

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 March 2013 at 1.30 pm

Present:

J Bainbridge (Chairman) In the Chair

Church of England

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

Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

W Gray	- Buddhism
J Pallister	- Roman Catholic
D Sadlik	- Judaism
S Brown	- Assemblies of God
C Spencer	- Bahá'í Faith
M Stephenson	- United Reform Church

Teachers Associations

S Baker	- NUT
A Hartley	- NASUWT
P Welch	- NUT
C Dyer	- R E Curriculum Group

County Council Representatives

Councillors M Dixon, S Iveson and M Simmons

Specialist Inspector (Religious Education)

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1 Introductions, Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Catherine Callaghan, John Kidd and Irene Osborne.

The Chairman welcomed Claire Dyer to her first SACRE Meeting.

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 8 November 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Matters Arising

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education advised Members that she had spoken to the applicant from the Humanist to advise him that SACRE had discussed his application and it was felt that it was not appropriate at this time.

In view of the decision he had asked if he could come to a SACRE meeting to meet everyone and talk on how he could contribute to SACRE.

Members discussed in detail the request from the Humanist to come along to a future SACRE Meeting.

Resolved:

That the Specialist Inspector for Religious Education write to the Humanist inviting him to attend a future SACRE meeting to talk to members about what he could contribute to SACRE with a time limit of 15 minutes.

5 Chairs Comments

The Chairman advised SACRE Members that Catherine Robson would no longer be attending SACRE meetings as her role had now changed. A card for Catherine Robson was circulated for members to sign.

The Chairman also thanked the Specialist Inspector for Religious Education for her work on the Agreed Syllabus which had generated funds for Durham County Council.

The Vice-Chairman advised SACRE members that she had attended the RE Conference on Monday organised by Durham Education Development Service on Religious Education. The event was outstanding and it was interesting that it was not only attended by teachers from the County but it drew in teachers from Darlington, Newcastle, Northumberland, Stockton and Sunderland. The Vice-Chairman thought this was amazing and was due to the work done by the Specialist Inspector for Religious Education.

The Vice-Chairman also advised SACRE members that she had recently attended a Church of England Meeting where controlled schools were being encouraged to use the Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education. She sought clarification if controlled schools were legally able to use this syllabus instead of the LEA Agreed Syllabus.

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education responded that it was her understanding that controlled schools used the LEA Agreed Syllabus but she would clarify the legal position and advise the Chairman accordingly.

Members discussed the matter in details and asked the Chair once the legal position had been clarified to write to the Board of Education and the Bishop.

Resolved:

1. That clarification on the legal position be sought with regard to the use of the Diocesan Controlled Syllabus in controlled schools.
2. That the Chairman writes to the Board of Education and the Bishop once the legal position had been clarified.

6 SACRE Funding

The Chairman advised SACRE Members that they were all part of SACRE on a voluntary basis and did not claim expenses.

SACRE needed to think about funding issues for the future and whether they required professional support.

The Chairman asked the Specialist Inspector for Religious Education for clarification of the current position about funding and support for SACRE.

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education advised SACRE that when she was appointed five years ago her post was part funded by SACRE in order for her to give professional support to SACRE.

It has recently come to light that Education Development Services has not had reimbursement for her role as professional support to SACRE. As a result her time spent of SACRE matters may have to be reduced.

Members were asked for their responses about the need for professional support for SACRE and whether they wished professional support to be the RE Inspector and whether they wanted a specific budget allocated for SACRE expenditure. The issues were discussed in detail.

Resolved:

That a Task Group be arranged to produce a business plan consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Councillor Mike Dixon, Wendy Grey, Carol Spencer and Jane Katsambis.

7 SACRE Updates

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education presented the SACRE Updates (for copy see file of minutes).

The Government has announced that school success at Key Stage 4 will be measured by how well students do in their best eight subjects from the following 3 groups:-

- Group 1 – English and Maths
- Group 2 – 3 English Baccalaureate subjects – History, Geography, Foreign Language, English Literature etc
- Group 3 – 3 subjects which could be English Baccalaureate subjects or other subjects such as Religious Education.

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education supported the Chair in responding to the Call for Evidence from the All Party Parliamentary Group on behalf of Durham SACRE. (for copy see file on minutes). A report on the findings would be published on the 25 March 2013.

The first phase of the religious education council curriculum review had been completed and the work required for phase 2 is out to tender.

The Religious Education Council would like SACREs to organise sponsored walks. They suggest each person raise £100, 50 percent of the money raised would support the REC and the remainder would be donated to a charity of choice. This is because the RE received no government funding for curriculum review.

John Keast has produced a summary on Michael Gove's statement on how it relates to Religious Education. The Clerk to SACRE will email a copy of the summary to SACRE members.

Schools have been invited to enter SACREs Art Competition for Key Stage 2 pupils based on the question 'What do Christians believe about Jesus' (for copy see file of minutes)

The Clerk to SACRE will be emailing members to ask for volunteers to judge the Art Competition which closes on the 19 April 2013.

8 SACRE Evaluation and Development Plan

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education presented the circulated report to members on the SACRE Actions from self-evaluation which included Monitoring, SACRE Support for RE, Management of SACRE, Training and Introduction and Developing Communications (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

1. That a Task Group be arranged to continue work on Evaluation and Development Plan.
2. That an update be reported to the next SACRE meeting in June.

9 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of SACRE would be held on 6 June 2013.