

# Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Monday 7 December 2009

## PRESENT:

Councillor Stark, Vice Chair in the Chair.

Councillor Aspinall, Mrs Bowness, Rev. Chave, Councillor Drear, Councillor Mrs Foster, Councillor Gordon, Mr Grainger, Ms Griffiths, Councillor James, Mr Lyddon, Ms Mitchell, Dr Saha and Mrs Shelmerdine.

Co-opted Representatives: Mr Blackler, Father Carpenter, Dr Hamon and Miss McVicker

Apologies for absence: Mrs Briggs, Dr Lee

Also in attendance: Mr Johnston, Mr Marshall and Mrs Watson

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.15 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.*

## 16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by SACRE members.

## 17. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2009 be approved.

## 18. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

## 19. MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

The Religious Education Adviser informed SACRE Members on membership issues as follows –

- (i) Patricia Martin had left the Diocesan office in Exeter and had taken up a new post in Canterbury;
- (ii) Father Richard Maudsley had been identified as the Diocesan's representative to fill the post vacated by Patricia Martin;
- (iii) there were five vacancies in Group C, Teachers' Associations and this was being followed up;
- (iv) there was a possibility that a UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) representative would be co-opted on to SACRE; this was to be discussed at the next meeting of the UKYP in January;
- (v) Group B, Church of England would need to elect a new Chair and Spokesperson before the next meeting.

Resolved that –

- (1) the Vice Chair be requested to send a letter conveying the thanks of SACRE to Patricia Martin, congratulating her and wishing her well in her new role;

- (2) the Diocesan Board's nomination be accepted and the Religious Education Adviser be requested formally to invite Father Richard Maudsley to take up the vacant post in Group B;
- (3) the UKYP's nomination be accepted by SACRE and the Religious Education Adviser be requested formally to invite UKYP's representative to attend the next SACRE meeting.

20. **FEEDBACK FROM RECENT PRIMARY SCHOOL / SPECIAL SCHOOL CONFERENCE**

The Religious Education Adviser updated members on the recent Primary School / Special School Conference held in November. The feedback was as follows –

- (i) the conference title and aim was Establishing Excellent RE and Developing its Unique Contribution to Community Cohesion;
- (ii) it had been a great success with over 50 people in attendance;
- (iii) the conference had been delivered by SACRE members and the feedback received had been very positive.

Resolved that all SACRE members who had taken part in the conference be thanked and praised for their efforts.

21. **DRAFT SACRE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Religious Education Adviser circulated the draft Annual Report 2008/09 for consideration.

SACRE Members and the Religious Education Adviser commented that –

- photographs of SACRE Members and young people studying RE would be added to the annual report;
- all amendments to the draft SACRE Annual Report should be emailed to the Religious Education Adviser by 16 December 2009.

Resolved that –

- (1) the Vice Chair be requested to write a foreword for the Annual Report 2008/09;
- (2) the Religious Education Adviser and the Senior Education Adviser (Equality and Inclusion) be requested to circulate a reminder/guidance regarding RE to schools and governing bodies;
- (3) the Religious Education Adviser be requested to explore a new approach in respect of improving take up of training for School Governors;
- (4) an evaluation of the Development Plan be presented at the next meeting of SACRE;
- (5) the draft SACRE Annual Report be approved.

22. **RELIGIOUS STUDIES WEBSITE**

The Secondary Advanced Skills Teacher for Religious Education gave an update and presentation to SACRE on the religious studies website and informed members that –

- (i) a meeting had been arranged between local secondary schools to discuss the

creation of a website which would enhance teaching of Religious Education as a result of a local authority initiative to target post 16 students;

- (ii) the website which was funded by the local authority, was created and designed to offer support and ideas to key stages 3, 4 and 5 and not just post 16 students;
- (iii) the website provided a network for teachers to provide ideas, resources and schemes to promote Religious Education;
- (iv) so far five schools in Plymouth had registered to use the website.

Those present commented that –

- (v) a reminder should be sent to all schools advising the Religious Education departments about the website and how to register to use it;
- (vi) the website should look to expand its network to include both primary schools and special schools in the future;
- (vii) all resources and knowledge uploaded on to the website need to be authenticated for accuracy;
- (viii) the possibility of adding links on the website to other subjects should be considered;
- (ix) inclusion of pages of subject knowledge might be a possible development for the future.

Resolved that –

- (1) the Secondary Advanced Skills Teacher for Religious Education be thanked for her presentation.
- (2) a link to the Greek Orthodox Church be added to the website.

## 23. **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY**

The Religious Education Adviser and Rev. Chave informed SACRE Members that –

- (i) the Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony was to be held on 27 January 2010 at the memorial tree in the English Garden, Mount Edgcumbe at 12:30pm;
- (ii) on the same day, there was to be a Holocaust Memorial exhibition held in the Lower Guildhall, Plymouth from 12 noon;
- (iii) also on that day, a formal evening event for reflection on this year's theme 'the legacy of hope' would be held in the Lower Guildhall, Plymouth from 7.30pm;
- (iv) there would be number of events being held during the week leading up to Holocaust Memorial Day including:
  - visits to local schools by Solly Irving, a holocaust survivor;
  - the launch of a DVD to be shown in the Council Chamber, which centred around the testimony of Solly Irving;
  - distribution of twenty Plymouth Pear Trees to local schools as part of

'the legacy of hope' theme;

- an illustrated talk by Stefan Aloszko entitled 'painting to survive' which focused on artwork produced under the unimaginable conditions in Auschwitz;
- other events were also planned as this year the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust had requested Plymouth to become a regional support for Holocaust Memorial Day;

(v) this year was the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

#### 24. **A VISIT TO AUSCHWITZ**

Two students from Ridgeway School gave a presentation about their visit to Auschwitz and Members were informed that –

- (i) their visit was part of the Lessons from Auschwitz (LFA) Project;
- (ii) the LFA projects motto was 'hearing is not seeing' and the project aimed to enable young people to understand the full significance of prejudice, discrimination and racism and where it could ultimately lead;
- (iii) the students were promoting what they had learnt by preparing lessons and assemblies in the hope that they would spread the awareness of the holocaust and prejudice generally.

Resolved that –

- (1) the students be thanked for their presentation;
- (2) a letter be sent to the Head teacher of Ridgeway School, praising and thanking the students for their excellent presentation.

#### 25. **ANNE FRANK AND YOU - EXHIBITION**

The Religious Education Adviser informed Members that Plymouth had been offered the Anne Frank and You exhibition for May 2010. However, there were major cost implications and for Plymouth to accept the offer, SACRE and other partners would need to raise funds in the region of £16,000. The RE Adviser welcomed suggestions from SACRE Members.

Resolved that the Religious Education Adviser be requested to explore ways and means for Plymouth to host the exhibition.

#### 26. **NATIONAL UPDATES**

The Religious Education Adviser informed SACRE Members that –

- (i) the Government intended to implement the Rose Review of the primary school curriculum in full by September 2011;
- (ii) the revised non-statutory guidance on Religious Education would be updated in January 2010 following a statement by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families;
- (iii) the Religious Education Council had been awarded £650,000 from the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to implement a national training programme for secondary RE teachers around preventing violent

extremism; this would be from September 2010 to March 2011 and schools would be contacted;

- (iv) NASACRE had provided funding to invite Group A SACRE members to a training session to help them understand more fully their role on SACRE. This would be held in February;
- (v) every three years OFSTED produced a long report on Religious Education. The next one was due and would focus on the impact of KS3 curriculum changes on RE. If possible the report would be circulated to SACRE Members prior to the next meeting.

**27. SOUTH WEST SACRE CONFERENCE**

The Religious Education Adviser informed members that the South West SACRE conference would be held on 10 March 2010 in Dillington Hall, Dillington, near Ilminster. Ms Griffiths and Councillor Stark indicated that they would be interested in attending. Any Members interested in attending were advised to contact the RE Adviser.

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

The Religious Education Adviser provided SACRE Members with a Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity booklet entitled 'Building Bridges' and informed members that –

- (i) the Centre's capacity had developed as a result of an increased demand for services;
- (ii) leaflets promoting the Centre had been delivered to local schools encouraging them to subscribe through the Trading Fair process. Services could also support schools in their duty to promote community cohesion.

Resolved that the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Performance and Partnerships be requested to include the Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity in all the Council's consultation exercises.

**29. FUTURE TIMES, DAYS AND VENUES FOR SACRE MEETINGS**

The next meeting of SACRE would be held at 10am on Monday 8 March 2010 in the Council House.

Resolved that a proposed timetable of SACRE meetings, to be held at alternative venues, be submitted to the next meeting.

**30. EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.