



Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date **Thursday 6 March 2014**
Time **1.30 pm**
Venue **Committee Room 1B, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

**Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend.
Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's
agreement.**

1. Introductions, Welcome and Apologies
2. Declarations of interest, if any
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2013 (Pages 1 - 4)
4. Matters Arising
5. Presentation from a Member of the Humanist Society
6. Chair's and Vice Chair's Comments
7. Where Did AT1 and AT2 Go?
8. Enquiry Project and Interfaith Conference (Pages 5 - 6)
9. RE Inspector Reports (Pages 7 - 8)
10. Date of the next meeting
11. Any other business
12. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham

26 February 2014

To: **The Members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

1. Church of England

Canon L Burton, Revd. J Jewsbury, J Katsambis and D Mowbray-Pape

2. Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

J Bainbridge	- Methodist Church
N Barker	- The Salvation Army
S Brown	- Assemblies of God
W Gray	- Buddhism
B Guymer	- Baptist Church
J Kidd	- Methodist Church
J Nicholls	- Society of Friends (Quaker)
I Osborne	- Roman Catholic
J Pallister	- Roman Catholic
S Purba	- Sikhism
Bhakti Rasa Dasa	- Hinduism
D Sadlik	- Judaism
C Spencer	- Bahá'í Faith
M Stephenson	- United Reform Church

3. Teachers Associations

V Bain	- RE Curriculum Group
S Baker	- NUT
C Callaghan	- NUT
A Hartley	- NASUWT
P Lamb	- SHA
S Lupton	- RE Curriculum Group
P Welch	- NUT

4. County Council Representatives

Councillors J Blakey, M Dixon, S Iveson and W Stelling

Specialist Inspector (Religious Education)

Isobel Short

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held in Committee Room 1B, County Hall, Durham on Thursday 7 November 2013 at 1.30 pm

Present:

Church of England

Canon L Burton and D Mowbray-Pape

Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

J Bainbridge	- Methodist Church
N Barker	- The Salvation Army
S Brown	- Assemblies of God
W Gray	- Buddhism
J Kidd	- Methodist Church
I Osborne	- Roman Catholic
Bhakti Rasa Dasa	- Hinduism
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Teachers Associations

V Bain	- RE Curriculum Group
S Baker	- NUT
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S Lupton	- RE Curriculum Group
P Welch	- NUT

County Council Representatives

Councillor M Dixon

Specialist Inspector (Religious Education)

Isobel Short

1 Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of County Durham SACRE

The term of office for the current Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Durham SACRE had expired.

Nominations were sought from Members for the appointment of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Durham SACRE.

Resolved:

- i) That Canon L Burton be appointed Chairman for a four year period.
- ii) That Miss J Bainbridge be appointed Vice-Chairman for a four year period.

Canon L BURTON in the Chair

2 Introductions, Welcome and Apologies

New SACRE Members V Bain, Major N Barker and S Lupton were welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies were received from C Callaghan, J Jewsbury, J Katsambis, J Pallister and Councillor Iveson.

3 Declarations of Interest

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

4 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to some minor grammatical changes.

5 Matters Arising

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education advised SACRE Members that the Humanist was unable to attend the meeting but would be in attendance at the next meeting of SACRE.

Councillor M Dixon gave SACRE Members an update on progress made in relation to the funding issues for SACRE.

In particular, he updated Members on the meeting between Councillor Dixon, Miss Bainbridge, Canon Burton and Phil Hodgson the Strategic Manager Support and Development. (The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education was present at the meeting, having been invited by Phil Hodgson).

Funding for the production of the SACRE Annual Report was discussed. Due to the lack of funding available for this, Phil Hodgson suggested that SACRE members should write the report. This suggestion was considered inappropriate given that the report is a statutory requirement and it was felt that its production requires the time and expertise of the Specialist Inspector for Religious Education who is employed by the County Council.

It was felt that the SACRE Annual Report deserves higher status in the Authority and should be presented to Cabinet. Phil Hodgson suggested that funding for its production as a Cabinet Report could be sought from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services.

Councillor Dixon also advised Members that agreement had been reached that SACRE would be allocated 9 days per year of time from the Specialist Inspector for Religious Educations, plus additional time for the Agreed Syllabus, the cost of which would be met from her department's budget. They would not, however, pay

for the cost of time for monitoring. It was felt that monitoring of RE is of major importance, particularly in the light of the findings in the October 2013 Ofsted Report on RE *Religious Education: Realising the Potential*. Phil Hodgson suggested that funding for monitoring could be sought from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services.

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education advised SACRE Members that the monitoring of RE in secondary schools was part of her role as an Inspector so this would continue. She did not do any monitoring of RE in primary schools in her role as Inspector unless it was in the budget for SACRE.

Members discussed writing again to the Head of Education to get clarification on what had been agreed then meet with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services to discuss a budget for SACRE.

Resolved:

- i) That the Task Group meets to discuss SACRE funding further.
- ii) That the Task Group make arrangements to meet with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services to discuss funding for SACRE.

6 Chairs Comments

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had no comments to make as items had been covered under Matters Arising.

7 Church of England Diocese Syllabus

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education advised SACRE Members that she had met with the Assistant Director of Education for the Diocese of Durham and Newcastle to discuss the use of the Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education.

He had shown her a copy of the letter which had been sent to schools that stated that the Durham Agreed Syllabus should be used in Voluntary Controlled Schools but could be supplemented by Christianity Units from the Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

8 Where Did AT1 and AT2 Go?

That the item be deferred to the next SACRE meeting.

9 Enquiry Project

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education and P Welch gave SACRE Members an update on the Enquiry Project.

SACRE Members discussed the possibility of inviting the children involved in the Enquiry Project to a future SACRE meeting.

The Chairman asked if SACRE Members could be invited to the conference described in the Enquiry Project update.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 SACRE Updates

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education presented the circulated National and Local Updates 2013 report to SACRE Members (for copy see file of minutes).

She advised SACRE Members that they had received a high volume of calls from parents asking to withdraw from Religious Education. Members sought clarification about whether the calls were from a particular geographical area in the County. The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education responded that it was not a particular area.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

11 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of SACRE would be held on 6 March 2014.

12 Any other business

SACRE Members expressed their appreciation to Judith Bainbridge for all her hard work as Chairman over the last four years.

**Durham and South Tyneside SACRE
NASACRE Bursary Award**

INTERIM REPORT - FEBRUARY 2014

Project: Enquiry – what does it mean to live in a religiously diverse society?

- The project began in September 2013 and involves teachers and students from 12 schools (9 Durham schools, 3 South Tyneside schools).
- Teachers attended meetings to discuss the project and develop ideas/resources for its introduction to students. A group of students (eg high ability Year 8) were identified by each school.
- Students were introduced to the diversity of religions and beliefs in the local area through analysing census material and other stimuli (eg the use of buildings which used to house religious communities).
Students identified questions they would want to ask members of belief communities (including non-religious beliefs).
- Students attended an Interfaith Conference at County Hall, Durham, on 20 November 2013 to coincide with national interfaith week. The conference consisted of short workshops where students' questions were addressed by individual faith members. The conference concluded with a Question Time panel for all students and faith members. Representatives of local faith groups (including SACRE members): Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Bahá'í, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, Church of England, Pentecostal, Methodist, Salvation Army, Roman Catholic, Humanism, Paganism.
- Schools are continuing the project, analysing their findings and planning a visit to faith communities outside the region. This will take place in the Summer term.
- Teachers will be meeting later this term to discuss and evaluate the project and its impact on student knowledge, understanding and attitudes.
- Paul Welch, member of SACRE is working with the RE inspector to help support this project.

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Durham SACRE

The RE Inspector Reports

A summary of some of the support in RE provided by the RE Inspector, Isobel Short, since September 2013.

RE Networks

As part of the Service Level Agreement between schools and Durham's Education Development Service (EDS), teachers of RE can attend free networks.

Primary RE Networks

This continues to run termly. Attendance is good.

- **November network** – 31 attendees.
Two visitors came to make presentations on the use of story in RE – Elizabeth Baker (a local storyteller) and Chris Hudson (Barnabas Trust).
- **February network** – 24 attendees.
Agenda:
 - Using Philosophy of Children to develop critical thinking in RE
 - discussion and analysis of the RE Ofsted report and its implication for primary schools
 - planning materials on "What do Christians believe about God?"
 - presentation by Karenza Passmore, Director of NERLRC.

Secondary RE Networks

Held termly. Attendance is generally good.

- **November network** – 16 attendees, including some RE Co-ordinators from other Local Authorities (Darlington, Sunderland).
Agenda:
 - Realising the Potential: RE Ofsted key report
 - Planning materials for a unit: How and why are the arts used to express religious belief and spirituality?

Special Schools RE Networks

A new termly network this year as requested. Attendance low, with only one delegate from a Darlington school attending in November. However, this was a profitable time as the session was tailored to meet needs and included developing some planning materials for use in that school.

- **February network** – 3 attending.
Agenda:
 - The 3 elements of RE in special schools
 - Adapting planning for special schools
 - Good practice case study: Little Heath School.

Secondary Monitoring Visits

Inspectors no longer visit all Durham secondary schools to monitor provision in subjects unless requested and paid for by the school (previously all schools were visited every 2/3 years by subject inspectors).

Several schools have still made this request for RE so it will still be possible to have some overview picture of RE in Durham schools.

Contracts

Schools can request Inspector/Adviser time to support the development of RE.

I have visited several primary, secondary and special schools in order to:

- deliver staff meetings on using the Agreed Syllabus
- produce RE planning
- develop understanding of assessing, leading in RE.

Enquiry Project

This is the main development project in RE this year in Durham. Please see separate agenda item.