

ITEM 4

Time commenced – 6.00pm

Time finished – 7.10pm

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 25 June 2019

Present:

Group A – Christianity and Other World Faiths

Rev Philip Webb	Baptist Church
Raj Bali	Hindhu Faith
Phil Royle	Methodist Church
Lucy Care	Religious Society of Friends
Mair Bradley	United Reformed Church
Eve Sacker	Jewish Faith
Dr Hardial Singh Dhillon	Sikh Faith
Errol Vassell	Pentecostal Church

Group B – Church of England

Viv Lawrence
Katie Lake

Group C – Teachers' Associations

Wendy Hardy	NEU
-------------	-----

Group D – Local Education Authority

Councillor Kus
Councillor Skelton
Councillor Wood

Co-opted Members

Peter Harvey	Humanist UK
--------------	-------------

In Attendance:

Steve Ford	Lead officer to SACRE
Ava Hunt and Karim	Journeys of Destiny
Steven Mason	Clerk to SACRE

01/19 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100(B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following items on the grounds that they needed to be considered before the next meeting:

- Appointment of Chair
- Appointment of the Chairs of Groups A,B and C
- Appointment of Vice Chair

02/19 Appointment of Chair

SACRE noted the appointment of Councillor Skelton as Chair of Group D and Chair of SACRE.

03/19 Appointment of the Chairs of Groups A,B and C

SACRE noted the appointment of Eve Sacker as Chair of Group A, Viv Lawrence as Chair of Group B and Wendy Hardy as Chair of Group C.

04/19 Appointment of Vice Chair

It was noted that Eve Sacker had been appointed as Vice Chair of SACRE.

05/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Rev Roy Ninkovic, Rev Anita Matthews, Alison Brown, Sally Siner, Councillor J Khan, Sam Hussain and Ruth Richardson.

06/19 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

07/19 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 29 January 2019 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2019 were noted.

08/19 Journeys of Destiny Presentation

Ava Hunt and Karim gave a presentation on Journeys of Destiny. It was reported that this was a new play for young people and community audiences, which took stories from all families and weaved them with that of Saad Al-Kassab, a young Syrian refugee whose dreams had to change forever when war broke out in his city of Homs. Members noted that Journeys of Destiny was an exciting story, with original songs, told by a talented team of professional actors and young people about to make a journey that they would feel empowered to navigate.

Members asked which schools the play had been taken to. It was reported that Journeys of Destiny had been performed at Bemrose School and that it was due to be performed at Redwood Primary School and Lawn Primary School over the next couple of days. It was reported that the tour would finish on Friday 28 June 2019.

Members noted that the company had also linked with City of Sanctuary and other organisations.

It was reported that further funding would be sought from the Arts Council to allow the project to continue and that partnership working and support would be important in this.

Members asked how the impact was evaluated. It was reported that a baseline audit was carried out, before the workshop started, in the form of a questionnaire, where children were asked, "what do you expect and what do you already know?" It was also reported that there was a post evaluation form and teachers also assessed the impact.

Members noted that the play was due to be performed at the Wirksworth Festival on Saturday 14 September and all Members were invited to attend.

Members wished their support of this initiative to be recorded.

It was reported that the play had been filmed and Members hoped that they would be able to see it at a future date.

Resolved to agree that SACRE's support for this initiative be noted.

09/19 Update on Progress Towards the Revision of the Agreed Syllabus

Peter Harvey spoke on the progress made towards the revision of the agreed syllabus for RE. Members noted that the syllabus would be shared with Derbyshire County Council and that both Derby and Derbyshire SACRE's were working together on this project.

It was reported that on 11 March 2019 a SACRE Development Day had been held at the county offices and that a number of Derby SACRE Members had attended. It was also reported that the day had focused on the review of the Agreed Syllabus for RE. Members noted that a presentation had been given by Lat Blaylock and the RE Today team. It was also noted that there had been considerable discussion on whether the syllabus should employ a systematic or thematic approach.

It was reported that Lat was now developing the syllabus and that it needed to be agreed by the end of the year. It was also reported that training and a conference programme would cover the cost of the review.

Steve Ford reported that the thematic approach had been agreed at the Development Day after robust debate. It was also reported that the new syllabus would reflect the distinctive natures of Derby and Derbyshire in the introduction section of the agreed syllabus document.

It was noted that schemes of work were not a statutory responsibility but it was envisaged that they could be purchased to support the agreed syllabus.

It was also noted that a series of launch events/training with RE Today, would hopefully take place and that five dates had been agreed for Spring 2020. It was reported that the syllabus would be launched at that time.

Steve proposed that the Chairs of both SACRE's should sign a letter to present to the City and the County, that would endorse the agreed syllabus.

Members asked how the introduction to the document would be written. It was reported that a small representative group would be formed to provide input and that this would take place during the summer holidays.

SACRE fully approved all the future actions in relation to the implementation of a revised agreed syllabus for RE, as outlined.

Resolved to approve all the future actions in relation to the implementation of a revised agreed syllabus for RE, as outlined at the meeting.

10/19 What do we Tell the Children? Updating an Appropriate Resource

Eve Sacker reported on the "What do we Tell the Children" booklet. It was reported that resource provided advice to teachers about how to deal with sensitive, controversial and complex issues around the world in which we live.

Members noted that the booklet contained lots of useful exercises, such as "finding the right words", which focused on advice about inappropriate words and phrases.

It was reported that in a world where the meanings of words and phrases were ever changing, the resource aimed to give teachers confidence.

It was proposed that the teaching resource should be considered, with a view to using some of it within the revised agreed syllabus for RE. This approach was agreed by Members.

Resolved to agree that the "What do we Tell the Children" teaching resource be considered, with a view to using some of it within the revised agreed syllabus for RE.

11/19 Multi Faith Centre Update

It was noted that Ruth Richardson had sent her apologies. The Clerk to SACRE read out the following update from her:

"Very sadly Pam Sutton who was our Baha'i Faith Representative has passed away. The funeral is taking place at the Multi-Faith Centre on Friday 12th July."

Resolved to note the update.

12/19 Open Centre Update

Item Deferred to the next Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

13/19 Surveying RE Provision in all Schools

Steve Ford proposed that the survey of the RE provision in schools be postponed until such time as the agreed syllabus had been implemented.

Some Members felt that carrying out the survey before that time would help to guide the revised syllabus and training.

It was reported that as Derby and Derbyshire SACRE's had agreed on an "off the peg" syllabus, extensive consultation before the launch would not take place. Members noted that it was important that expectations should not be raised that the syllabus could be tailored.

It was proposed that it would be more useful to carry out the survey after the syllabus had bedded in.

Members agreed with Steve Ford's proposal to postpone the survey.

Resolved to agree that the survey of RE provision in schools be postponed until such time as the agreed syllabus has been implemented.

14/19 Venues and Dates of Future SACRE Meetings

It was reported that some Members had expressed an interest in SACRE meetings being held at other venues.

Members supported the use of other venues and it was agreed that Members should contact the Clerk to SACRE with any suggestions. The Clerk reminded Members that as the meetings were public meetings, any venues would need to be able to accommodate members of the public.

Resolved:

- 1. to support the use of other venues for meeting of SACRE; and**
- 2. to agree that Members should contact the Clerk to SACRE with any suggestions of alternative venues.**

15/19 Local Updates and Visits

There were none.

16/19 National Updates

There were none.

17/19 Any Other Business

Lucy Care spoke to Members about the Quakers Canterbury Commitment to the environment and called on all Members to consider how they could best encourage and facilitate environmental respect in schools.

MINUTES END