

**West Sussex Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

3 March 2014 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 10.00 am. at County Hall, Chichester

Present:

**Committee A**

Jenny Cole	-	Quaker
Mrs Connor	-	Roman Catholic
Mr McKeever	-	Baptist
Mr Tahzib	-	Baha'i

**Committee B**

Mrs Black	-	Church of England
Mrs Hine	-	Church of England
Mr Simpson	-	Church of England
Mrs Smith	-	Church of England

**Committee C**

Mrs Appleby	-	Headteacher representative
Mr Walsh	-	Headteacher representative

**Committee D**

Mr Brown	-	Local Education Authority
Mr Griffiths (Chairman)	-	Local Education Authority
Ms James	-	Local Education Authority
Ms Kennard	-	Local Education Authority

Apologies were received from Mr Luckin (Headteacher representative) Mr John (Methodist) Mr Evans (Local Education Authority) and Mrs Jagger (Teacher Representative)

**Chairman's Welcome and Introductions**

47. The Chairman informed SACRE that Mrs Smith had agreed to become the vice-chairman of SACRE and he welcomed Mrs Connor and Mr Tahzib to their first meeting.

**Members' interests**

48. There were none declared.

**Membership of SACRE**

49. SACRE noted its membership.

**Minutes**

50. SACRE considered and agreed an amendment to minute 34, to read 'The Cabinet Member for Children Start of Life write to all students achieving an A\* at GCE RE, as per previous years.'

51. Resolved – that, subject to the amendment agreed in minute 50 above, the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 18 November be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

### **Results in Public Examinations**

52. The Senior Advisor introduced a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning (copy appended to the signed minutes) which provided pupil data from measures to assess student progress in attainment.

53. A Local Education Authority member queried whether the range in pupil attainment required further exploration and if so, what would be the appropriate level to take this forward. – The Senior Advisor stated that locality-based sharing of information could be a potential option. A Headteacher representative confirmed that the Schools Executive did not consider this data as it was not provided to the forum.

54. The Senior Advisor agreed to explore options for contacting schools with poorer results to suggest potential support, including working with other local schools, although he reminded SACRE that West Sussex no longer had a dedicated RE Advisor. SACRE agreed that communications with schools should emphasise SACRE itself as having local responsibility for the provision of support and also the benefits of networking between local schools.

54. SACRE noted the report.

### **Inspection Reports for West Sussex Schools**

55. The Senior Advisor introduced a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning (copy appended to the signed minutes) which summarised inspection data relating to Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development for schools in West Sussex.

56. The Senior Advisor cautioned that owing to ongoing changes to the focus of inspections there was very little meaningful data available for analysis. A Church of England representative confirmed that RE subject inspections had also ended.

57. SACRE made a number of comments, including those that follow:

- Expressed concern at the lack of available information and suggested that SACRE write to OFSTED to register their concerns. – The Senior Advisor confirmed that SACRE had previously written to OFSTED regarding this issue.
- Noted that Section 48 Statutory Inspections of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) were a useful source of dedicated information, however there was currently no funding for these within the diocese. The Roman Catholic representative confirmed that Catholic schools were also subject to Section 48 inspections.

58. SACRE noted the report.

### **West Sussex Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education**

59. The Senior Advisor introduced a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning (copy appended to signed minutes) which asked SACRE to consider the broad principles of the revised syllabus, given at appendix A (copy appended to the signed minutes).

60. SACRE made a number of comments, including those that follow:

- Queried why all levels had been removed from the draft syllabus (pgs. 52-56) when p-levels (to measure the progress of pupils with learning difficulties) remained in the draft – The Senior Advisor responded that levels had been removed from all subjects in the revised curriculum, however p-levels were not technically a part of the curriculum and therefore remained in the syllabus. The Senior Advisor added that all standards had been removed from the national curriculum and it was intended that individual schools would develop their own robust standards in their place. As yet it was uncertain what these would be or how differences in attainment between schools would be measured.
- Agreed that the syllabus not use the extended term 'religion and belief' and expressed preference that 'studies in religion' be used instead.
- Requested that a summary statement for the opening of part one of the syllabus be developed from the three principles of RE, given at page 9 and that the statement also distinguish between 'learning about religion' and 'learning from religion'.

61. Resolved – that SACRE invites the syllabus working group to consider the syllabus in detail and consider whether the syllabus should emulate the principles outlined in the revised national curriculum.

### **Regional SACRE Meetings**

62. The Senior Advisor introduced a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning (copy appended to signed minutes) which provided an overview of a recent regional meeting of SACREs and asked SACRE to consider whether it should form one of the RE Council's suggested eight regional hubs for RE.

63. SACRE made a number of comments, including those that follow, it:

- Expressed interest in further exploring the idea of closer collaborative working with other regional SACREs on a needs basis but were anxious that this should not create additional layers of bureaucracy.
- Advised caution regarding the formation of a regional hub as it was felt that this was currently poorly defined in terms of role, status, funding and geography. It was felt that SACRE itself should act as the hub for the West Sussex education community and utilise external support and expertise as required.

### **Date of future meetings**

10 am, 16 June 2014

The meeting closed at 11.35 am.

### **Chairman**