

Agenda

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Wednesday, 18 March 2015, 1.00 pm
County Hall, Worcester

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کوردی سۆزانی، ننگێر ناتوانی تێبگهی له ناوهرۆکی نهم بێلگهیه و دهستت به هیچ کس نایگات که و هههنگهه یهتوه بۆت، تکلیه تهلپۆن بکه بۆ ژمارهی 01905 765765 و داوای پێنوێنی بکه. (Kurdish)

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ। ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਮਸ਼ਹੂਰ ਸਮਝ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਕਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਇਸਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਲਈ ਅਨੁਭਵ ਕਰ ਸਕੇ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ 01905 765765 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ। (Punjabi)

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
Wednesday, 18 March 2015, 1.00 pm,
County Hall, Worcester

Membership

Group A (Representatives of Christian and other faiths)

Venerable Tenzin Choesang (Buddhist) – Chairman, Mr G Bounds (Free Church), Mrs T Khawaja (Muslim), Dr J Lally (Roman Catholic), Mr N Mills, (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints), Mrs C Parker (Methodist), Dr Y Stollard (Jewish) and Mrs L Thorne (Ba'hai) – Vice Chairman.

Group B (Church of England representatives)

Ms S Boulter, Mrs T Lister and Ms K Poole.

Group C (Representatives of Recognised Teacher Associations)

Mr J Allison and Mr C Giles.

Group D (Elected representatives of the Local Authority)

Cllr. I Hopwood – Vice Chairman, Cllr. R Lunn, and Cllr. F Oborski.

Co-opted Representatives

Ms A Hooper and Ms E Hill.

Agenda

| Item No | Subject | Page No |
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| | 1.00-1.45pm Agreed Syllabus Conference | |
| 1 | Agreed Syllabus and Launch Conferences | |
| | 1.45-onwards SACRE Meeting | |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence and Substitutions | |
| 3 | Declaration of Interests | |
| 4 | Confirmation of the Minutes | 1 - 6 |
| 5 | Prevent Strategy | |
| 6 | Future of SACRE | |
| 7 | Constitution | 7 - 14 |

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| Item No | Subject | Page No |
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| 8 | <p>National RE News The revised GCSE and A-level criteria have been published and can be found at:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gcse-and-a-level-reform-religious-studies</p> | |
| 9 | Strategy Groups Update | |
| 10 | What SACRE members can bring to SACRE | |
| 11 | Any Other Business | |
| 12 | <p>Future Meeting Dates Dates 2015</p> <p>Tuesday 9 June Wednesday 21 October</p> <p>To be held at County Hall, Worcester</p> | |

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Wednesday, 26 November 2014, 2.00 pm, County Hall

Minutes

Present:

Venerable Tenzin Choesang (Chairman), Mr I Hopwood (Vice Chairman), John Allison, Stephanie Boulter, Dr J Lally, Mr R C Lunn, Norman Mills, Phil Mitchell, Christine Parker and Mrs L Thorne

Also attended:

Barry Newton and Stephen Pett

1 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Sue Fitzjohn, Chris Giles, Fran Oborski, Alex Hooper, Ellie Hill and Yvonne Stollard.

The Chairman welcomed two new members as Church of England representatives.

Tracy Lister was the RE Co-ordinator from Whittington Primary School and Kerry Poole was an Assistant Head Teacher from Wolverley High School. Kerry had been awarded the National Secondary School teacher of the year for RE.

2 Declaration of Interests

None

3 Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9 July 2014 were agreed to be a correct record of the meeting.

4 SACRE Constitution

The Chairman asked members if they had any comments on the draft constitution. It was clarified that the membership list would remain as listed in the 2012 constitution which was based on the faiths of the population of Worcestershire rather than use the suggested new version

It had been agreed at the meeting in July that a second Vice-Chairman should be appointed half way through the two year term of the Vice-Chairman to avoid a situation when a Chairman and Vice-Chairman could potentially leave at the same time. A second Vice-Chairman would allow for continuity and should ideally be from a different group to the other Vice Chairman.

Lindsay Thorne was nominated and seconded to become the second Vice Chairman. The Chairman asked Lindsay

to say something about herself. Lindsay responded that it was the Ba'hai way not to canvas for support but that people should be known by their work, their loyalty and their well-trained mind. She did mention that she was an ex Deputy Head of a special school, was currently an Art and Craft Teacher and Trustee of Pershore Youth Centre. She was also a member of the Religious Education Council.

Lindsay left the room while the nomination was discussed. There was unanimous support for the appointment with Norman Mills commenting that he had attended an enjoyable Ba'hai event in Pershore which Lindsay had helped to organise and he had been impressed by her work for Interfaith Week.

Lindsay Thorne was therefore duly appointed as the second Vice Chairman for Worcestershire SACRE.

The Chairman asked the Council to consider whether they should co-opt a youth member onto the SACRE. It was felt that it would be difficult for a sixth former to be able to attend meetings and that someone attending University would gain more from the experience as well as being more likely to be able to attend the meetings.

It was agreed that the Chairman should put the suggestion to Ellie Hill who was in charge of Primary PGCE and would soon be starting to run secondary PGCEs. Ellie would then be able to help in suggesting ways to appoint a young person.

5 Finances

The SACRE budget was currently fully committed paying for the SACRE Advisor and the production of the Approved Syllabus. If the funding were available it would be ideal to organise two primary conferences and a secondary conference to launch the syllabus. Stephen explained that Hereford SACRE had discussed bringing forward the release of their next syllabus and were considering opting for the RE Today syllabus. If both Councils were to adopt the same RE Today Syllabus it may be possible for Worcestershire to hold a joint syllabus launch with Herefordshire.

The Chairman explained that during the last academic year a successful conference had been held for Year 10 Gifted and Talented pupils. Around 60 pupils and 7 or 8 teachers had attended. If further funding could be identified the conference could be held again in 2015. The money would be required to pay for speakers and

refreshments. It was suggested that the schools be charged for the conference but it was felt that would result in a poor attendance.

Members suggested various solutions. Kerry Poole suggested that Wolverley High School could be used as a venue and would possibly provide refreshments. The Chairman explained that the Co-opted member from the University had said that the University may be able to provide a room. One of the Members also felt that his Church Community fund could be approached about making a donation.

Further work would be done about investigating other sources of funding such as Westhill and Cullum St Gabriels.

6 Do we want or need strategy groups

It was agreed that as resources were limited there was little point in having permanent strategy groups but groups could be formed for a limited time, for a specific purpose or to achieve a particular task.

Some members felt that Stephen Pett as Advisor should be a member of each strategy group but others disagreed. The majority felt that Stephen should be left to concentrate on the Syllabus and he could be consulted by the particular strategy group if necessary.

The Council felt that at the present time two strategy groups would be useful. Firstly one to look at the syllabus and help with any curriculum planning, feedback on the draft syllabus and planning the launch and secondly one to investigate any possible funding options.

Members who wished to be involved with the syllabus strategy group were Tracy Lister, Kerry Poole, Stephanie Boulter, John Allison, Lindsay Thorne and Christine Parker. It was clarified that all voluntary controlled schools would be required to follow the Agreed Syllabus, while Academies and Voluntary Aided schools could choose whether they followed their own syllabus or followed the Worcestershire one. Church of England schools were encouraged to use the Worcestershire syllabus but Catholic Schools used their own syllabus.

Members who wished to help with the funding sub group were Ian Hopwood, Norman Mills and Lindsay Thorne.

7 National RE

Stephen Pett reported on the national RE News.

News update

The increase in numbers taking Religious Studies A Level was greater than in any other arts, humanities or social science subject, however the numbers taking the GCSE short course had fallen dramatically.

There had been a Cabinet discussion about how many subjects should be studied for the new GCSE and A Level RE courses. There was now the requirement to study 2 subjects. Draft criteria had been released with the consultation ending on 26 December. Once the criteria had been signed off, specifications would be produced for teaching from September 2016.

Ofsted inspections now had an increased interest in SMSC. 'British values' had been inserted into the Ofsted handbook and schools needed to show they are preparing pupils for British life. Schools should therefore realise that keeping RE courses could help them meet their SMSC responsibilities.

Members were informed that the police were visiting schools to discuss the 'Prevent' anti-terrorism strategy which was another way that schools were offering SMSC. Interfaith week was being extended and would carry on until January and was teaching understanding and respect for others and other faiths. At Whittington Primary School they had a Diversity Street as part of Interfaith week.

The Chairman agreed to invite the Manager of the local Prevent Team to attend a future SACRE meeting.

8 Church of England Schools Inspections

Phil Mitchell gave a presentation about Church of England Inspections. A large percentage of pupils were taught in church schools and it was recognised with the help of the Way Ahead report that their teaching had to show more Christian distinctiveness. They also had to be inclusive and effective. It was not enough for schools to be tolerant and teach Christian Values but they needed to support Children at all levels and see that they are achieving.

Inspections showed that schools were values rich but they had to show the impact of the values on the children. During inspections inspectors meet children and parents, observed RE lessons to see if there are clear objectives and whether learners are engaged, as well as checking that what they were learning included an increased emphasis on Christianity. The inspections also looked at how children were involved in leading worship and what part they played in collective worship.

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 9 | What SACRE members can bring to the Advisory Council and to Worcestershire Schools | Deferred to the next meeting |
| 10 | Feedback from Members | None |
| 11 | Any Other Business | None |
| 12 | Future Meeting Dates | Meeting dates for 2015. To be held at 2.00pm at County Hall Wednesday 18 March Wednesday 10 June Wednesday 21 October |

The meeting ended at 4.15pm

Chairman

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Worcestershire County Council
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
Constitution and Terms of Reference

Introduction

1. In accordance with the Education Act 1996, Circular 1/94, Religious Education and Collective Worship and Religious Education in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010, the council, as local authority (LA), has a duty to set up a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).
2. It is required by law that religious education (RE) is taught in schools to children up to the age of 18 but it is not part of the National Curriculum. Instead RE is a local responsibility. SACRE oversees RE and collective worship in county schools on behalf of the LA. The Funding Agreement for an Academy without a religious designation states that it must arrange for RE to be given to all pupils in accordance with the requirements for agreed syllabuses that are set out in section 375(3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph (5) of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Academies can opt to use a locally agreed syllabus.
3. SACRE will operate within the law and guidance in force issued by parliament, the courts and the Department for Education (DfE). If there is any conflict of interest between this constitution and terms of reference and the law, SACRE will comply with the law.

Functions and Responsibilities

4. The broad role of SACRE is to support the effective provision of RE and collective worship in schools. Worcestershire LA will work with the SACRE to monitor and review the existing provision for RE and collective worship.
5. The functions of SACRE are detailed in the s.391 Education Act (as amended). Other responsibilities are outlined in Religious Education in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance (2010), SACRE and Self Evaluation: A guide (OFSTED 2005) and Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship. The duties and responsibilities comprise:
 - a. To advise the LA on such matters connected with religious education and collective worship in Worcestershire community schools and foundation and voluntary-aided or voluntary controlled schools without a religious character;
 - b. To monitor the provision and quality of RE taught according to its Agreed Syllabus together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus;
 - c. To provide advice and support on the effective teaching of the Agreed Syllabus;

- d. To provide advice to the LA and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training;
- e. To require the LA to set up a statutory conference to review the Agreed Syllabus if, in the opinion of the SACRE, this becomes necessary. This must be reviewed and updated every five years but a majority of representative groups on the SACRE, other than that consisting of persons chosen to represent the LA (Group D), may at any time require a review of the Agreed Syllabus which is currently being used by the LA;
- f. In partnership with the LA, consider whether any changes need to be made to the Agreed Syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, to improve the quality of RE and the learning of pupils;
- g. Offer schools and the LA advice concerning how an existing syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with wider changes in education;
- h. To receive and determine whether applications from headteachers, that the requirement for collective worship in community schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of the pupils at that particular school;
- i. To publish an annual report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups. This report will be made available to the schools and to the public. A copy can be sent to the DfE.
- j. SACREs are encouraged to develop their own roles working with inter-religious bodies to enhance the important contribution that the study of religion and belief can make to social cohesion and the combating of religious prejudice and discrimination.
- k. The SACRE may offer advice to Worcestershire LA on any matters related to its function as it sees fit.

Membership of SACRE

- 6. The Worcestershire SACRE will be represented by members who can fully support the effective provision for RE and collective worship in schools. All members shall be delegates who are interested in education in general and religious education in particular. The membership shall be allocated to four groups as follows:

Group A: Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations.

This group is made up of representatives of Christian denominations; other than the Church of England; and other religious traditions represented in Worcestershire (as identified in the most recent published census information). Each of these representatives should be nominated by an appropriate faith organisation. All members of this group will be appointed by the Local Authority, which will have taken reasonable steps to assure itself that the nominee is

representative of the relevant faith groups of Worcestershire and that they fully support the effective provision for RE and Collective Worship in schools.

Group B: Church of England

three representatives of the Church of England, at least one of whom should be a representative of the Diocese of Worcestershire Board of Education

Group C: Teacher representatives

representatives from the teachers' and head teachers' associations (AHT, ASCL, ATL, NAHT, NASUWT, NUT). The Local Authority will seek to ensure that teacher representatives come from a balance church and non-church schools, county schools and academies.

Group D: The Local Authority

three elected councillors as nominated by the political parties represented on the council.

SACRE officers

Local Authority responsible officer (non-voting)
 Clerk to SACRE (non-voting)
 RE Consultant (non-voting)

Co-opted Members

Any other co-opted members agreed by SACRE.

7. The power to appoint members is vested in the LA in consultation with the appropriate bodies whose representatives comprise the SACRE.
8. Any member of SACRE unable to attend a meeting may appoint a named substitute to attend in his/her place.

Vacancies

9. In the event of a vacancy on SACRE the clerk shall
 - a. advise the relevant representative group of the vacancy;
 - b. refer any nomination from said group of a replacement member to the LA;
 - c. add the nominee's name to the membership of the SACRE upon receipt of the agreement of the LA.
10. Before appointing a person to represent any religion, denomination or associations as a member of the council, the LA shall take all reasonable steps to assure themselves that s/he is representative of the religion, denomination or associations in question.

11. A member of the council who was appointed by the LA may be removed from membership by the LA if, in their opinion, s/he ceases to be representative of the religion, denomination or associations which s/he was appointed to represent or (as the case may be) s/he ceases to be representative of the authority.
12. Where a faith group not currently represented on Committee A wishes to join SACRE, the representative will be asked to attend a SACRE meeting and present their request. SACRE will then refer the matter to the LA, recommending either approval of membership, or co-opting the representative, or rejection of the application, with reasons.
13. In the absence of nominees from a representative group, the LA may nominate and appoint any person that it considers to be representative of that group and it deems appropriate to fill that vacancy.

Term of Office

14. Appointments to SACRE shall generally be for a term of up to four years to be co-terminous with the term of office of members of Worcestershire Council.
15. The SACRE shall review the membership annually at the Autumn Term meeting.

End of Membership

16. A member shall be removed from SACRE if:
 - a. they reach the end of their term of office and have not been re-nominated;
 - b. they write to the SACRE or the Clerk and tender their resignation;
 - c. they were appointed by virtue of holding a particular office and they no longer hold that office;
 - d. they do not attend three consecutive meetings;
 - e. their representative group states, in writing that the member should no longer act as one of its representatives on the SACRE, where the member was nominated by the representative group;
 - f. the LA determines, on reasonable grounds, that the member is unable, unwilling or an unsuitable person to continue these duties.

Co-opted members

17. SACRE shall have the right to co-opt additional members. Co-opted members may take part in any of the discussions but do not belong to any of the groups and do not have voting rights.
18. Members of SACRE or a representative group should consider the following when co-options are decided. Candidates should:

- a. have some experience as religious educators;
 - b. have an inclusive view of the aims of religious education and collective worship;
 - c. where possible be representative of specific education phases, to provide a balanced spread across various phases.
19. SACRE will decide co-options following nominations from members of SACRE or representative groups.
20. Co-opted members shall hold office on such terms as may be determined at the time of co-option by the representative members. This may be for a fixed-term project, or for term of four years. There is no right of succession for co-opted members; SACRE shall agree through a vote if a replacement co-opted member is required and fulfils the stipulations from Para 18.

Voting

21. In general proceedings, routine decisions can be approved by SACRE members giving their consent. Matters of controversy, constitutional reform or significance, such as agreeing a revised Agreed Syllabus, should be dealt with by voting in groups, as in Para 22 below.
22. Each of the four groups on SACRE shall have one vote. Groups are to determine their own internal voting arrangements. Decisions within a group about how that vote is cast do not require unanimity. Each group is to regulate its own proceeding including provision for resolving deadlock.
23. A proposal shall not be deemed to be carried unless it has been approved by at least three of the four groups, unless otherwise required by law or guidance.
24. The validity of the proceedings of SACRE or of the members of SACRE of any particular category shall not be affected by a vacancy in the office of any member of SACRE, or on the ground that a member appointed to represent any religion, religious denomination or association does not at the time of the proceedings represent the religion, religious denomination or association in question.

Quorum

25. A quorum shall consist of one member from at least each of the four constituent groups with a total presence of no less than one third of the appointed members.

Chair and Vice-Chairs

26. The chair and two vice-chairs will be elected by the membership of SACRE for a period of two years, with the option for renewal, at the autumn meeting or any meeting during the year when the position is vacant. The term of office for each Vice-Chair will start a year apart to ensure continuity.

27. The chair and vice-chairs, where possible, will represent different groups of the SACRE.
28. Voting for the chair and vice-chairs will be by a simple majority within the council.
29. The chair will be responsible for
 - a. the management of meetings;
 - b. representing the SACRE to other bodies;
 - c. such other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.
30. The vice-chairs will be responsible for
 - a. deputising for the chair as required;
 - b. representing the SACRE to other bodies in the absence of the chair or in agreement with the chair;
 - c. such other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.

The Clerk

31. The LA shall appoint, fund and supervise a Clerk to:-
 - d. attend the full meetings of SACRE, any agenda-setting meeting and agreed syllabus conference meetings;
 - e. take appropriate minutes and notes at meetings;
 - f. maintain and update the records of SACRE and its meetings;
 - g. perform any other necessary administrative duties;
 - h. provide a copy of the minutes and papers of meeting to the members of SACRE and LA.

The LA officer

32. SACRE shall be supported by an Officer from the Children's Services Directorate who will:
 - a. attend each meeting;
 - b. represent the views of the LA at the meeting;
 - c. ensure that the LA provide sufficient funds for SACRE to perform its functions.

The RE consultant/Adviser

33. The RE consultant/adviser will:
 - a. attend each meeting of the SACRE and support the SACRE to fulfil its function in Worcestershire;
 - b. work with the chair, clerk and LA officer to prepare the SACRE agenda and any reports, papers or advice required;
 - c. will regularly report back to SACRE on work completed on behalf of SACRE;
 - d. provide expertise and advice in the areas of RE and collective worship.

Frequency of Meetings

34. There will normally be three SACRE meetings per year, one in each term. Meetings will be convened by the LA.
35. Special meetings may be called by the chair and LA acting jointly.
36. Details of the business to be considered by the meeting, which will be included in the agenda, must be received by the clerk not later than 10 school days before the meeting.
37. The clerk will, no later than 5 working days before the meeting, circulate the agenda and supporting papers to the members.

Convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference

38. Worcestershire LA is required to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to review the Agreed Syllabus every five years. An ASC may be requested to be convened by SACRE more frequently.
39. This conference will have the same composition as SACRE. There is no provision for co-opted members, however some individuals may be invited to all meetings of the conference and its groups in order to give their advice.

General

40. The SACRE may if it wishes establish working parties to take forward specific projects comprising representatives of each of the groups and the RE consultant. These working parties will report back to SACRE regularly.
41. The SACRE may if it wishes establish a Strategy Group to prepare proposals for SACRE, or to take forward agreed proposals. This group shall comprise representatives of each group and the RE consultant/adviser.
42. In accordance with the statutory requirements of the Education Act 1996 and associated regulations, the press and public will be entitled to attend meetings of the Council, but may be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of items containing information capable of being treated as exempt information if meetings of SACRE were meetings of a Local Authority.
43. Worcestershire will review this constitution every four years.

Membership

The membership shall consist of:-

- Group (A) two Roman Catholic representatives (nominated by the Roman Catholic hierarchy)
two free Church representatives (which could include non-conformists e.g. Baptist and Methodist)
one Muslim representative
one Jewish representative
one Hindu representative
one Sikh representative
one Buddhist representative
one ba'hai
up to four representatives of other faiths

- Group (B) Three Church of England representatives (nominated in consultation with the appropriate Diocesan Education Authorities)

- Group (C) Representatives of such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the Authority, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area

- Group (D) Three members of the Authority.

The Council may also include co-opted members appointed in accordance with paragraphs 17-20.

The number of members appointed to any representative group to represent each denomination or religion required to be represented shall, so far as is consistent with the efficient discharge of the groups function, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the County.