

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education SACRE

14/10/09 – All Saints Junior School, Warwick

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

SACRE members who arrived at 6pm were given a tour of the school by Jane Fulcher, a Year 5 Class Teacher. All classrooms had their own areas of reflection and other RE work produced as a result of the multi-faith day was on display in the main hall.

1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1. MK thanked Jane Fulcher and All Saints Junior School for hosting the meeting and members of the group introduced themselves as there were a number of new representatives who had recently joined the group.
- 1.2. Karen Steele has given her apologies. She gave birth to a baby girl on Tuesday morning. GK also announced that Pamela Davey gave birth to Olivia shortly after the last meeting.
- 1.3. See above for all apologies.

2. Multi Faith Day at All Saints Junior School

- 2.1. JF gave apologies from the head of All Saints Junior School who unfortunately was unable to attend for the SACRE meeting.
- 2.2. JF gave a powerpoint presentation and an overview of the Multi Faith day that she had organised at the school. Seven speakers from different faiths were invited to work with pupils to help them learn more about their own beliefs through various activities which involved a mixture of hands-on and listening activities. Following the event, pupils created faith canvasses and areas of reflection in each of the classrooms. JF is hopeful that next year's faith day will involve visits outside the classroom to different places of worship.
- 2.3. MK thanked JF again for her input and asked for thanks to be passed onto the head. MK was glad to see that a wide range of faiths had been included in the faith day.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

(Minutes from previous meeting in brackets)

- 3.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.
- 3.2. **Action:** (7.4) MK to check if the link to 'Offsite Activities' has been added to the guidance for schools on outside visits and visitors.

MK

4. Youth SACRE 2009

- 4.1. Gerry Kilkelly (Higham Lane School) reported on the Youth SACRE 2009 event and felt it was a lot of hard work but also a very rewarding experience. GK suggested that when planning

Youth SACRE 2010 the planning committee should choose speakers carefully and try to include more hands-on activities. MK added that people thought it was very well organised and feedback was good. Two colleagues from Higham Lane School have also volunteered to be involved in future events.

- 4.2. RW gave a brief overview of the Youth SACRE evaluation and highlighted the pupils' requests for more hands-on activities and also a need to provide more guidance for guest speakers, as some had little experience working with young people and also lacked a clear structure to their sessions.
- 4.3. RG suggested in future pairing faith representatives/guest speakers with teachers and suggesting that they meet to discuss the content of their session before hand.
- 4.4. JS commended RW on the quality of the evaluation.

5. Update on Circular 1/94

- 5.1. LMcW explained that following discussion of the new primary curriculum and RE guidance at the last meeting, a group had met to produce a response on behalf of SACRE (see attached).
- 5.2. LMcW reported that Circular 1/94 had been due to launch today but had been postponed. She hoped that something would be published before December. There will be more of a focus on RE rather than collective worship. Mark Chater was quoted as saying "Every Local Authority should strive to be a beacon for RE using their Agreed Syllabus." Focus on two attainments:
 - learning about RE and belief
 - learning from RE and belief

6. SACRE Self-Evaluation

Guidelines on Collective Worship

- 6.1. **Action:** The group discussed the current guidance on Collective Worship and although this is not being looked at nationally, SACRE members agreed that they should look at their own guidance. LB, GK, GrK, JF, LMcW, MT and SD volunteered to join a working group.

Monitoring the provision of RE

- 6.2. MK explained that the SACRE Exec had discussed whether SACRE could carry out visits to schools to observe and produce a report of the RE being provided. MK emphasised that SACRE would want this to be a positive experience for the school and would ask for schools to volunteer. MK feels it is a shame that controlled school do not receive any independent feedback. It would only be a sample of approx.10% of schools.
- 6.3. MK also noted that Assessing Pupils' Progress (APP) in RE will be coming into schools. SACRE would just be looking for schools to trial and would not be carrying out any of this work until Karen Steele returns from maternity leave.

- 6.4. BH felt this would need thinking through systematically i.e. whether exam results, Ofsted reports could help to identify schools who may need support.
- 6.5. **Action:** LB suggested asking teachers whether they would welcome visits from SACRE. GrK felt that if SACRE were to go in a supportive role then schools would welcome this. MK suggested that SACRE Exec look at this again and come back to the summer meeting with a tighter proposal.

7. SACRE Budget

- 7.1. MK thanked BH and the Local Authority for finding an additional £5000 funding for SACRE for 2009/10 financial year. KS has submitted a proposed spending plan for 2009/10 to do further work on the revision of primary units to bring them in line with the new Agreed Syllabus. This would make primary teachers' lives a lot easier. KS would involve primary teachers in the process and they would be paid an honorarium.
- 7.2. GrK asked whether SACRE would be revising the Secondary units of work. MK explained that there is not enough money in SACRE's budget to do this in 2009/10 and MK would rather wait until KS returns from maternity leave as she has the expertise that is needed to do this.
- 7.3. **Action:** GrK suggested holding an inset session for secondary RE teachers but wondered about the logistics and cost of organising this. MK would delegate this to the RE adviser. LMcW alerted the group to a free workshop being held for secondary subject leaders looking at how subject areas can work together effectively to deliver the New Secondary Curriculum. LMcW to email details to RW who will forward to the group.
- 7.4. MK asked LB and MT how primary units are working in their schools. LB noted that they are moving away from units of work although they are still invaluable.
- 7.5. Some debate took place as to how much teachers should be paid per day: SB had expected this to be £200 per day where as other members of the group thought it was £150.
- 7.6. The group agreed the proposal put forward by KS for 2009/10.

8. Suggested Code of Conduct and Practice for Teachers of RE

- 8.1. LMcW explained that the document circulated prior to the meeting, the 'Suggested Code of Conduct and Practice for Teachers of RE', is still in draft but the chair of AREIAC said LMcW could share this with Warwickshire SACRE. Responses should be sent before half term.
- 8.2. GK felt the phraseology used on the last page, under principle 7 – 'demonstrate vulnerability' was inappropriate and another word should be used rather than 'vulnerability' as it sends the wrong message to teachers. GK didn't disagree with the concept or the

advice, just the phraseology.

- 8.3. **Action:** BH also commented that the title of the document sounded a bit too inspectorial – ‘Code of Conduct’ and suggested that a more appropriate title could be ‘Good Teaching Practice for RE Teachers’ or something similar. BH added he would be happy to support this document and felt it was extremely powerful. LMcW to send RW the website address and RW to respond on behalf of SACRE.

9. Single Equality/Inclusion Scheme

- 9.1. Shearon Williams (Equality and Diversity Coordinator) has put together a draft Single Equality and Inclusion Scheme, which was circulated prior to the meeting. The group made the following comments about the document:

Page 11:

- 1st paragraph – where it says ‘..will treat pupils equally..’ – the word ‘*equally*’ to be replaced with ‘*fairly and consistently*’.
- 1st paragraph – SB noted that there had been a case settled in high court recently about the difference between Jewish as a faith group and Jewish as a national body. SB to report back at the next SACRE meeting.
- 3rd paragraph – the locally Agreed Syllabus should be mentioned here but is not, and the word ‘*committee*’ should be taken out.

Page 12:

- MK felt it was inappropriate to include the reference to the Kirpan as this was unnecessarily drawing attention to the issue. If a school asks specifically with reference to this then the Local Authority or SACRE can advise.
 - BH reported that there had been an incident at Nicholas Chamberlaine School in the last year and the Local Authority had advised the school that a pupil could carry a Kirpan provided the blade was no longer than 3 inches and is sewn into a sheath and concealed under clothing. AV felt a pupil carrying a 3 inch blade would be a concern, especially for primary schools. A number of different views were voiced and MK felt it would be helpful to talk to the local Gurdwara committee about this.
- 9.2. SD commented that under the section ‘Religion or Belief Specific Elements’ it does not take into account or mention the right of parents to withdraw from collective worship or suggest that teachers should demonstrate respect for pupils who do not want to take part in collective worship. It also does not suggest how teachers should include pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship. BH agreed that it would be helpful to include a reference to this here although this is also covered in national guidance.
- 9.3. GrK felt the wording should be carefully considered if this document would also be going to faith schools. LMcW explained that pupils still have the right to withdrawal even in a faith school. LMcW added that the duty is with the parents if they decide to take

their child out of collective worship

- 9.4. SD requested to have more time to look at this and suggested if anyone has any other comments to email RW after the meeting.

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1. 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.
- 10.2. LMcW also reported that Mervyn Roberts has moved to Surrey so there will soon be a vacancy for a new Church of England representative.
- 10.3. 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 10th March 2010, 6.30 – 8.30pm at Solihull Synagogue, 3 Monastery Drive, Solihull, B91 1DW.