

West Sussex Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

7 November 2011 – At a meeting of the Committee held at County Hall, Chichester

Present:

Derek James (Chairman)	-	Baptist
Susan Hibberd	-	Quaker
Farhang Tahzib	-	Baha'I
Dr Patel	-	Hindu
Rachel Moriarty	-	Diocese of Chichester
Mo Shilliday	-	Diocese of Chichester
Angela Smith	-	Diocese of Chichester
Susan Thompson	-	Diocese of Chichester
Kim Brown	-	Teacher representative
Michael Brown	-	West Sussex County Council
Peter Griffiths	-	West Sussex County Council
Bob Smytherman	-	West Sussex County Council

Apologies were received from Angela Smith (Diocese of Chichester), Mohindar Galowalia (Sikh), Lesley Wilkins (Jewish), Malcolm Hawke (Teacher representative), Sheila Kerr (Teacher representative), Gordon Parry (Teacher representative), Warwick Hellawell (Chairman, WSCC) David Sheldon (WSCC)

Chairman for the Meeting

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman, Warwick Hellawell, therefore Mr James as vice-chairman took the chair for this meeting.

Members' interests

28. There were none declared.

Membership of SACRE

29. The chairman informed members that following this meeting Susan Hibberd and Mo Shilliday would no longer be attending SACRE. Derek James thanked them for all their work with SACRE. The chairman welcomed Jenny Cole as the new representative for Quakers.

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2011

30. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 June 2011 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman

Progress Statement

31. Members noted the progress statement.

Urgent Matters

32. There were none.

Public Exams

33. The Senior Adviser - Support and Intervention and Religious Education introduced the report and informed the meeting that the analysis of pupil attainment was still incomplete as 'value-added' data had yet to be received. Whilst this had not been available in time for this meeting, this would be circulated to SACRE once completed.

34. The Senior Adviser recommended SACRE adopt a cautious approach to entry figures for A and AS levels, as seeming discrepancies may be the result of the funding conversion process.

35. Whilst data was available for performance in academies this had been omitted from the original draft, given the independent operation of these establishments. It was agreed that this information would be included in the final report in order to ensure SACRE had complete picture of attainment across the County.

36. The gender gap in students enrolling for courses was highlighted and acknowledged by SACRE as an issue affecting all areas of England. It was queried as to whether single-sex schools may influence the higher number of girls entering for exams. The Senior Adviser agreed to provide SACRE this information at the next meeting.

Converting Academies

37. The Senior Adviser introduced the report and invited SACRE to consider how it would like to approach newly converting, non-sponsored academies.

38. It was agreed that the relationship between SACRE and newly converting academies should be positive and should therefore emphasise the commonly held view that Religious Education is valuable. It was also essential to maintain a focus on ways that SACRE can facilitate it's teaching in individual educational establishments, whether academies, or local authority controlled.

39. In principle SACRE agreed it was willing to consider inviting an academy representative to future meetings. However, it was acknowledged that such a representative would need to be selected via a transparent process. This was particularly important as academies operated independently and would therefore need to have reached collective, formal agreement as to the delegated role of such a representative.

40. It was considered how individual academies might approach the issue of the daily act of worship, and it was agreed that in future SACRE would need to consider ways to encourage the continuation of this in academies. The Cabinet member for Education and Schools agreed to undertake to find out whether converting academies have their local vicar as school Chaplain.

41. It was recognised that a future relationship might be transactional in nature, as SACRE might include its service as part of the overall package of advice, materials and support academies can purchase from the Council.

Annual Report 2010/11

42. The Senior Adviser introduced the draft report and invited SACRE to comment on any suggested changes for this statutorily required Report on SACRE's activities over the previous year.

43. SACRE agreed it was happy to proceed with the existing draft, subject to the following comments:

- a. Ensure all headers within the template are for the 2010-11 municipal year
- b. To confirm the accuracy of comments regarding the non-inclusion of Religious Education in OFSTED report.
- c. Highlight that members of the public and press are invited to SACRE's meeting – and that this should be included in the Chairman's opening statement
- d. Liaise directly with the Chairman and Cabinet Member for Education and Schools regarding any further amendments beyond those suggested above.

Education Bill: Amendments to be Moved on Report

44. The Senior Adviser introduced the private amendment to the Education Bill, emphasising that given the origin of this amendment it was highly unlikely to influence the final Bill and therefore this was for SACRE to note.

45. SACRE acknowledged that collective worship in schools was a complex issue with many facets, particularly regarding practicalities in secondary schools. However, the principle of collective worship was supported and SACRE agreed it should retain a leading role in emphasising this to all educational establishments across West Sussex.

Dates of future meetings

46. The next meeting of the West Sussex SACRE would be held on Monday, 5 March 2012 at 10.00 a.m. in County Hall, Chichester.

The meeting closed at 11.45am