

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education SACRE

10/03/10 – Solihull Shul Synagogue

Present		Group	Representative
Abeda Vorajee	AV	Faith	Islam
Yusuf Patel	YP	Faith	Islam
Santosh Kundi	SK	Faith	Hinduism
Manjit Kaur	MK	Faith	Sikhism
Rocky Grove	RG	Faith	Baha'i
Gill Kingston	GK	Faith	Non-Conformist
Anne Davies	AD	Faith	Non-Conformist
Lizzie McWhirter	LMcW	Church of England	Coventry Diocese
Jill Stolberg	JS	Church of England	Birmingham Diocese
Jackie Salter	JS	Teachers	NUT
Stephen Baldwin	SB	Teachers	ASCL
Bill MacFarlane	BF	Teachers	ATL
Emma Moore	EM	Co-opted Member	
Marianne Westwood	MW	Co-opted Member	Pagan (PEBBLE)
Sandra Durkin	SD	Co-opted Member	British Humanist Association
Karen Steele	KS	Other	WCC Officer
Ruth Waterman	RW	WCC	WCC Officer (Clerk)
Apologies			
Pamela Davey	PD	Faith	Non-Conformist
Ramesh Srivastava	RS	Faith	Hinduism
Maureen Leahy	ML	Faith	Buddhism
Anthony Phillips	AP	Faith	Non-Conformist
Emma Griffiths	EG	Church Of England	Coventry Diocese
Cllr John Whitehouse	CJW	WCC	Elected Member
Cllr Julie Jackson	CJJ	WCC	Elected Member
Cllr Robbins			
Bob Jackson	BJ	Co-opted Member	Warwick University
Liz Banyard	LB	Teachers	VOICE
Bob Hooper	BH	Other	WCC Officer
Helen McGowan			
Also Present			
Gerry Kilkelly	GrK	Higham Lane School	
Lois Bryan	LsB	Kenilworth School	

**Responsible
Officer**

SACRE members who arrived at 6pm were given a tour inside the synagogue and were provided with a kosher buffet.

1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1. MK welcomed back Karen who has been on maternity leave and had a baby daughter in....MONTH. GK also passed on PD's apologies who is busy looking after her baby daughter.
- 1.2. See above for all apologies.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

(Minutes from previous meeting in brackets)

- 2.1. (6.3) MK reported that Mark Chater was looking for volunteer schools for Assessing Pupil Progress (APP) in Primary.
- 2.2. (7.2) Secondary units will not be revised but an exemplar long term plan and exemplar units have been produced and are available to all schools. KS added that the needs in secondary are different as they are more specialist.
- 2.3. (7.5) KS understands that teachers can either be paid directly at £150 per day, or take cover and be paid through the school.
- 2.4. (8.1) There is a meeting organised for Heads of Department at Church of England secondary schools at a cost of £25 per delegate. LMcW will email details to schools shortly.
- 2.5. (10.1) MK advised that the requirement for new members on the SACRE Executive would be discussed at the summer term meeting. It would be good to have more representatives on the group especially as there are a number of big items coming up in the near future.
- 2.6. (10.3) A new Jewish representative is required to replace Elizabeth Rogers-Mills. SB noted that PAT is now called VOICE. RW to amend minutes. It was also noted that Emma Moore is not a representative of ATL even though this has been indicated on previous minutes and information. The group agreed Emma could remain on the group as a co-opted member.

3. SACRE Membership

- 3.1. LMcW explained there is currently a vacancy for a Church of England representative and a nomination has been received for Helen McGowan from the Coventry Diocese. Helen was hoping to attend the meeting as an observer but had a prior commitment. LMcW will bring an update to the next meeting on the nomination.

The group observed a minutes silence in memory of Meg Barratt who

sadly passed away in February after an ongoing battle with breast cancer. GK has an order of service from Meg's funeral if members would like to see it.

4. NASACRE/Westhill Awards for 2010/11

- 4.1. KS reported that the NASACRE/Westhill Awards for 2010/11 offer grants of up to £5000 for SACREs to help fund projects that will develop links within the community and promote diversity in education. KS proposed that SACRE put together a competition for teachers and pupils of all key stages to submit details of an event they have organised that promotes good practice and community cohesion, along with one pupils work done as a result of the event. Entries would be judged across the county and prizes awarded at a celebration event in March 2011. All work submitted could then be made available on SACREs website to leave a legacy for all schools and to promote good practice. KS suggested foregoing Youth SACRE in 2010 to concentrate on this project which will tie in with the national celebration of RE in March next year.
- 4.2. RG had some concerns about losing Youth SACRE in 2010 as he felt this was an extremely valuable day last year and it would be unfair for one cohort of pupils to miss out on the experience.
- 4.3. **Action:** MK suggested that this be discussed at a SACRE Exec meeting and invited RG to attend so he could voice his concerns. Agreed. KS added that the closing date for entries is 31st March so the Exec would need to meet as soon as possible and she would be happy to lead a working group. RW to email dates for the Exec.
- 4.4. SK added that there is also an interfaith week in Birmingham in November 2010 that will involve schools and wondered whether SACRE could link into this.

5. Correspondence

- 5.1. MK reported that SACRE has received a letter from a colleague with regards to a secondary school and are looking at the issues raised in relation to RE. The Local Authority are also involved with the complaint and are following procedures so the SACRE Exec will contact the school and the person who wrote the letter in due course. MK will keep this group updated on the situation.

6. RE documents and guidance

New Guidance for Religious Education

- 6.1. Document recently published by DCSF providing non-statutory guidance about RE in the curriculum. KS explained that many SACREs are now reviewing their constitutions in light of this new guidance and suggested that Warwickshire may also want to consider this.
- 6.2. **Action:** KS has received a number of queries from schools about time allocation for RE however she feels it is the quality rather than quantity that is important. KS felt it would be good to alert

headteachers to the changes set out in this document and to remind schools of the expectations for RE. A letter to be drafted BY KS to headteachers and the checklist for headteachers and governors (pg 30) to be attached and sent by RW.

New Religious Education Primary Programme of Learning

- 6.3. KS and GK voiced concerns about RE becoming marginalised. QCDA sets out 6 areas of learning, plus RE which could send the wrong message to primary schools. MK agreed that mixed messages are being sent but that it is less likely for RE to be lost in primary.
- 6.4. The issue of timing could be difficult as most other authorities don't make the requirements statutory whereas Warwickshire do. This could cause problems when coming to review the Agreed Syllabus in future. BM asked how quality can be measured and feels that quality is not possible without quantity. RG disagreed that schools could offer quality if regular RE days are provided. KS agreed that it is important to think flexibly in terms of provision.
- 6.5. AREIAC have reported that schools are getting good Ofsted reports even when they are not complying with RE and have advised that SACREs can notify Ofsted where this is the case. JS asked if there is any communication with Ofsted about SIAS inspections. LMcW explained this does not happen as much anymore and there is no liaison at either a local or national level.
- 6.6. MK was at the recent headteachers briefing where they were told that the Rose Review would be here to stay no matter which party wins the election. SACRE will have to watch this space. KS is going to the QCDA event on 24th March on behalf of SACRE so will be able to feedback.

7. SACRE Guidance

Collective Worship

- 7.1. KS suggested that SACRE hold off on reviewing the guidance on collective worship until the elections. The new guidance only seems to focus on RE with collective worship being left out altogether. MK felt it would be useful for SACRE to gather any current guidance or documentation on collective worship in preparation for a review.

Single Equalities Policy

- 7.2. RW explained that the Single Equalities Policy draft that was brought to the last meeting has not yet been finalised or published. Bob Hooper had suggested that SACRE look specifically at the section on RE to check its appropriateness and accuracy and publish this as separate guidance. The single policy is so broad and covers such a wide range of issues that it will take a long time for it to be agreed and published as a whole.
- 7.3. **Action:** A working group to meet on Thursday 24th June 2010 at Saltisford (PM) to look at this. Gill Kingston and Geri Kilkelly volunteered.

8. 2008/09 SACRE Annual Report

- 8.1. RW had circulated a copy of the annual report for 2008/09 before the meeting and now asked if members had any comments. The following comments were received:
- Pg 6 – omit reference to Humanist presentation from Sandra Durkin as no point highlighting something that didn't take place
 - Pg 8 – clarify the difference between activities and workshops
 - Pg 21 – Glossary of Acronyms very useful
- 8.2. The group also felt it would be useful to include national data for GCSE and A Level results in RE so a comparison could be made with the results in Warwickshire. There has been a drop in the number of A-C grades at AS Level and a drop in the number of A*-C grades for GCSE Short and Full Course. GrK questioned whether this could be down to non-specialists marking exam papers. Another explanation could be that there is a lot of pressure on students to do well in the core subjects so RE is subsequently seen as less important. The group would like to hear Bob Hooper's thoughts and if possible look at regional variations in results (is there a link to exclusions etc)
- 8.3. **Action:** The group approved the report following the above recommended changes. RW to make amendments, publish and circulate to relevant organisations/people.

9. Any Other Business

RE Trails

- 9.1. KS is promoting RE Trails and Learning Outside of the Classroom (LOtC). RE Trails can take different forms but look at the impact of religion in local communities and encourage a different way of doing things. There is a national website with more information: www.retrails.org.uk
- 9.2. KS is running a course on 7th July for RE teachers and will visit places of worship to promote LOtC. Funding may be an issue however as schools are reluctant to pay for supply cover. KS asked if there would be any funding available to subsidise this, for example a budget for Community Cohesion. RW to investigate.
- 9.3. **Action:** SK also reported that Warwick District Faith Forum organise a faith trail annually and this year it will take place on Saturday 24th July. SK will forward details to RW.

Sixth Form RE

- 9.4. BM would like to ask Bob Hooper what is planned for 6th Form RE. KS noted that a couple of years ago it was reported that there is a great deal of non-compliance in 6th Forms. It was a strategic decision to target Yr 8s at Youth SACRE rather than Yr 12s as they are earlier on in their school career and there would also be timing issues with Yr 12s. It would be useful to know from secondary school reps where there are dips in time.

Primary Units of Work

9.5. KS reported that all primary units will be revised and available on the website by the end of the summer term. The assessment working party is meeting in June. MK asked for thanks to be passed to Bob Hooper for finding the additional funding for this work and also thanked KS for her hard work.

RE Guidance

9.6. KS distributed a draft of RE guidance and asked for any comments to be sent to her.

Chairing of Meetings

9.7. MK has co-chaired SACRE for three years and asked the group to consider whether they would like a change of chair. Revisit in the summer term.

Monitoring of RE

9.8. LMcW reported that the Exec have discussed the possibility of SACRE going into schools to monitor RE but this will be looked at in more detail at the summer term meeting as part of the development plan. MK felt it would also be useful to go back to the outline plan and self-evaluation tool to make sure meetings are more structured.

NASACRE AGM

9.9. NASACRE AGM 12th May 2010 - flyer distributed and volunteers to attend on behalf of Warwickshire requested. GK and SK volunteered.

Faith Calendars

9.10. MW and SK distributed faith calendars produced by Warwick District Faiths Forum. Extra copies are available.

SACRE Exec

9.11. MK asked for volunteers to join the SACRE Executive group as a number of people have recently left and it would be a good idea to widen the membership of the group. Santosh Kundi volunteered to join the group.

Vacancies

9.12. LMcW reported that Mervyn Roberts has moved to Surrey so there will soon be a vacancy for a new Church of England representative.

9.13. It was also noted that Elizabeth Rogers-Mills (Jewish rep) and Zofia Jackson (Roman Catholic rep) have also stepped down from the group. LMcW suggested inviting Jonathan Passman, the Jewish representative on Coventry SACRE to join Warwickshire or ask if he knows of anyone who might be willing to join as the Jewish rep.

Next meeting:

Wed 9th June 2010, 6.30 – 8.30pm at Saltisford, Warwick.