

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held in Committee Room 1B, County Hall, Durham on Thursday 21 June 2012 at 1.30 pm.

Present:

J Bainbridge In the Chair

Church of England

Canon L Burton (Vice-Chair)

Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

S Brown	- Assemblies of God
W Gray	- Buddhism
J Kidd	- Methodist Church
J Pallister	- Roman Catholic
D Sadlik	- Judaism
C Spencer	- Bahá'í Faith

Teachers Associations

S Baker	- NUT
A Carter	- R E Curriculum Group
P Welch	- NUT

County Council Representatives

Councillors M Simmons

Specialist Inspector (Religious Education)

Isobel Short

1 Introductions, Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Blakey, Councillor Dixon, Councillor Iveson, C Callaghan, A Hartley, J Jewsbury, J Katsambis, D Mowbray-Pape and I Osborne.

SACRE congratulated Judith Bainbridge, Chair of SACRE for making the Queens Birthday Honours List for Services to the Community.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in relation to items of business on the agenda.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 March 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2012.

5 Chairs Comments

The Chair informed Members that Anne Carter would be retiring. She asked that SACRE's appreciation for her contributions over the years be recorded.

The Chair announced that a review of the SACRE membership would take place in summer.

6 SACRE Development Plan

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education informed SACRE that Open Task Groups would be arranged for October and December to enable Members to commence work on the SACRE Development Plan.

Resolved:-

That meeting details be conveyed to all Members.

7 Respect Conference

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education reminded SACRE that they were welcome to attend the Lat Blaylock Conference on the 29 June 2012. 80 children and teachers have confirmed their attendance from the following schools:-

- Roseberry
- Spennymoor/Tudhoe
- Greenfields
- Gilesgate
- Ferryhill
- Wellfield
- Parkside
- Shincliffe
- Silver Tree
- Sunnybrow
- Startforth.

8 RE Art Competition

A number of SACRE Members judged the RE Art Competition held on 12 March 2012 at County Hall. They each selected two pieces of artwork they felt best reflected RE along with artistic merit.

A list of the 6 winners was circulated. Members took a few moments to look over the winning artwork (for copy see file of minutes).

9 SACRE Updates

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education provided an overview of the current work of RE organisations and the latest news and developments in Religious Education (for copy see file of minutes).

Discussions took place about developments and it was noted that RE is facing interesting and challenging times, for example over its place on the curriculum, external accreditation, teaching of exam courses in restricted time. The profile of RE nationally was being raised, for example through the All Party Parliamentary Group and this is seen as very positive.

Resolved:-

That SACRE agree that:-

- the Chair write to the All Party Parliamentary Group and offer Durham SACRE's support;
- the Inspector write to MP's expressing concern about Exam Boards and also write to NASACRE with concern about the content contained in the leaflet for Academies, particularly in relation to the role of SACRE;
- further discussions regarding Academies, Exam Boards and the role of the Local Authority be discussed at the Open Task Groups in October and December 2012.

10 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of SACRE would be held on 8 November 2012.

11 Launch of Durham Agreed Syllabus for SACRE Members

The Chair thanked Members of SACRE who attended the Agreed Syllabus launches which took place between 12 to 19 June 2012. Both Primary and Secondary launches were well attended and very well received.

SACRE thanked the Specialist Inspector for all her hard work in producing Durham's Agreed Syllabus which was described as a remarkable piece of work. Appreciation was also given to the Clerk to SACRE.