West Sussex Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

16 November 2015 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 10.00 at County Hall, Chichester

Present:

Committee A
Jenny Cole - Quaker
S Feist - Roman Catholic
Mr E John - Methodist
Mr McKeever - Baptist

Committee B
Mrs Black - Church of England
Mrs Hine - Church of England
Mr Simpson - Church of England

Committee C
Mrs Jagger - Teacher Association Representative
Mr Luckin - Teacher Association Representative

Committee D
Mr Evans - Local Education Authority
Mr Griffiths (Chairman) - Local Education Authority
Mrs Jones - Local Education Authority
Mr Quinn - Local Education Authority
Mr Sheldon - Local Education Authority

Apologies: Mrs Smith, Church of England, Mr Hunt and Ms Kennard (Local Education Authority)

Absent: Imam I Nawab (Muslim), Mr S Tahzib (Baha’i), Mr Smytherman (Local Education Authority)

A minute’s silence was held at 11.00am for the victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris on 13 November.

Members’ interests

91. No interests were declared.

Minutes

92. SACRE agreed that the last sentence of minute 89 should read ‘The Complaints panel does (instead of did) not hear complaints about Religious Education in academies’

93. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 2 March, with the agreed change above, be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Cabinet Member Response
94. SACRE considered a second response from the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills asking for clarification of the type of support available to schools, and how school to school support was being promoted so that all schools were aware of it and knew how to access it.

95. SACRE agreed that the Chairman should write to the Cabinet Member for Children – Start of Life asking him to raise this issue at the Education and Skills Forum.

**Progress Statement**

96. Nigel Bloodworth, Senior Adviser, Care, Well-being & Education, told SACRE that: -

- Guidance on OFSTED inspections would be part of training given to schools and would be put on the West Sussex Grid for Learning
- A paragraph on academies would be added to the complaints procedure

**Results in Public Examinations**

97. Nigel Bloodworth, Senior Adviser, Care, Well-being & Education, told SACRE that the results had not yet been received, but a report would be circulated to SACRE when available.

**Annual Report 2014/15**

98. SACRE discussed a report by the Director of Community Commissioning - the following points/changes were agreed: -

- As the report would be published on the Council’s website, SACRE was interested to know how many hits it would get – Rob Castle to investigate
- Chairman’s introduction - SACRE agreed to add the following to the second paragraph: “and the staff and governors who supported them.”
- Standards in RE - SACRE agreed that ‘RE Adviser’ should be replaced by ‘Local Authority’ in the last paragraph
- Collective Worship - SACRE discussed the possibility of seeing reports from organisations that inspected church schools – Nigel Bloodworth to check whether this would be possible
- Complaints – SACRE discussed possibly using a questionnaire to measure the number of complaints schools received, if any, about religious education – Mr Luckin to raise this idea with the Primary Heads Executive and Nigel Bloodworth to raise it with secondary heads
- Examinations – in 2014, there was no information as to whether nine schools entered pupils for any type of RE exam – Nigel Bloodworth to investigate if a similar situation occurs in 2015
- Future Support – SACRE can advise the Local Authority to encourage schools to share best practice, the Local Authority would then report what it had done
- Subject Residuals – to be discussed at the next meeting of SACRE – Rob Castle to add this to the agenda for the next meeting
- Future support for religious education in West Sussex – take out the first bullet point and add that letters had been written to the Cabinet Member
• Academies – the paragraph to be re-written so that it is clear that although the law does not require academies to teach RE, funding agreements mean they have to
• Links with other agencies – the agencies to be listed and the reference to OFSTED removed
• Appendix 1 – SACRE membership to be updated when vacancy filled – **Rob Castle to action**
• Appendix 3 – when report added, include a note to say that it will be discussed at the next meeting of SACRE
• Appendix 4 – under ‘Steps for Application in West Sussex’ replace ‘Local Authority Religious Education Adviser’ with Local Authority Adviser’
• **Nigel Bloodworth to amend the report as indicated above and correct any typographical errors and dates**

99. SACRE agreed that when the changes requested were made to the report it be agreed by the Chairman and published.

**West Sussex Agreed Syllabus**

100. SCARE considered a report by the Director of education and Skills - the following points/changes were covered in discussion:

• The Diocese of Chichester and the Blue Flag Teaching Alliance offered to run training courses by Religious Education Today – this would happen in the Spring Term
• The Local Authority had agreed to pay for the Religious Education Today licence and the cost of training – it was hoped it would also cover the costs of planning/preparation if there were not enough attendees to do so – **The Chairman of SACRE to write to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills asking the Local Authority to cover all costs of the training** – the response to be circulated to SACRE
• Those who received the training could then pass on their knowledge to others
• Church House training to be shared with more community schools

101. SACRE noted the report.

**Date of future meetings**

10.00, 29 February 2016
10.00, 13 June 2016
10.00, 14 November 2016
10.00, 27 February 2017

The meeting closed at 11.57

**Chairman**