

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

19 November 2018 – At a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education held at 10.30 am at County Hall, Chichester.

Present:

Committee A

Jenny Cole	-	Quaker
Mrs Edwards	-	Baptist
Mr Firoozmand	-	Baha'i
Major Warner	-	Salvation Army

Committee B

Rev Higgins	-	Church of England
Mr Simpson	-	Church of England
Mrs Smith (Vice Chairman)	-	Church of England

Committee C

Mrs Macrae	-	Teacher Representative
Mrs Mullett	-	Teacher Representative

Committee D

Mr Burrett (Chairman)	-	Local Education Authority
Mrs Jones	-	Local Education Authority
Mrs Pendleton	-	Local Education Authority
Mr Petts	-	Local Education Authority
Mr Quinn	-	Local Education Authority
Mr Simmons	-	Local Education Authority
Mr Smytherman	-	Local Education Authority

Apologies: Mrs Bell, Rev Carn and Mr Syed (Committee A), Mrs Llewelyn, Rev Millwood and Mr Turney (Committee C), Mr Smith (Co-opted Member)

Absent: Mrs Jagger (Committee C)

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman took the Chair for the first three items.

Part I

54. Chairman's Welcome and Introductions

54.1 The Vice-Chairman welcomed Mrs Mullett as a new teacher representative.

55. Members' Interests

55.1 Mr Smytherman declared a personal interest in respect of Item 7 (Inspection Results for West Sussex Schools) as a Foundation Governor of

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Worthing (Bosco Catholic Education Trust).

55.2 Major Warner declared a personal interest in respect of Item 7 (Inspection Results for West Sussex Schools) as he has a family member who works at the Georgian Gardens Primary School.

56. Minutes of the last meeting

56.1. SACRE agreed to add the word 'largely' to minute 50.2, bullet point two between 'were' and 'compulsory'.

56.2 Resolved – that the minutes of the 11 June 2018 meeting, with the amendment above, are agreed and that they be signed by the Chairman.

57. Progress Statement

57.1 The following actions/updates were recorded:

- Exam result data was not available for this meeting, but would be added to the agenda for the next meeting
- All schools to be sent letters congratulating them on their results in RE – **Action:** Victoria Ludlow to draft a letter to be sent from the Chairman.

57.2 Resolved – that SACRE notes the update.

58. Survey of Specialist Teachers

58.1 SACRE discussed the results of a survey of specialist teachers carried out by Rev Chrissie Millwood and raised the following concerns: -

- The view expressed by one respondent that the GCSE exam route taught by Catholic schools was very dry for KS4 students – this could be due to the way the subject was taught and was only one comment reflecting the view of one individual
- The amount of time the 46.15% of students that opted not to take RE exams spent on RE – this is a national issue and some schools deliver aspects of RE in cross curricular ways, e.g. through aspects of Personal, Social and Health Education
- The need for specialist teachers
- The challenge of delivering the GCSE syllabus in relevant and engaging ways
- That a number of students were withdrawn from RE to receive curriculum support for numeracy or literacy
- That a number of schools were not meeting the legal obligation to teach RE and that this did not appear to be picked up by OFSTED, which inferred that the importance of RE was under-estimated – the local authority was not able to enforce the law, but SACRE could send a letter reminding Headteachers and governors of the obligation to teach RE (**Action:** Victoria Ludlow to arrange for a letter to be drafted on behalf of the Chairman) – schools might have to improve on areas that were the focus of OFSTED inspections and were under pressure to be well placed in league tables

- Best Practice – **Action:** The Chairman to contact his equivalent in East Sussex regarding the current position with regard to the previously-established networking meetings of SACRE Chairmen across the South-East, which had previously helped him to see if there were any examples of best practice that West Sussex could learn from
- SACRE thanked Rev Millwood for producing and analysing the survey.

58.2 Resolved – that the Chairman writes to all Headteachers of West Sussex schools (copying in Chairs of Governors) reminding them of their legal obligation to teach RE and asking, if RE was not taught, for the reasons, and what support they needed to teach RE and whether they thought a full review of the Agreed Syllabus was required.

59. Review of West Sussex Agreed Syllabus

59.1 SACRE discussed possible ways of approaching the review of the Agreed Syllabus.

59.2 Resolved – that a Working Group consisting of Mr Firoozmand (Committee A), Mrs Smith (Committee B), Mrs Macrae (Committee C) and Mrs Pendleton (Committee D) should meet before the next scheduled meeting of SACRE to decide how thorough a review of the Agreed Syllabus was needed.

60. Inspection Reports for West Sussex Schools

60.1 SACRE considered a report by the Director of Education and Skills (copy appended to the signed minutes).

60.2 The following points were covered in discussion:

- Best practice was shared informally by schools, via the Schools' Network and by the local authority which had previously tried to develop a database of best practice, but this had proved difficult to maintain and to get quality assurance
- The practice of having junior governors existed across the county
- It would be useful to have each school's location and OFSTED judgment stated in future reports – **Action:** Victoria Ludlow to ensure this happens.

60.3 Resolved – that SACRE notes the report.

61. West Sussex SACRE RE Youth Voice 2018 and planning for 2019

61.1 Mrs Smith gave the following update:

- Seven schools took part in the 2018 event which had nine workshops under the theme of 'Is there any place in the modern world for religion?'
- 82 evaluation forms were returned, all rating the event as good or outstanding
- Chichester University had offered to host the 2019 event on 25 June with the theme 'Does religion have a future?'

- A venue in the north of the county was being sought for an autumn event
- A steering group is being formed for the 2019 event
- The event would be free for students and travel expenses would be offered to speakers as before.

61.2 On behalf of SACRE, the Chairman thanked Mrs Smith and the steering group for the excellent 2018 event.

62. Dates of Future Meetings

10.30 am, 25 February 2019

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm

Chairman