

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education SACRE

9/06/10 – Saltisford Office Park, Warwick

Present		Group	Representative
Abeda Vorajee	AV	Faith	Islam
Santosh Kundi	SK	Faith	Hinduism
Ramesh Srivastava	RS	Faith	Hinduism
Manjit Kaur	MK	Faith	Sikhism
Shisham Singh Sahota	SS	Faith	Sikhism
Rocky Grove	RG	Faith	Baha'i
Anne Davies	AD	Faith	Non-Conformist
Anthony Phillips	AP	Faith	Non-Conformist
Ven. Manapo	VM	Faith	Buddhism
Lizzie McWhirter	LMcW	Church of England	Coventry Diocese
Emma Griffiths	EG	Church Of England	Coventry Diocese
Jackie Salter	JS	Teachers	NUT
Sue Dudley	SuD	Teachers	ASCL
Bill MacFarlane	BF	Teachers	ATL
Emma Moore	EM	Co-opted Member	
Marianne Westwood	MW	Co-opted Member	Pagan (PEBBLE)
Bob Jackson	BJ	Co-opted Member	Warwick University
Cllr John Whitehouse	CJW	WCC	Elected Member
Bob Hooper	BH	Other	WCC Officer
Karen Steele	KS	Other	WCC Officer
Ruth Waterman	RW	WCC	WCC Officer (Clerk)

Also Present

Aurangzieb Ghumra	AG	Nuneaton Muslim Society
Lois Bryan	LsB	Kenilworth School
Helen Brookes	HB	Observer (PGCE Student)

Apologies

Gill Kingston	GK	Faith	Non-Conformist
Pamela Davey	PD	Faith	Non-Conformist
Jill Stolberg	JS	Church of England	Birmingham Diocese
Liz Banyard	LB	Teachers	VOICE
Cllr Robbins	CCR	WCC	Elected Member
Helen McGowan			
Naomi Nixon			
Gerry Kilkelly			

1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1. MK welcomed all to the meeting including new member Ven. Manapo who replaces Maureen Leahy as the Buddhist representative and Sue Dudley who replaces Stephen Baldwin as representative for ASCL. Helen Brookes, a PGCE student, was also welcomed, who has come as an observer with Emma Griffiths.
- 1.2. See above for all apologies.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

(Minutes from previous meeting in brackets)

Interfaith Forums

- 2.1. (4.4) SK asked if any contact had been made with the faith forums. RW explained that no direct contact had been made however Harish Dhokia had sent his apologies for tonight's meeting and reported that the next West Midlands Faith Forum will be held on 24th June 2010. A free lunch will be provided. It will provide good networking opportunities for SACRE members. Contact Selina Brown on 0121 678 8840 if interested.
- 2.2. AG reported that a new forum had recently been set up in Nuneaton and Bedworth and details of this would be sent out shortly.

Rose Review

- 2.3. (6.6) MK reported that the new government have decided not to go ahead with the planned new curriculum and it is unclear at the moment what will happen in the future. KS had also attended the QCDA event in March however this was before the change in government. The DCSF has now gone back to the DfE (Department for Education). It is a case of 'watch this space' at the moment.
- 2.4. **Action:** (8.2) KS asked if any data had been gathered on last year's GCSE results to see whether there was any regional variation etc. RW will ask David Bristow to look at data and bring report to the autumn term meeting.
- 2.5. (9.5) MK thanked BH for the additional funding that was found for SACRE to pay for work developing the primary units of work.

RW / DB

3. Celebrating RE / NASACRE Westhill Awards

- 3.1. RG shared a powerpoint presentation on the Celebrating RE event being organised by the Religious Education Council for England and Wales to take place in March 2011 (see attached). The website set up for the event has now gone live – www.celebratingre.org
- 3.2. Warwickshire SACRE have been awarded the full grant of £5000

from the NASACRE/Westhill Awards (only 5 other SACREs in the country were awarded grants) to fund a project that helps to promote diversity in education.

- 3.3. KS, RG and RW put together the bid proposing that SACRE would use the grant to run a competition for all schools in Warwickshire with prizes being awarded at an event in March 2011 as part of the national celebration of RE. The competition will ask teachers to submit details of an event/activity they have organised that helps to develop links with the wider community, for e.g. a visit to a place of worship or an RE trail. Prizes will be awarded to teachers and for the best pupil work submitted.
- 3.4. MK congratulated KS and colleagues and thanked them for their work on this.
- 3.5. RG had raised concerns at the previous meeting that the current Year 8's would miss out on the Youth SACRE event however it was agreed that SACRE would put all of its efforts into the competition and celebration event in March 2011 and involve those pupils missing out (Yrs 8 and 9) in the project.
- 3.6. RW circulated the flyer that will be sent to all schools to promote the competition. BMc asked for clarification on two of the symbols included on the flyer – the humanist and baha'i symbols. KS explained that the symbols for the six main religions had been included as well as symbols for faiths represented on SACRE in order to be as inclusive as possible. AG commented that it is useful for professionals to learn these symbols as they are not always commonly used or recognised.
- 3.7. AG asked if local community faith schools could also enter the competition. KS explained the entry form had been designed with specific categories but this doesn't mean they cannot enter. MK felt that the wider the audience the better.

4. Update on National Guidance

Academies

- 4.1. KS attended an AREIAC meeting where the issue of Academies was discussed. Colleagues were surprised to learn that Academies without a religious character will be required to teach RE according to the locally agreed syllabus (pg 15 of the non-statutory guidance 2010). KS felt it was important to highlight this as this will be something that SACREs will need to take into consideration in future.

Ofsted Report

- 4.2. KS explained that every three years Ofsted produce a long report on RE and the latest one has just been published. The report is based on a relatively small sample of schools. None of those included are in Warwickshire however the selection process is completely random. There has been a lot of negative press coverage following the report. The executive summary was circulated. The full report is available to view at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic->

- 4.3. The report highlights major concerns with the teaching of secondary RE and SACRE should therefore consider how it could better support secondary schools in this area.
- 4.4. KS felt that the points highlighted on page 7 under what the Local Authority should be doing in partnership with SACRE could be improved upon and should be taken into consideration.
- 4.5. BH agreed that some worrying points have been raised in the report and suggested that SACRE take time to read and reflect on the full report and return to this in the autumn term. BH also agreed with RS' suggestion, that these issues should be highlighted by the Local Authority and raised with school governors.

5. Professional Development Budget

- 5.1. MK suggested it would be beneficial for KS to do the Leading Pathways training as part of her professional development as the RE Adviser and asked whether SACRE members would be happy to sponsor this training.
- 5.2. BJ commented that Warwickshire SACRE is the success that it is because of the support from the co-chairs and the LA and suggested that SACRE support KS in her professional development. The group agreed that they would like to support KS in this.
- 5.3. **Action:** SD felt that the Leading Pathways course was more for senior leaders and that there may be other courses that would be more appropriate for KS. KS and SD to speak outside of the meeting to look at possible alternatives.

KS / SD

6. Supporting Places of Worship

- 6.1. KS has been doing a lot of work to encourage visits to places of worship however she is now conscious that faith communities need support in implementing these visits. The Leamington Gurdwara for example, has been inundated with requests and doesn't have the capacity to deal with these. KS asked if SACRE had any ideas how they could offer support to such places.
- 6.2. AG was pleased that this issue had been recognised as some people forget that many places of worship are totally reliant on voluntary capacity and are running on stringent budgets. It is important to offer support and recognise the work that places are doing.
- 6.3. The following ideas were put forward:
 - Write to all places of worship recognising the value of their contribution and flagging resources to help with planning. Provide contact details for SACRE if any queries.
 - Involve Faith Forums in looking at resources and providing support

- Instead of letter, run consultation to find out exactly what support is required; don't want to raise expectations by sending letter offering support – does SACRE have the capacity to do this?
 - EG could share policies/plans/handbooks in place at Coventry Cathedral where she runs the school programme.
 - Coventry SACRE have held a week of organised visits in the past – contact them for advice on setting up something similar.
 - Suggest that places of worship charge for visits
- 6.4. SK questioned whether schools would be put off if places charged for visits. RS disagreed with charging as he feels the community have a responsibility to educate children and young people. EG noted that Coventry Cathedral charge and this doesn't stop people from visiting. There are also grants available for schools to help fund these trips.
- 6.5. SS also disagreed with charging schools, as he had seen the impact that the generosity of a temple in Birmingham had on pupils who visited. AV explained that it would be more of a voluntary contribution rather than a fixed charge.
- 6.6. MK suggested that SACRE return to this issue when they are clearer about the new curriculum, although favoured the idea of writing to places of worship to begin with.

7. Monitoring RE in Schools

- 7.1. KS suggested that SACRE look at the monitoring of RE in schools as part of their self-evaluation, as they have a responsibility to know what is going on in schools. The SACRE in Hertfordshire has used questionnaires to gather information from schools on the provision and quality of RE and of collective worship. KS circulated copies of the questionnaires and suggested that SACRE may want to consider doing something similar (see item 8).

8. SACRE Self Evaluation

- 8.1. KS has put together a draft development plan for 2010/11 as a starting point for members to discuss the priorities for the next academic year. Members split into smaller groups to discuss the draft plan and then fed back their comments (see attached 'Development Plan' for comments).
- 8.2. The group returned to the issue of monitoring as part of this discussion. The possibility of schools sending their SEF instead of completing a questionnaire was suggested however members who work in schools felt they would not want to share such a confidential document. SD also felt this would create more work for schools as sifting out information from the SEF would take longer than completing a questionnaire. MK suggested instead that Voluntary Aided schools could provide their SIAS SEF. LB also suggested asking schools for the department development plan.
- 8.3. **Action:** KS emphasised that the Hertfordshire model was just an

KS / BH

example for SACRE to consider. It was agreed that KS and BH would speak outside of the meeting and come back with suggestions in the autumn term.

- 8.4. KS felt it also important to tap into governor forums and to raise awareness in this area. RG added that each school should have a governor who is responsible for RE so they would be a good point of contact. It would also be good if SACRE could hold one of their meetings to tie in with a school open evening in order to speak to parents and students.
- 8.5. BJ suggested that SACRE members meet occasionally with PGCE students, learning about how they are trained, to help the development of SACRE. Warwick University are hosting a similar event on Oct 12th for SACREs in the midlands on the report into materials used to teach about world religions

9. Any Other Business

Complaint

- 9.1. MK reported that SACRE have followed up a previous complaint in relation to the quality of RE at a secondary school in the county. KS will be working with the school to develop a suitable programme of RE. MK has had ongoing conversations with the school who have been reporting their progress. MK reassured the group that the matter had been dealt with properly and that KS would be reporting back to the Exec on further progress. The priority for SACRE is to ensure that the provision of RE is of a good standard. MK thanked KS for her involvement.

Tabled Documents

- 9.2. Two documents were tabled for information:
 - SIAS report for St. James C of E Junior school who received an 'outstanding' judgement.
 - Article from REtoday (Vol. 27 No. 3, pg 18) reporting on the community cohesion partnership forged between Kingsway Primary and All Saints Primary School.

Next meeting:

Wed 6 October 2010, 6.30 – 8.30pm. Kenilworth School & Sports College.

1 Warwickshire SACRE Development Plan 2010/11

Key Area	Developing/ established/ advanced	Target	Action	By whom	When	Success criteria	Cost	Comments (from SACRE meeting 9.6.10)
1. Standards and quality of provision of religious education								
1a Compliance and time allocation for RE	Developing	To obtain and analyse this information from Warwickshire schools	Send questionnaires into a sample of schools annually, analyse the findings and report back to SACRE	KS & RW	Autumn 2010 & then annually	SACRE is informed about the standards and quality of provision and can use this to identify future priorities	Adviser & Clerk time	Group 1: Questionnaire a good idea but needs to be adapted. Send out once every 3 years. Select a small number of schools for members to go in and discuss questionnaires. Share good practice where found. Group 2: Nervous of using questionnaires. Instead start with info from SIP (School Improvement Partner) and follow up with in depth qualitative sampling. Group 3: Voluntary Aided schools send SIAS SEF instead of questionnaire
1b Public examination entries in RE	Established							
1c Standards and achievement	Developing							
1d Quality of teaching	Developing							
1e Quality of leadership and management	Developing							
1f Recruitment and retention issues	Developing							
1g Resources	Established							
2. Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LEA and other key stakeholders								
2a SACRE meetings	Advanced							Group 1: Good idea to meet with pupils/parents at autumn term meeting
2b Membership and training	Developing/ Established	To improve membership and training	1.Ensure that all new members receive an induction pack 2.Identify opportunities for	RW	Ongoing	All new SACRE members have received an induction pack and are provided with training opportunities	Clerk time	Group 3: PGCE student in attendance at this meeting so this is a good start.

2 Warwickshire SACRE Development Plan 2010/11

			induction/training of SACRE members					
2c Improvement /development planning	Developing	To introduce a development plan with an annual review	Completion of this development plan (Summer 2010) and review in Summer 2011	KS & RW	Summer 2010/ annual review	Annual cycle of planning and review in place	Adviser & Clerk time	
2d Professional and financial support	Established/ Advanced							
2e Information and advice	Developing							
2f Partnerships with other key stakeholders	Developing/ Established	SACRE to have opportunities to hear the views and experience of pupils, parents and representatives of key support networks	1.Invite RE PGCE students to attend one SACRE meeting a year 2.Request opportunities for SACRE members to meet pupils/parents at meetings held in school venues	RW	Autumn 2010	1.Regular annual attendance of PGCE students at SACRE meetings 2.Regular opportunities for SACRE members to meet and discuss RE with pupils and parents		
3. The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus								
3a Review of agreed syllabus	Advanced							Group 1: Happy with KS' evaluation of this area and look forward to development in Early Years.
3b Using the National Framework for Religious Education	Advanced							
3c Developing the revised agreed	Advanced							

3 Warwickshire SACRE Development Plan 2010/11

syllabus								
3d Consultation / launch / implementation of agreed syllabus	Advanced							
3e Additional guidance / monitoring and evaluating the agreed syllabus	Established/Advanced	To provide guidance/exemplar material for EYFS in relation to WAS	Set up a working party	KS	Spring/Summer 2011	Materials published on SACRE website and shared at LLN meetings	Working party costs (2011/12 budget)	More support for secondary schools needed in light of the new Ofsted report.
4. Collective worship								
4a Practice and provision for collective worship	Developing	Training Guidance?						Group 1: This should be a priority area. SACRE should develop a pack of outstanding practice.
4b Monitoring the provision of collective worship and tackling issues of noncompliance	Developing	School questionnaires						Look at flagging up outstanding practice in the county.
5. Contribution of the SACRE to the social and racial harmony agenda								
5a Representative nature of the SACRE	Established							Group 1: Work on competition and LOtC etc is all fostering this. SACRE can only do so much and are on the right track.
5b Knowledge and understanding of the local	Established/Advanced	SACRE to be provided with analysis of the religious and	Invite LEA representative to speak to SACRE	RW	Autumn 2010	SACRE has a clear picture and can identify further action(s)		

4 Warwickshire SACRE Development Plan 2010/11

religious, cultural and ethnic community		cultural diversity within the LEA and issues related to the relative educational performance of pupils from different ethnic groups.						
5c Understanding the intrinsic contribution which RE can make to social and racial harmony	Developing	Produce guidance for schools to support the contribution RE can make to social and racial harmony and the wider inclusion agenda.	1. Produce guidance for schools highlighting RE's contribution to Community Cohesion 2. Set up working party to develop RE in special schools	KS KS	1. Autumn 2010 2. Spring/ Summer 2011	Materials published on SACRE website and shared at LLN meetings Schools can clearly identify RE's contribution to Community Cohesion Increased clarity and support for RE in special schools	Adviser time Working party costs (2011/12 budget)	Group 3: Believe SACRE is more 'established' for point 5c
5d Links to local authority initiatives promoting social and racial harmony	Developing	SACRE to be informed on LEA initiatives	Invite LEA representative to brief SACRE on relevant initiatives e.g. PVE	RW	Autumn 2010 SACRE Meeting			

SACRE self-evaluation	
What is distinctive about Warwickshire SACRE?	
Key strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality and guidance provided on Agreed Syllabus	Key areas for development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitoring of quality and provision of RE• Guidance on collective worship