

Agenda

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Wednesday, 21 October 2015, 2.00 pm
County Hall, Worcester

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

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Wednesday, 21 October 2015, 2.00 pm, County Hall, Worcester

Membership:

Group A (Representatives of Christian and other faiths)

Mrs L Thorne (Ba'hai - Chairman), Mr G Bounds (Free Church Representative), Mrs T Khawaja (Muslim), Dr J Lally (Roman Catholic), Mr N Mills (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints), Mrs C Parker (Methodist) and Dr Y Stollard (Jewish)

Group B (Church of England Representatives)

Ms S Boulter, Mrs T Lister and Ms K Poole

Group C (Representatives of Recognised Teachers Associations)

Mr J Allison and Mr C Giles

Group D (Elected representatives of the Local Authority)

Mrs S Askin, Mr I Hopwood (Vice-Chairman) and Mr R C Lunn

Co-opted Representatives

Ms E Hill (University of Worcester) and Ms A Hooper (Humanist Representative)

Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	Apologies for Absence and Substitutions	
2	Declaration of Interests	
3	Confirmation of the Minutes	1 - 6
4	Feedback from Syllabus Conferences	7 - 12
5	2016 SACRE Conferences Stephen Pett will present a suggested programme outline.	
6	Future of SACRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas from Members for future activities • Suggestions from RE Today • Other sources of funding • Babcock 	

Agenda produced and published by Simon Mallinson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP

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All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website.

Date of Issue: Wednesday, 7 October 2015

Item No	Subject	Page No
7	Funding Proposal - Experience Interfaith A verbal update from Tracy Lister.	
8	The new Syllabus - A Tracking System developed by St Richard's Cof E First School To receive an update from Steph Boulter.	
9	Joint working with Herefordshire SACRE	
10	National RE News To receive an update from Stephen Pett.	
11	Feedback from Members An opportunity for Members to pass on any information or updates from their organisations, schools or churches.	
12	Any Other Business	
13	Future Meeting Dates 2016 Wednesday 16 March Thursday 9 June Tuesday 4 October All to take place at County Hall at 2.00pm	

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Tuesday, 9 June 2015, County Hall, Worcester - 2.00 pm

Minutes

Present:

Mrs L Thorne (Chairman), Mrs S Askin, Mr J Allison, Mr G Bounds, Mr C Giles, Mr I Hopwood, Dr J Lally, Mrs T Lister, Mr R Lunn, Mr N Mills, Mrs C Parker, Ms K Poole and Dr Y Stollard.

Also attended:

Barry Newton, Stephen Pett and Kate Griffiths.

524 Apologies and Declaration of Interests

Apologies were received from Stephanie Boulter and Ellie Hill.

There were no declarations of interest.

525 Chairman

Two nominations were received for the position of Chairman – Ian Hopwood and Lindsay Thorne.

Lindsay Thorne explained that she had been a member of SACRE for the last eight years as the Ba'hai representative. She was now retired but her working life had been spent in teaching; the last 15 years at Riverside School working with pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties. Throughout her career she had worked with all age ranges. She was a member of the National Body for the Ba'hai faith and a member of the REC Council. She was also a trustee for Pershore Youth Centre.

Ian Hopwood had been a District Councillor for 12 years in Malvern and a County Councillor for 2 years. He worshipped at St Matthias Church of England Church in Malvern. He had been instrumental in gaining the necessary funding for the SACRE syllabus; and looking to the future as there was the possibility of working more closely with Herefordshire SACRE he felt the Chairs of both SACREs could work together at a political level to achieve the best outcome.

After a secret ballot Lindsay Thorne received 8 votes and Ian Hopwood 5.

RESOLVED that Lindsay Thorne be elected as Chairman of SACRE for the next two years.

526 Vice-Chairman

The constitution allowed for 2 Vice Chairman to be appointed a year apart so there would be continuity. It was proposed and agreed that one Chairman be appointed and in a year's time SACRE could decide whether they wished to appoint a further Vice Chairman.

Ian Hopwood was nominated for Vice Chairman and as there were no objections and no further nominations, was appointed.

RESOLVED that Ian Hopwood be appointed as Vice Chairman for a period of two years.

The Outgoing Chairman

The new Chairman wished to record her thanks to Ani Choesang who had been Chairman of Worcestershire SACRE for the previous two years. She had been committed and made a difference - working hard to promote RE and support teachers in the County.

527 Confirmation of the Minutes

The attendance details of the previous minutes had been incorrect but had been corrected on the website. Otherwise the minutes were agreed to be a correct record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman asked about the Complaints procedure mentioned in the minutes and Barry Newton explained that the Legal Department had told him that the necessity for the procedure had been repealed even though the most recent Government toolkit had asked for it. Further investigation would take place and members would be informed of the outcome.

528 RE Conferences and Syllabus Launch

Stephen Pett showed the SACRE Members the printed version of the syllabus which was being distributed to schools. It was clarified that it had been agreed at the previous SACRE meeting that the syllabus would be available to all schools in Worcestershire without charge.

The members of SACRE who were teachers said the new syllabus was amazing. It could be picked up and used by teachers easily and would give them the confidence they needed to teach RE. It had moved on from what had been produced previously and was relevant to RE teaching today.

It was explained that Herefordshire SACRE were also in the process of launching the same syllabus, although it had been modified for Herefordshire as Worcestershire's had been modified to take into account middle schools.

There was a discussion around the distribution of the syllabus packs. All schools would be emailed an electronic version and those schools who had attended the conferences had been given one hard copy of the syllabus but Children's Services explained that they did not have the budget or staff to post the remaining packs to schools. They suggested a letter be sent requesting schools to pick up their copy. No other documents were posted to schools as everything was sent electronically. Members asked if it was possible to have a list of clusters or pyramids so the packs could be distributed to groups of schools but it was explained that clusters and schools working together were changing and so it was only practical to work off one master list of individual schools.

Conferences for primary and middle schools were held on 21 and 22 May and the feedback received was distributed. Most teachers rated the conferences as good or excellent

RE Today suggested running a further conference on 13 November for schools who had not been able to attend the initial dates. This would not be at a cost to SACRE because schools would pay for their attendance and RE Today would be able to advertise their additional schemes of work

RESOLVED that SACRE:

- a) **investigate whether they could afford to pay for the syllabus packs to be sent to all schools, otherwise schools would be sent an email encouraging them to pick up a syllabus,**
- b) **supported the proposal that RE Today run a further launch conference on 13 November 2015.**

529 National Association of SACREs

The invoice for the NASACRE annual subscription had been received. It was explained that NASACRE was the National body promoting the work of SACREs. SACRE Members confirmed that they believed it was a benefit to remain a member of NASACRE.

RESOLVED that Worcestershire SACRE confirmed that they wished to remain a member of NASACRE.

530 Proposal to Work more Closely with Herefordshire SACRE

Worcestershire SACRE already shared an advisor from RE Today and it was appreciated that joint conferences to support teachers could be a good idea but SACRE were unsure how further joint working could be of benefit.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Ani

Choesang had arranged a meeting with the Chairman of Hereford SACRE to discuss ideas. The Chairman confirmed that she would attend the meeting and feedback the ideas to SACRE members.

RESOLVED that the Chairman meet with the Chairman of Herefordshire SACRE to pursue any benefits of increased joint working.

531 RE and Collective Worship - LA Complaints procedure

As dealt with under Agenda Item 4 – Barry Newton would confirm if the procedure was needed under the new regulations and inform members.

532 Funding Strategy Group

No actions had been taken by the strategy group. The Chairman was aware that money was available from the Westhill Awards but they were looking for new ideas for projects which worked with Communities.

Members pointed out that it was important to identify what the money would be used for, there needed to be a benefit for teachers in Worcestershire rather than just an aim of gaining money.

RESOLVED that Tracey Lister and Norman Mills put together ideas which could be used for a funding proposal.

533 National RE News

Stephen Pett provided a report at the meeting showing that the numbers of pupils taking the short course had fallen by 70% between 2009 and 2015. Overall there had been a fall of 20% in pupils taking the full or short course. NATRE claimed this was due to government policies which did not include RE in the English Baccalaureate and only including full GCSEs in the average point score. Lots of schools only allowed 1 hour a week for the full course and from 2017 the course would be more rigorous so numbers were likely to fall further.

The APPG on RE was in the process of appointing a new Chairman and other MPs should be encouraged to join the group. Complaints had been sent to the Education Funding Agency about the fall in numbers of pupils and the fact that some schools were not doing any RE but no action had been taken.

NATRE News

- NATREs annual survey on RE in Secondary

	<p>Schools was available and teachers were urged to complete it,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new campaign to train RE Teachers had been launched called Beyond the Ordinary, • A guidance document on visits and visitors to schools was available on their website. <p>The new specifications for GCSE and A level were currently being developed and should be approved by Ofqual in August 2015.</p>
<p>534 The Future of SACRE</p>	<p>Barry Newton explained that the Council's Cabinet papers had just been published and Babcock Training had been identified as the preferred provider to take on Learning and Achievement. There was a 'cooling off' period until the end of June and then TUPE arrangements would be considered until the contact was due to begin on 1 October 2015.</p> <p>SACRE was a statutory function but the responsibility for it would go with the rest of Learning and Achievement to the new provider. Barry had completed a process map for how SACRE was organised at present so that the new provider was aware of what was expected. The new provider would be assessed against certain outcomes but they would probably be wide outcomes such as the number of 'good' schools in the county rather than being specifically concerned with SACRE or RE.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the update be noted and any further updates be passed to SACRE members before the next meeting.</p>
<p>535 Future Events 2015/16</p>	<p>As mentioned there would be a further conference organised by RE Today in November to launch the Agreed Syllabus. Network meetings would also be organised. Other future events would depend if further funding could be found.</p>
<p>536 Members Updates</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>537 Future Meeting Dates</p>	<p>The next meeting would be held on: Wednesday 21 October 2015 at County Hall Worcester.</p>

The meeting ended at 4.20 pm

Chairman

**Worcestershire SACRE Primary RE
Agreed Syllabus Launch 2015
EVALUATIONS**

Stanbrook Abbey 21 May 66 forms received, 80 delegates			
	excellent	good	satisfactory
Session 1: Planning great RE using the syllabus (65)	80%	18%	2%
Session 2: Excellent teaching and learning (66)	77%	21%	2%
Session 3: Achieving more in RE (63)	62%	35%	3%
Venue: how do you rate it? (65)	63%	31%	6%
Overall value of the conference	69%	30%	1%
Mercure Hotel, Kidderminster 22 May 23 forms received, 29 delegates			
	excellent	good	satisfactory
Session 1: Planning great RE using the syllabus (23)	47%	52%	
Session 2: Excellent teaching and learning (23)	52%	48%	
Session 3: Achieving more in RE (23)	26%	70%	4%
Venue: how do you rate it? (23)	43%	57%	
Overall value of the conference (21)	48%	52%	
<p>Comments on the revised syllabus: (representative selection)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fantastic! Love the open-ended questions that run through the and support from planning stages • Amazing! So open-ended, more engaging – great • Easy to read and fantastic list of ideas to implement strands and outcomes. • This is what we have been waiting for! Will transform our RE throughout the school • Love the three strands as they will promote deeper learning and encourage more creative thinking. Some great ideas shared for more creative ways to respond to questions/stories which could be applied across the curriculum. • Looks great and user-friendly. The aims and questions are clear and inspirational. • Excellent resources and update to planning for RE. • It looks very detailed and gives scope for teachers to include their own ideas and input. I like how the threads develop throughout the key stages. Clearly laid out and easy to follow. • I really like it – much clearer. Great that there is an EYFS section. • Very clear – like the key questions and how it ties in with other subjects in emerging, expected and exceeded. • User-friendly. Need to work out 2 year rolling plan as I have split year groups. • Fantastic – intelligent and relevant. Focus on enquiry is brilliant. Well set out and easy to use. • Well structured, easy to follow. Like colour coding and delighted with take away resources. • Much more helpful than previous. Well organised and thought out. • It has great potential to support non-specialists to deliver good quality RE • Brilliant – finally a really effective syllabus that will impact children’s learning. Clear and easy for <u>all</u> teachers • It is refreshing to have clear direction about curriculum coverage and assessment! • Fantastic start and SOW, however would have liked a finished package ready for September, especially if you have a SIAMS inspection in the Autumn term 			

Any further comments about the conference? (representative selection)

- Speakers were very enthusiastic and engaging. Content was all relevant.
 - Useful ideas, clear and helpful. Very informative.
 - Some lovely activities and fresh ideas for listening and child participation.
 - Great delivery of course materials; easy to listen to with clear explanations. Good to have time to talk to colleagues and ask questions.
 - Interesting activities that I know I will be able to transfer into the classroom.
 - Beautiful venue (Stanbrook).
 - Good time allowed for discussion and sharing ideas. Some good ideas shown and suggested. Thank you.
 - A great day – thank you!
- Venue: Stanbrook: lunch poor, no drinks and limited lunch. Marquee unsuitable – too bright so could not see screen. Too warm in afternoon. Very poor response to dietary requirements

Actions you will take to follow up from this conference (representative selection)

- Start training staff up on new curriculum
 - Explicit implementation of RE in the planning
 - Staff meeting to bring others up to date. Embed new schemes of work over next 12 months.
 - Staff meeting to introduce staff to new scheme. Staff to try out a 'key question' per term during the coming year.
 - Implement suggested revisions to RE in my school. Make RE more engaging in all year groups!
 - Staff meeting to share syllabus, planning meetings to use the syllabus within our RE teaching
 - Organise long term/medium term planning for following new syllabus across school. In-school training for staff.
- Consider current planning and how to move to new agreed syllabus whilst retaining best of current practice

Suggestions/requests for future support in Worcestershire (representative selection)

- Practical lesson activities in the classroom; workshops or training day to see what good/outstanding RE looks like
- Follow-up RE co-ordinator meeting around December to see how new curriculum is going.
- A 'follow-up' in 12 months' time to share good practice, tips, frustrations etc.
- An RE conference yearly to keep co-ordinators updated
- More cross-Worcestershire events for RE
- More assessment info when available.
- Additional training for class teachers, perhaps a half day looking at sequence of learning
- Network meetings in local areas – share ideas and planning
- List of recommended places of worship/visitors to school to contact for schools.
- Support advisers for faith groups
- Names and contacts for visits to mandir, mosque, Buddhist centre, synagogue, sikh temple. Our parents require reassurance that their children are being exposed to recognised and accredited bodies.
- Bank of 'experts' we can contact to deliver multi-faith arts/drama/creative etc.
- Mixed age support
- I can statements included
- Outcomes split into lower KS2 and upper KS2
- Continued refreshers for RE co-ordinators, keeping it all fresh.
- Resources that can be borrowed eg religious artefacts – where to get these
- Edulink needs to contain up to date info including courses

Introducing the new Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus ***Making the most of RE: better teaching, better learning***

Friday 13 November 2015, Worcester

1.00-4.30pm

Earlier this year, Worcestershire SACRE introduced the new agreed syllabus for RE at two day conferences. This half-day training session offers an abridged version of the day conference to introduce teachers to the new Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus. It will focus on practical classroom ideas and strategies, enabling teachers to get to grips with the new syllabus and how to apply it in their schools.

12.45 Registration and refreshments

1.00-2.30 Planning great RE using the new syllabus

This session will consider the place and value of RE for pupils, highlighting the developments and opportunities in the new syllabus. It will demonstrate how to use the syllabus to plan and teach engaging, thoughtful RE

Break - refreshments

3.00-4.30 Excellent teaching and learning

This session will offer at least four high quality teaching and learning ideas, based on the syllabus, to deepen pupils' understanding and skills, and promote spiritual development. They will demonstrate some ways of applying different methods of assessment, to enable pupils to make good progress in RE.

Copies of all resources used on the day will be available to take away, and electronic copies available to download afterwards. A wide range of resources will be available to purchase or order on the day.

Who is it for?

The conference is aimed at teachers of RE from primary schools, including subject leaders, HLTAs and head teachers. It will also be valuable for governors to find out about the new syllabus.

Aims

- To introduce the new Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for RE, with its increased flexibility and extra support for planning RE
- To provide practical strategies, guidance and resources for teachers and subject leaders in planning creative, challenging, thoughtful RE to promote the personal development of pupils
- To inspire teachers and help them to develop their confidence in planning and delivering RE, whether in the context of cross-curriculum themes, RE days or discrete RE lessons.
- To model examples of thoughtful RE, challenging all pupils and promoting deeper thinking

Fee:

£55 or £100 for two teachers from the same school, including refreshments and resources

Venue will be in or near Worcester, and will be confirmed nearer the time.

Booking details attached. Please send to mark@retoday.org.uk or post to RE Today Services, 1020 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LB

Feedback from the summer full-day version of this training include the following comments:

Comments on the revised syllabus: (representative selection)

- Fantastic! Love the open-ended questions that run through the and support from planning stages
- Amazing! So open-ended, more engaging – great
- Easy to read and fantastic list of ideas to implement strands and outcomes.
- This is what we have been waiting for! Will transform our RE throughout the school
- Love the three strands as they will promote deeper learning and encourage more creative thinking. Some great ideas shared for more creative ways to respond to questions/stories which could be applied across the curriculum.
- Looks great and user-friendly. The aims and questions are clear and inspirational.
- Excellent resources and update to planning for RE.
- It looks very detailed and gives scope for teachers to include their own ideas and input. I like how the threads develop throughout the key stages. Clearly laid out and easy to follow.
- I really like it – much clearer. Great that there is an EYFS section.
- Brilliant – finally a really effective syllabus that will impact children’s learning. Clear and easy for all teachers

Further comments about the conference (representative selection)

- Speakers were very enthusiastic and engaging. Content was all relevant.
- Useful ideas, clear and helpful. Very informative.
- Some lovely activities and fresh ideas for listening and child participation.
- Great delivery of course materials; easy to listen to with clear explanations. Good to have time to talk to colleagues and ask questions.
- Interesting activities that I know I will be able to transfer into the classroom.
- Good time allowed for discussion and sharing ideas. Some good ideas shown and suggested. Thank you.
- A great day – thank you!

**Booking form:
Worcestershire SACRE Primary Agreed Syllabus Launch Training
Friday 13 November 2015**

Fee: £55 or £100 for two teachers from the same school

I would like to book for Friday 13 November in Worcester		<input type="checkbox"/>
Full Name:		
School Name:		
School Address:		
	Postcode:	
Telephone:		
Email address:		
Special Dietary Requirements		
Payment details:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please invoice the school	
Invoice/ Credit Card billing address:		
	Postcode:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a cheque, payable to RE Today Services	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will pay by Visa, Mastercard or Switch	
Card number:		
Expiry Date:		Start Date:
Security code (last 3 numbers on signature strip)		Issue no. (Switch)
Signature:		
Date:		

Send to: RE Today Services, 1020 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6LB
 Telephone: 0121 472 4242 Fax: 0121 472 7575
Email to: mark@retoday.org.uk

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