

West Sussex Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

14 November 2016 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 11.00 at County Hall, Chichester

Present:

Committee A

Jenny Cole	-	Quaker
Mr Ward	-	Roman Catholic
Mr McKeever	-	Baptist
Mr Firoozmand	-	Baha'i

Committee B

Mrs Hine	-	Church of England
Mrs Smith (Vice Chairman)	-	Church of England

Committee C

Mrs Dutson	-	Teacher Association Representative
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Committee D

Mr Griffiths (Chairman)	-	Local Education Authority
Mrs Jones	-	Local Education Authority
Ms Kennard	-	Local Education Authority
Mr Quinn	-	Local Education Authority
Mr Sheldon	-	Local Education Authority
Mr Smytherman	-	Local Education Authority

Apologies: Mr Evans and Mrs Field (Local Education Authority), Mr Simpson (Church of England)

Absent: Mrs Black (Church of England), Mrs Costello and Mrs Jagger (Teacher Association Representatives), Imam Nawab (Muslim)

Mr Firoozmand left the meeting during the item on Youth Voice Conference – 5 July 2017

Chairman's Welcome and Introductions

139. In the absence of Mr Griffiths for the start of the meeting, Mrs Smith (Vice Chairman) took the Chair until the item on Youth Voice Conference – 5 July 2017.

Membership

140. SACRE notes the resignation of Mr John (Methodist) and the appointment of Mrs Field (Local Education Authority) in place of Mr Hunt (Local Education Authority).

Members' interests

141. Mr Smytherman declared a personal interest as a foundation governor of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Worthing.

Minutes

142. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 13 June be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

143. Nigel Bloodworth gave the following updates: -

- The Chairman had written to all schools reminding them of the importance of having Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development in courses and encouraging them to highlight the good work done in this area to OFSTED
- The Chairman had written to OFSTED with SACRE's concerns that Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development was being omitted from inspection reports or not given a high enough profile
- NASACRE membership was affordable and would allow members to access specific training – SACRE agreed to join NASACRE
- The letter to the minister responsible for the White Paper – 'Education Excellence Everywhere' to be re-drafted raising concerns that RE is not mentioned in the paper
- Training on the agreed syllabus had broken even – SACRE requested feedback from the training sessions to come to its next meeting

144. Resolved – that SACRE notes the update

Youth Voice Conference – 5 July 2017

145. Graeme Smith, Head of Department, Theology, Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Chichester informed SACRE that: -

- Following a successful event in Hampshire, West Sussex Year 10 students will be staging a conference for around 60 Year 8 students from across the county at the University of Chichester on 5 July
- For the conference, the students have chosen the topic 'Would the world be a better place without religion' – there will be a plenary, workshops and another plenary to collate feedback
- Representatives from different faith groups, humanists, the military, the prison service and the police would be invited to attend
- It was hoped that the event could be run in the name of West Sussex SACRE with members of SACRE attending and the event opened by the Chairman

146. The following points were covered in discussion: -

- SACRE members supported the idea and were keen to help
- All secondary schools had been invited to take part – SACRE members could also approach schools directly to ask them to take part

Resolved – that SACRE: -

- i. Agrees to send Graeme Smith contact details of people that might be interested in attending the event or contact them themselves (a letter would be sent to SACRE members for onward distribution)
- ii. Agrees that an update on the conference to come to the next meeting of SACRE – Graeme Smith and possibly some students to attend
- iii. Notes the report

Inspection Reports for West Sussex Schools

147. SACRE considered a report by the Director of Education and Skills (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced by Nigel Bloodworth who told SACRE that schools that had been rated 'Good' had a short inspection and a letter, those that were not rated as 'Good' or were expected to move up or down got a full report.

148. The following points were covered in discussion: -

- SACRE did not need to look at Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) that focused on the Christian ethos of church schools
- SACRE thought that the inspection reports document should be available to a wider audience via the Internet in a user-friendly format

149. Resolved – that

- i. Nigel Bloodworth and Rob Castle to explore how to put relevant documents on the SACRE web page or SLA Online website
- ii. SACRE notes the report

Results in Public Examinations

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

- Although examination results had not yet been published and the report was based on information that hadn't been validated, the picture at county level wasn't expected to change much after validation
- There were no figures for short courses, but numbers were expected to drop
- The West Sussex figures were for state schools only, whereas the national figures included independent schools and evening classes

151. The following points were covered in discussion: -

- Less pupils were taking RE exams, probably due to the fact that RE was not included in the EBac
- There were issues with RE provision in special schools and in others it was possible that Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development was timetabled instead
- 40% of pupils take RE GCSE and no schools had been identified by OFSTED as not carrying out their statutory duty towards RE and collective worship
- SACRE thought that more training and events such as the Youth Voice Conference would help to raise the profile of RE

152. Resolved – that SACRE notes the report

Annual Report 2015 – 2016

153. The West Sussex SACRE Annual Report was introduced by Nigel Bloodworth who explained that the report covered what SACRE had discussed throughout the year, what it had recommended to the local education authority and to report on complaints and determinations. The report would go on the SACRE web page, be sent to the Secretary of State for Education. All schools would be made aware that the report was available.

154. Resolved – that SACRE notes the report

Date of future meetings

11.00, 27 February 2017

The meeting closed at 12.34

Chairman