

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on Thursday 8 November 2012 at 1.30 pm

Present:

J Bainbridge (Chairman) In the Chair

Church of England

Canon L Burton and Revd. J Jewsbury

Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

J Kidd	- Methodist Church
I Osborne	- Roman Catholic
Bhakti Rasa Dasa	- Hinduism
D Sadlik	- Judaism
C Spencer	- Bahá'í Faith

Teachers Associations

S Baker	- NUT
A Hartley	- NASUWT
P Welch	- NUT

County Council Representatives

Councillors M Dixon and M Simmons

Specialist Inspector (Religious Education)

Isobel Short

1 Introductions, Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from S Brown, C Callaghan, W Gray, Councillor Iveson, J Katsambis, D Mowbray-Pape, J Pallister, M Stephenson.

The Chair advised members that Jo March, Clerk to SACRE would no longer be attending SACRE meetings. Members expressed their thanks and appreciation for all her hard work over the years.

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 21 June 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Matters Arising

Referring to Item 5 of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2012, Linda Burton sought clarification on the review of the SACRE membership. Isobel Short the Specialist Inspector for Religious Education responded that this was an ongoing project.

Referring to Item 6 of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2012, Linda Burton asked when the Open Task Group would be held in December 2012. The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education informed SACRE that the Open Task Group meeting would be held on 13 December 2012.

Referring to Item 9 of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2012, Linda Burton sought clarification when this item would be discussed. The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education responded that it would be discussed at an Open Task Group when Councillor Dixon was in attendance, it would then be a formal agenda item at a future SACRE meeting.

5 Chairs Comments

The Chair informed members of the following events which were taking place for the Interfaith Week, details of which had been circulated to members at the meeting (for copy see file on minutes).

- Face to Face and Side by Side 'Be the Change you Want to Be' which was to be held on Monday 26 November 2012, 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm at Alington House, 4 North Bailey, Durham City.
- National Interfaith Week Event for 2012 – NERFN Members and Partners which was to be held on Tuesday 27 November 2012, 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm at Lamesley Room, Gateshead Civic Centre.

SACRE asked for the details of these events to be e-mailed to all members.

The Chair advised members that there would be no interfaith conference this year. The student conference supplied by SACRE in July 2012 was run by RE Today Services. Members discussed how successful the conference had been. The Specialist Inspector for Religious Educations advised members that this type of conference would not be run free of charge again by RE Today. She did suggest that SACRE could hold another in house interfaith conference in 2013.

Councillor Dixon asked if details could be obtained of what events took place in schools for Interfaith Week. The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education advised members that she would try and obtain this information.

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education provided members with details of a letter which was on the Religious Education Council website which thanked Michael Gove for his comments on the Interfaith Week.

The Chair advised SACRE that Anne Carter who was a member of SACRE had retired from her position at Durham Johnston School so would no longer be eligible to sit on SACRE. The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education advised members that Claire Dyer who is head of RE at Staindrop and has been a Lead Teacher in RE in the authority and was happy to take up this position and her Head Teacher was very supportive. A retirement card for Anne Carter was circulated for members to sign.

6 Membership request from the British Humanist Association

Details of a request which had been received from a Humanist to become a member of SACRE was read out to members at the meeting.

Members discussed in detail the request, and in-line with procedures in the Council's Constitution voted on the request received.

Resolved:

That the Specialist Inspector for Religious Education write to the applicant thanking for the application to become a member of SACRE, and advising that the Council had determined that the appointment was not appropriate at this time.

7 Art Competition 2013

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education presented the report on the possible Durham SACRE Art Competition (for copy see file of minutes).

Members discussed the art competition which could be a picture, painting or collage of a stained glass window produced by primary schools. Members asked if funding would be available for the competition. The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education responded that she was optimistic that some funding would be available.

Members discussed the possibility of the entries being displayed in the Chapel at the Cathedral which could be officially opened by the Dean.

8 KS4 Data Analysis

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education presented the report on the KS4 Data Analysis (for copy see file of minutes). She advised members that the national average for grade A-C was 74% for the Full Course and 32% grade A*/A.

9 SACRE Self Evaluation and Development Planning

Details of the Durham SACRE Self-Evaluation had been circulated to members (for copy see file of minutes).

The Task Group in October discussed the standards and quality of provision of Religious Education and the effectiveness of the agreed syllabus.

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education suggested that the Task Group meetings could continue on a monthly basis and could discuss the management of SACRE and partnerships at the next Task Group in December and the SACRE meeting in March 2013.

10 SACRE Updates

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education circulated to members at the meeting the Durham SACRE update for November 2012 (for copy see file on minutes).

She advised members that she would discuss the item at the next Task Group meeting or members could e-mail her with any questions.

11 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of SACRE would be held on 7 March 2012.

12 Any other business

Members congratulated John Kidd on the birth of his twin grandchildren and the Specialist Inspector for Religious Education presented the Chair with a bouquet of flowers and a card to show how proud SACRE members were of her MBE.