

# Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Monday 22 June 2009

## PRESENT:

Mrs Martin, in the Chair.  
Councillor Stark, Vice Chair.  
Mrs Armitage, Councillor Aspinall, Mr Basquill, Mrs Bowness, Councillor Drean, Councillor Mrs Foster, Mr Grainger, Mrs Hill, Councillor James, Mr Knight, Dr Lee, Gen Kelsang Lekma, Mr Lyddon, Ms Mitchell, Dr Saha and Mrs Shelmerdine.

Co-opted Representatives: Mr Blackler, Mrs Briggs, Father Carpenter, Clare Hamon and Miss McVicker.

Apologies for absence: Mrs Abubakar, Rev. Chave and Councillor Gordon.

Also in attendance: Jonathan Marshall and Gemma Pearce

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.40 pm.

*Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.*

## 1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by SACRE members.

## 2. **MINUTES**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2009 be approved.

## 3. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

## 4. **Sub-group - Feedback on length of service for Chair and Vice-Chair**

Councillor Stark presented a report of the sub group which made the following recommendations –

- (i) the present appointments be extended for a year, retiring in September 2010;
- (ii) the present pairing arrangements of Church of England with Local Authority members and other denominations with teachers be continued;
- (iii) each pairing should hold office for a two year term;
- (iv) there should be a mutually agreed option for the pair to exchange roles half way through a the term;
- (v) if the leading partner declines to take the chair the secondary partner take it;
- (vi) if neither partner wishes to take office, the chair resolves to the next house in sequence;

(vii) the sequence of the rota be as follows –

2009 - 2010	Groups B and D
2010 – 2012	Groups A and C
2012 - 2014	Groups D and B
2014 - 2016	Groups C and A

Resolved to accept the recommendations.

#### 5. **Membership Issues**

The Religious Education Adviser and the Democratic Support Officer advised SACRE Members of changes to membership as follows –

- (i) Dr G Pollard had left UCP Marjon;
- (ii) VOICE the Union (previously PAT) did not have any record of Mrs Hendley and she had not attended a meeting since before 2004;
- (iii) Kelsang Dragden had resigned and Gen Kelsang Lekma had taken the seat.

With regard to (i) and (ii) the seats were now vacant.

It was requested that a youth representative be invited to join SACRE.

Resolved to send minutes and agenda's to the youth parliament offices.

#### 6. **Preventing Violent Extremism Conferences**

The Religious Education Adviser updated SACRE on conferences which had recently taken place in relation to “preventing violent extremism” and informed members that –

- (i) the Plymouth prevent group and the Regional event had been very successful with the later having over 100 people in attendance including a government minister;
- (ii) the Plymouth Centre for Faith and Cultural Diversity had been commissioned to provide 10 training sessions, over 100 people in total had attended the sessions;
- (iii) the Religious Education Council were bidding for a contract for £650,000. The money was intended to be used to provide teachers with extra skills which would enable them to deal with issues around extremism.

#### 7. **South West SACRE Conference Feedback**

The Religious Education Adviser updated the Committee on the South West SACRE conference which had taken place at Dillington Hall near Illminster and had focussed on how Religious Education can contribute to community cohesion. SACRE were advised that the next Conference would take place next Spring.

#### 8. **NASACRE Update**

The Chair gave an update on NASACRE.

9. **Holocaust Memorial Day 2010**

The Religious Education Adviser updated SACRE on the arrangements for the Holocaust Memorial Day 2010 and informed members that –

- (i) the event would take place on 27 January 2010;
- (ii) the theme would be “legacy of hope”;
- (iii) there would be a programme of events leading up to the event.

10. **SECONDARY RE TEACHERS MEETINGS**

The Secondary Advanced Skills Teacher for Religious Education provided SACRE with information on secondary teacher’s religious education meeting.

SACRE were advised that –

- (i) the core purpose of the meetings was to identify and disseminate best practice in teaching and learning;
- (ii) the post 16 subject network had been awarded £3000 which had helped to achieve targets on the action plan;
- (iii) two events had taken place during the year and a further event would take place on 6 July 2009.

11. **PLYMOUTH CENTRE FOR FAITHS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

The Religious Education Adviser informed SACRE that a Development Officer and an Administrator had recently been appointed by the Trustees. A copy of the May to July newsletter was circulated.

12. **THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM - THE ROSE REVIEW**

The Primary Advanced Skills Teacher for Religious Education gave a presentation on the ‘The Rose Review’ which was the subject of a consultation process. SACRE members were advised that -

- (i) the three fundamental aims of the rose review were to enable young people to become –
  - successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve;
  - confident individuals who are able to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives;
  - responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society;
- (ii) Religious Education had not been mentioned in the six areas of learning;
- (iii) if religious education was to form a part of all areas of learning this could cause a problem for parents who wished to withdraw their children from the subject.

The Religious Education Adviser informed members that –

- (iv) SACRE members could make an individual response to the consultation if they wished to.

Resolved to provide any further comments or feedback to the Religious Education Adviser for inclusion within a group response.

### 13. **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN ENGLISH SCHOOLS - NON STATUTORY GUIDANCE 2009**

The Religious Education Adviser gave a presentation on the Non - Statutory Guidance which was subject to a consultation process. SACRE members were advised that -

- (i) the consultation consisted of around 9 questions which sought opinion on the clarity of the guidance, there was one opportunity for general comment, however, this was limited to 200 words;
- (ii) the consultation would close on 24 July 2009 and a collective response would be sent by the Religious Education Adviser on behalf of SACRE.

SACRE members felt that it could be unclear as to which areas were statutory and which were non-statutory.

Resolved to provide any further comments or feedback to the Religious Education Adviser for inclusion within a group response.

### 14. **DATE AND VENUE FOR FUTURE MEETING**

SACRE members were informed that due to a clash with a meeting of the City Council the meeting on 30 November 2009 had been moved to 7 December 2009.

Resolved to consider meeting times, days and venues at the next meeting.

### 15. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.