

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
D Sadlik	- Judaism
C Spencer	- Bahá'í Faith

Teachers Associations

V Bain	- RE Curriculum Group
S Baker	- NUT
A Hartley	- NASUWT
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 Education, 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.