

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

10 June 2019 – At a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education held at 10.30 am at County Hall, Chichester.

Present:

Committee A

Mrs Bell	-	Jewish
Mrs Edwards	-	Baptist
Mrs Feist	-	Roman Catholic

Committee B

Mrs Black	-	Church of England
Mrs Smith (Vice-Chairman)	-	Church of England

Committee C

Miss Barker	-	Teacher Representative
Mr Cornford	-	Teacher Representative
Mrs Llewelyn	-	Teacher Representative
Rev Millwood	-	Teacher Representative

Committee D

Mrs Jones	-	Local Education Authority
Ms Lord	-	Local Education Authority
Mrs Pendleton	-	Local Education Authority
Mr Simmons	-	Local Education Authority

Co-opted Member

Mr Smith

Apologies: Jenny Cole, Mr Firoozmand and Major Warner (Committee A), Rev Higgins (Committee B), Mrs Macrae and Mrs Mullett (Committee C), Mr Burrett, Mr Parikh and Mr Quinn (Committee D)

Absent: Rev Carn and Mr Syed (Committee A), Mr Simpson (Committee B), Mr Petts (Committee D)

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Mrs Smith, took the Chair.

Part I

71. Chairman's Welcome and Introductions

71.1 The Chairman welcomed Paul Wagstaff, Director Education and Skills who was standing in for Victoria Ludlow.

72. Members' Interests

72.1 No recordable interests were declared.

73. Minutes

73.1 The following changes were agreed:

- In the list of those present change Mrs Barker to Miss Barker
- Minute 83 – change 'was' to 'is'

73.2 Resolved – that the minutes of the 25 February 2019 meeting, with the amendments above, are agreed and that they be signed by the Chairman.

74. Membership of SACRE

74.1 SACRE noted the appointment of Kirsty Lord to SACRE in place of Bob Smytherman and agreed that Mrs Grace Waker, Head of Religious Education, Steyning Grammar School, be co-opted to SACRE.

75. Progress Statement

75.1 The following actions/updates were recorded:

Actions from the last meeting

- Victoria Ludlow to check whether the three schools were inspected by the same lead inspector – to be reported at the next meeting
- The number of secondary schools with sixth forms that submitted students for A level RE to be included in future reports on examination results
- The Local Authority did not have a budget to support the Youth Voice Conference
- Chichester University would provide lunch for the teachers and speakers at the Youth Voice Conference – students would be asked to bring a packed lunch

Updates

Mr Smith gave the following update on the Youth Voice Conference:

- 114 students from 11 schools would be taking part with each choosing to attend three out of ten workshops
- Workshops would be run by religious and non-religious groups, three SACRE members and the student steering group
- Students would complete evaluation forms of the event and feedback to their individual schools. Students had also fed back to SACRE at a meeting in the past – this might be possible in November
- The number of participants was nearly double that of last year
- The location of the Conference (Bognor Regis) tended to influence which schools were able to attend
- Attempts had been made to find a venue in the north of the county -
Action: Mrs Jones to send Mr Smith contact details for King's Church, Burgess Hill, which she thought would be a suitable venue
- Mr Smith had contacted the Shipham Trust to see if it could help with funding the event, but had not received a response –
Action: Mr Simmons to contact the Shipham Trust to see if it could help with funding future conferences

75.2 Resolved – that SACRE notes the updates.

76. Inspection Reports for West Sussex Schools

76.1 SACRE considered a report by the Director of Education and Skills (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced by the Director of Education and Skills who highlighted the section on the changes to the inspection framework that would take place from September.

76.2 The following points were covered in discussion:

- The judgement reported was for schools overall, so a school's performance in RE could be better or worse than its judgement
- From September, inspections would focus on the curriculum and the quality of education and how subjects are taught
- Schools must show the intent of their curriculum, how it is implemented, assessed and its impact on attainment to widen the importance of all subjects
- Schools would have to look at how schemes of work dovetailed together and how skills interacted with knowledge and were built on year on year
- There was likely to be more emphasis on SMSC in future
- Most schools already offered a broad curriculum
- The new framework might lead to a change in subject progression to strengthen skills across a broad range of subjects
- All schools had budgets for training and used them how they wished with help from the local authority – training was also available via the Virtual School

76.3 Resolved – that SACRE notes the report.

77. Agreed Syllabus Working Group

77.1 Jacky Pendleton, Chairman of the Working Group told SACRE that the Group felt that only minor changes were required, especially as more direction was expected on a national level.

77.2 The following points were covered in discussion:

- Communications with RE leads would need to be two way
- A network of RE leads would be useful – the unions could help set this up
- Staff would need support during implementation of a new syllabus
- There was a big difference between the way RE is taught in schools compared to in universities – the syllabus should give direction about how RE is taught
- RE was 'getting lost' in PSHE – the syllabus needed to provide clear purpose and aims
- SACRE wondered if West Sussex could base its Agreed Syllabus on those used by other authorities or buy the one produced by RE Today
- SACRE raised concerns over the lack of specialist RE leads to teach the subject and the lack of a budget for SACRE.

Action: Anne Barker offered to raise the issue of the lack of RE specialist leads and a budget for SACRE with the Schools' Forum. Dave Simmons offered to raise the issues at the Education Round-up of the Cabinet Member for Education & Skills. Jacky Pendleton suggested that the county councillors on SACRE should raise these issues with the Director of Education & Skills

76.3 Resolved – that SACRE is keen to support the Working Group's recommendations, but currently does not feel that resourcing in staffing and funding are in place for an Agreed Syllabus Conference to take place to review the Agreed Syllabus.

78. Dates of Future Meetings

78.1 The following meeting dates were noted.

10.30 am, 18 November 2019

10.30 am, 2 March 2020

The meeting ended at 12.11 pm

Chairman