

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held at the County Hall, Durham on Thursday 1 March 2012.

Present:

J Bainbridge in the Chair

- 1. Church of England**
Canon L Burton (Vice-Chair), Revd. J Jewsbury and D Mowbray-Pape
- 2. Other Religious Denominations and Faiths**
 - Methodist Church**
J Bainbridge
J Kidd
 - Buddhism**
W Gray
 - Judaism**
D Sadlik
 - Roman Catholic**
I Osborne
 - United Reform Church**
M Stephenson
- 3. Teachers Associations**
 - NUT**
S Baker
P Welch
 - NASUWT**
A Hartley
 - RE Curriculum Group**
A Carter
- 4. County Council Representatives**
Councillor M Dixon
 - Specialist Inspector (Religious Education)**
Isobel Short
 - Educational Development Advisor**
Catherine Robson

1. Introductions, Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Blakey, Councillor Iveson, Councillor Simmons, C Callaghan, J Katsambis, J Pallister, S Brown and C Spencer.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 3 November 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 November 2011.

4. Chairs Comments

The Chair asked to record SACRE's thanks to David Ford, Head of Achievement Services for his support. A retirement card was circulated for members to sign.

The Chair informed members that she had written a letter on behalf of SACRE to Hamsterley Primary School. She had been told that children from the school had visited a local church exhibition and behaved very well.

The Chair expressed her gratitude to the Specialist Inspector for Religious Education and the Education Development Advisor for their continuing good work.

5. Implementation of the Agreed Syllabus

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education informed members that teachers will receive a 3 hour training and launch package which includes a copy of the revised Agreed Syllabus, training and guidance materials.

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education was asked a question about whether Durham would be selling the Agreed Syllabus to other Authorities. The inspector replied that Sunderland and Hartlepool local authorities have a contract with Durham for buying and adapting the Syllabus. Durham has ensured that they have maintained the copyright so that schools in the Authorities have the right only to use the Syllabus in their own schools. The Inspector also stated that other institutions would have to get permission from the Local Authority at a cost.

Further discussions took place regarding Academies using the Agreed Syllabus. The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education advised members that the Local Authority are 'Academy friendly'. The aim is for Academies to buy into services. Decisions about funding agreements for use of the Agreed Syllabus were still being considered. The Inspector will be writing to Head Teachers shortly about this.

6. Agreed Syllabus Launch Dates

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education circulated the Agreed Syllabus launch dates (for copy see file of minutes). She invited members to attend the launch dates to show their support.

7. Respect for RE Conference

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education informed SACRE that the Lat Blaylock Conference for primary and secondary schools will be held on Friday 29 June 2012 at Willington.

The Education Development Advisor will be in touch with members closer to the time.

8. Art Competition

The Education Development Advisor asked if any members were interested in judging the Art Competition which was taking place in the Durham Room at County Hall from 12.00pm on Monday 12 March 2012 to let her know after the meeting.

9. SACRE Vodcast

The Education Development Advisor informed SACRE that Gayle Hackett will be producing more short films for schools on aspects of religion and belief. Filming will be on 9 March 10am to 11am and 23 March 10.30am to 11.30am at the Durham Education Development Centre, Spennymoor.

If any interested members were not available on the dates suggested, the Education Development Advisor would try to accommodate.

10. Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 21 June 2012.