

West Sussex Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

11 June 2018 – At a meeting of the West Sussex Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held at 10.30am at County Hall, Chichester.

Present:

Committee A

Mrs Bell	-	Jewish
Rev Dawn Carn	-	Methodist
Jenny Cole	-	Quaker
Mrs Edwards	-	Baptist
Mr Firoozmand	-	Baha'i
Mr Ward	-	Roman Catholic

Committee B

Rev Higgins	-	Church of England
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Committee C

Mrs Macrae	-	Teacher Representative
Rev Millwood	-	Teacher Representative
Mr Turney	-	Teacher Representative

Committee D

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

Co-opted Member

Mr Smith	-	University of Chichester
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Apologies: Major Warner and Mr Syed (Committee A), Mrs Smith and Mr Simpson (Committee B), Mrs Jones (Committee D)

Absent: Mrs Jagger (Committee C), Mrs Pendleton (Committee D)

Chairman's Welcome

47. The Chairman welcomed the Reverend Dawn Carn representing the Methodists to SACRE and thanked Lt Cdr Noel Atkins from the local authority, who had to step down from due to work commitments, for his time on SACRE.

Declarations of Interest

48. Mr Smytherman declared a personal interest in respect of item 5 (Inspection Results for West Sussex Schools) as a Foundation Governor of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Worthing (Bosco Catholic Education Trust).

Minutes

49. Resolved – that the minutes of the 11 June 2018 meeting were agreed and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

50. The following actions/updates were recorded: -

- An amount of money had been made available by the Council to cover the expenses of speakers attending the Youth Conference
- There was an improvement plan in place to address issues at Littlegreen school
- The Council did not fund any children in independent mainstream schools, but did fund some places at special schools
- Independent schools had no obligation to teach RE

51. The following comments were made regarding Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 results: -

- Nationally, there had been a fall in the numbers of students taking RE exams, possibly due to pressures around subject choices for the English-baccalaureate
- RE exams were compulsory in all faith schools and four or five others
- The number of students taking RE exams varied greatly across the county
- Problems recruiting RE teachers and challenges with the new curriculum might be factors in the low take-up
- 17 schools had 71% or more of its students who took RE at GCSE getting grades A – C
- Changes in the grading system would make it difficult to compare year on year results from 2018
- Best practice was shared between school networks and alliances – some lower performing schools had been identified by the Area Inclusion and Improvement Boards and got help from other schools
- Seven schools did not enter any pupils for RE GCSE, but this did not necessarily mean that RE was not taught in those schools in some form – SACRE queried the number of specialist RE teachers in the county – **ACTION:** Rev Chrissie Millwood offered to carry out a survey of school heads to establish the number of specialist teachers in the county
- Support for RE teachers was available from a range of sources including teaching schools – the local authority no longer has a comprehensive Continuing Professional Development programme
- Under the new exam structure, GCSEs would be harder, which could mean that the transfer to A level would be easier – results after the new system had bedded-in would be interesting
- SACRE suggested that a letter be sent to all schools congratulating them on their RE exam results

52. Resolved – that SACRE notes the update

Inspection Reports for West Sussex Schools

53. SACRE considered a report by the Director of Education and Skills (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced by Victoria Ludlow, who

told SACRE that there had been more inspections this term than last and that some did not include comments on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

54. The following points were covered in discussion: -

- Inspectors were restricted in the way they reported so might use examples under other headings that showed how spiritual, moral, social and cultural development was covered by schools

55. Resolved – that SACRE notes the report.

56. Youth Conference Update

- SACRE members showed interest in attending the Youth Conference –
ACTION: Rob Castle to send details of the conference to SACRE members

Date of future meetings

10.30 am, 19 November 2018

10.30 am, 25 February 2019

The meeting closed at 11.36.

Chairman