillor Ault stated that he attended the SACRE Conference in Birmingham at which a humanist had given a presentation. The presentation was both interesting and informative.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: