

## West Sussex Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

12 June 2017 – 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
Jenny Cole	-	Quaker
Mrs Edwards	-	Baptist
Mr Firoozmand	-	Baha'i
Maj Walker	-	Salvation Army

#### Committee B

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

#### Committee C

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

#### Committee D

Lt Cdr Atkins	-	Local Education Authority
Mr Burrett (Chairman)	-	Local Education Authority
Mrs Jones	-	Local Education Authority
Mrs Pendleton	-	Local Education Authority
Mr Petts	-	Local Education Authority
Mr Simmons	-	Local Education Authority
Mr Smytherman	-	Local Education Authority

**Apologies:** Mr Ward (Committee A), Mr McCully (Committee C) and Mr Quinn (Committee D)

**Absent:** Mr Simpson (Committee B)

### Membership of SACRE

1. SACRE noted its new membership for 2017 to 2021 –

**ACTION:** Rob Castle to write to organisations that had not taken up their place on SACRE encouraging them to do so.

### Introduction to SACRE and Progress Statement

2. Nigel Bloodworth made the following points as way of introduction to SACRE: -

- SACRE consisted of four committees: -
  - Christian denominations and other religious denominations
  - The Church of England
  - Associations representing teachers

- The Local Education Authority (LEA)
- Co-opted members could also be part of SACRE, but without voting rights
- Voting was by committee with each committee having one vote each
- SACRE was required to: -
  - review the LEA's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (RE) every five years
  - consider applications from community schools for a 'determination' on collective worship
  - publish an annual report
  - give advice to the LEA
- SACRE should : -
  - monitor how RE is taught in relation to the Agreed Syllabus
  - advise and support effective teaching of RE
  - advise on collective worship
  - consider reviewing the Agreed Syllabus early
- The Agreed Syllabus has three sections: -
  - Background to RE and what the LEA was trying to do
  - The curriculum – not over prescriptive so that schools could tailor it to their needs
  - A deliberately loose assessment.

3. The following points were covered in discussion: -

- Members queried whether the committee of associations representing teachers should have eight members instead of four –  
**ACTION:** Nigel Bloodworth to check
- Members asked for the number of schools in the county by type  
**ACTION:** Nigel Bloodworth to find out and circulate to SACRE
- The question of whether humanists should be represented on SACRE was discussed – it was decided that a fuller discussion should take place at a future meeting
- OFSTED hadn't included RE in its inspections of schools for some time, but was required to report when it was not taught
- SACRE's statutory remit covered state maintained schools only.

### **SACRE Terms of Reference**

4. SACRE noted its Terms of Reference.

### **Minutes**

5. The following queries arose: -

- Para 163 – No response had been received to SACRE's letter to the Minister responsible for the White Paper 'Education Excellence Everywhere' –  
**ACTION:** Nigel Bloodworth to send the letter again
- Para 164 – The latest training session for primary schools was attended by 19 schools
- Para 165 – SACRE agreed to look at cross-referencing schools that took part in training with the report of OFSTED reports that come to each SACRE meeting at a future meeting
- Para 167 - Mr Ward suggested (by email) the following amendments in bold italics "Some school ***Ofsted reports*** had not commented on SMSC even though it was part of the OFSTED inspection ***Handbook***"

- Para 171 – SACRE agreed to look at how RE was taught to students that did not enter exams at a future meeting
- Para 174 – SACRE agreed to consider the report by the Commission on Religious Education that asked for comments at a future meeting.

6. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of SACRE held on 27 February 2017, with the change referenced above relating to paragraph 167, be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

### **Youth Voice Conference – 5 July 2017**

7. SACRE received a verbal update from Mrs Smith telling SACRE that: -

- The theme had been decided by pupils and there were now additional representatives from Baha'i, Buddhist and secular groups taking part
- There would be eight workshops for pupils with teachers in attendance – a delegation from a school could cover several workshops
- All schools had been invited to attend – schools from a wider area might take part in a future event, especially if it was held in another part of the county.

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

8. SACRE considered a report by the Director of Education and Skills (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced by Nigel Bloodworth who explained that: -

- Outstanding schools were not routinely inspected
- Good schools got a short inspection resulting in a letter instead of a full report
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development was not always mentioned in reports/letters
- Schools that were Requiring Improvement or were Inadequate got a full inspection and report
- Outstanding and Good schools where the judgement was changed from the current grade got a full inspection and report.

9. The following points were covered in discussion: -

- In future, schools would be named in the report
- Church school inspections were the responsibility of church authorities, not SACRE
- OFSTED had been taken to task in the past about not reporting on SMSC when it should with no positive outcome –  
**ACTION:** Nigel Bloodworth to write to OFSTED about this.

10. Resolved – that SACRE notes the report.

### **Appointment to Statutory Sub-Committees**

11. Nigel Bloodworth told SACRE about its two sub-committees: -

12. Determinations Sub-Committee – this committee deals with applications from community schools only for determinations for collective worship in their

schools to be other than 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. This sub-committee is made-up of one member from each committee.

13. Complaints – As RE is the responsibility of the Local Education Authority (LEA), not central government, complaints about it go through head teachers, then governors then, if unresolved, to the LEA which passes them to its SACRE. This sub-committee has to include the Chairman, Vice Chairman, an LEA representative and one other.

14. Resolved that: -

- i. The following members were appointed to the Determinations Sub-Committee: Major Warner (Committee A), Rev Millwood (Committee C) and Jacky Pendleton (Committee D) – a representative from Committee B to be appointed at a future meeting
- ii. The following members were appointed to the Complaints Sub-Committee: Mr Burrett (Chairman), Mrs Smith (Vice Chairman), Mrs Jones (Local Authority) and Jenny Cole (Committee A).

#### **Date of future meetings**

10.30 am, 20 November 2017

10.30 am, 26 February 2018

The meeting closed at 12.45pm.

**Chairman**