

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 7 March 2013.

PRESENT: Mr S C Manion (Chairman), Mrs N Younosi (Vice-Chairman), Ms K Burke, Mrs S Clark, Mrs V Corbyn, Mrs A Donnelly, Mrs C Elapatha, Mrs P Fairchild, Mrs J Grant, Miss S Malone, Mr M Papadopoulos, Mr S Platnauer, Miss S Shaw, Miss R Walters, Miss J Webb, Mrs J Wigg, Mr M J Northey, Mr M J Vye, Laura Cheval (Substitute for Miss T Kelvie) and Ms Clare Holden (Substitute for Miss T Kelvie)

ALSO PRESENT: Ms S Dunn and Mr P Williams from Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services (DAVSS)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Leeson (Corporate Director Education, Learning and Skills Directorate), Mr A Foster (Consultant) and Mrs A Hunter (Principal Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

Chairman

Mrs Younosi chaired the meeting until the arrival of Mr Manion.

31. Membership *(Item 1)*

It was reported that Helen Jones, a member of Group 2 (Church of England) had resigned and would be replaced by Katy Anderson. Katy Anderson will be formally welcomed at the next meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

32. Minutes *(Item 4)*

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2012 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Vice- Chairman.

Matters Arising

Schools were asked to submit any claims for supply cover as soon as possible (minute 23 (5)).

Mr Foster confirmed that he was due to meet Mrs Sue Rogers to discuss how best to advise schools of the new Agreed Syllabus.

It was agreed to show SACRE members how to access the Agreed Syllabus on line at the SACRE meeting scheduled for 19 November 2013.

The link to Agreed Syllabus and non-statutory guidance on Kenttrustweb is:

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/ask8/ask8_primary_re_syllabus.cfm

33. The State and Status of RE and the role of SACRE in Kent - Mr P Leeson - Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills
(Item 5)

Mr Leeson, Corporate Director Education, Learning and Skills

Mr Leeson started his presentation by saying there was an expectation that all schools nationally would teach the new national curriculum from 2014, the Government was not proposing to change the statutory basis of the curriculum and Religious Education (RE) would therefore retain its statutory and important status. He said, as had been acknowledged in the SACRE annual report, that there had been changes to the structure of Ofsted inspections and while RE along with other subjects had not been individually inspected since the 1990s, Ofsted continued to inspect the provision of an act of collective worship and RE within schools and in particular the social, spiritual, cultural and moral development of pupils.

Mr Leeson said that the quality of education in Kent schools was improving overall but it was variable and therefore the quality of RE teaching and collective worship also varied between schools. He acknowledged the key role of SACRE in retaining the focus on RE and collective worship and said the Kent SACRE was particularly active, kept itself up to date and had produced a high quality Agreed Syllabus.

Mr Leeson went on to say that he and his team continued to support and listen to the views of SACRE, although there were fewer people in the team and fewer subject specialists the LA was committed to school improvement and was pro active in relation to education. He said 49 school partnership hubs had been established and were working together collaboratively and sharing best practices to improve outcomes for children in all areas of the curriculum and in particular to improve GCSE results and achievement at KS2.

Mr Leeson said that all GCSE subjects were being reviewed and the eBAC might have an effect on some curriculum areas but no head teacher intended to narrow the curriculum. It would be wrong to assume that increased diversification (new options at KS4, vocational qualifications etc) would change what is delivered to pupils as the core curriculum.

Miss Walters raised concerns about the profile of RE in CPD training for primary schools and sought assurance that budgetary support for advanced skills teachers and development and support would continue. In response Mr Leeson said that the national curriculum had been reviewed and although the intention had been to be less prescriptive the programmes of study for English, Science and Maths for every key stage were very detailed. He went on to say that the teaching of RE and the Agreed Syllabus had not been neglected and that he would make sure that teachers were supported to deliver these new programmes of study.

In response to a question from Mr Platnauer, Mr Leeson said that 62% of Kent schools were good or better, many schools were improving rapidly and it was important to retain a clear view of what was needed. He said he had made £12 million worth of savings to the education budget during his first year in post and it was important to focus on right elements and target resources where they had the greatest impact on school improvement.

Mrs Younosi said not all schools had expertise to teach faiths other than Christian and that Islam, Sikhism and other religions needed to be taught with sympathy and understanding.

In response to a questions about the monitoring of standards and the teaching of the Agreed Syllabus Mr Leeson said that every school's annual report should include information about how its statutory requirements were being met, additional information could also be obtained through surveys and questionnaires and that in the coming year it would be possible to gather information about how schools are using the Agreed Syllabus. He further said that the LA had direct communication channels with schools and that training in the Agreed Syllabus would be offered as part of the CPD programme.

Mr Foster outlined issues SACRE had experienced communicating with schools and said there had been a poor response to a survey conducted by SACRE. He then thanked Mr Leeson for his presentation.

34. SACRE Budget Summary Jan 2013

(Item 6)

Mr Foster explained the budget summary set out at page 7 of the agenda. It was hoped that the apparent under-spend at the end of January would not result in further cuts to the SACRE budget for 2013/14.

Agreed to:

- (a) Note the budget.
- (b) Consider the final budget figure for 2012/13 at the next SACRE Steering Group meeting on 20 May 2013.

35. Draft Constitution

(Item 7)

Mr Foster said that Kent County Council's Legal Services had reviewed the draft constitution and their comments had been included in the draft constitution circulated with the papers.

Agreed to adopt the Constitution set out in pages 9-15 of the agenda subject to the replacement of "two" with the number 2 in paragraph 11.

36. Development Plan

(Item 8)

Mr Foster introduced the plan. He said it was a working plan that would be updated from time to time and that SACRE was on target to deliver all the items scheduled for

January – March 2013. Mr Foster reported feedback on the schools survey – see appendix for detail.

In response to questions he said that he would provide feedback to the next SACRE meeting about his visits to 6 primary and 3 secondary schools.

Agreed to adopt the Development Plan set out on pages 17-24.

37. Kent Youth SACRE - Working Group Update

(Item 9)

In absence of Mr Tyson it was reported that Youth SACRE was planned for October 2013, it was hoped that Kent Youth County Council would be able to facilitate and chair the Youth SACRE meeting, and that an application to Westhill for funding for the event would be submitted. Mr Tyson is currently working on the agenda and invitation with a view to circulating them to schools in the current academic year.

38. Website Working Group Update

(Item 10)

Mr Platnauer said the R.E. pages on the 'kenttrustweb' website should be used in conjunction with the Agreed Syllabus, that the links on it could be improved and asked all SACRE members to advise him of websites pertinent to their particular faith. It was agreed to include links to the website within these minutes

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/ask8/ask8_primary_re.cfm

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/ask8/ask8_secondary_re.cfm

39. Overview of National and Local Developments

(Item 11)

(i) RE Quality Mark

Discussion of this item was deferred to the next meeting.

(ii) Westhill Awards

Agreed that Mr Foster would submit an application for funding towards the Youth SACRE to be held in October 2013.

(iii) NASACRE – AGM

The Clerk asked that anyone wishing to attend advised her as soon as possible.

(iv) Culham St. Gabriel's Leadership weekend

The Clerk drew attention to this event to be held on 28-29 September 2013 at Wokefield Park Conference Centre, Reading.

40. Meeting Dates

(Item 12)

SACRE meetings will be held as follows:

Wednesday, 26 June 2013 – Gurdwara, Gravesend at 9.30am

Tuesday, 19 November 2013 – Darent Room, County Hall, Maidstone at 9.30am

Briefing meetings will be held at Oakwood House, Maidstone on
Monday, 20 May 2013 at 9.30am
Monday 21 October 2013.at 9.30am

41. Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent
(Item 13)

Mr Foster advised that a draft Framework for Review of the National Curriculum was available for consultation on the DfE website but the framework does not include RE and Personal, Health and Social Education (PHSE).

42. Guest Speakers - Sue Dunn/ Merle Bigden - Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service (DAVSS)
(Item 14)

Sue Dunn (Chief Executive) and Peter Williams gave a presentation on the service they offered to victims of domestic abuse. Information about the service is online at <http://www.restoredrelationships.org/resources/>.

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Kent SACRE Survey summary Religious education & Collective Worship in Primary schools

Total number of responses: 99

1. In the academic year 2012-13 will the school meet the legal requirement to teach RE to all pupils?

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 99 |
| No | |

2. How is RE delivered in your school?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Discrete lessons | 99 |
| Within cross curricular topics | 12 |
| Off timetable RE days / half days | 28 |
| Not taught | |

3. Which approach is used most commonly in each year group?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Discrete lessons | 99 |
| Within cross curricular topics | 25 |
| Off timetable RE days / half days | 12 |
| Not taught | |

4. How much time is used to deliver RE in your school?

| | KS1 | LowerKS2 | Upper KS2 |
|---------------------------|-----|----------|-----------|
| Less than 1 hr per week | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| About 1 hour per week | 78 | 78 | 78 |
| More than 1 hour per week | 12 | 12 | 12 |

5. Who teaches RE in your school

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Class teacher | 74 |
| PPA teacher | 14 |
| Head Teacher | 2 |
| HLTA | 9 |

The Revised Agreed Syllabus

6. How confident are you about implementing the recently revised Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE (2012)?

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Very confident | 18 |
| Confident | 41 |
| Confident in some aspects | 18 |
| Unsure in some aspects | 10 |
| Not confident | 4 |

7. How far do you think your school will have got in implementing the RE syllabus by the end of the 2012 – 13 academic year?

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Fully implemented | 55 |
| Partially implemented | 39 |
| Many aspects still to be implemented | 5 |

CPD and teacher support

8. What are the key training needs for teachers of RE in your school?

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Planning RE | 38 |
| Cross curricular RE | 18 |
| Spiritual development | 9 |
| Assessment | 34 |
| Creativity in RE | 2 |
| Developing thinking skills through RE | 4 |
| RE and values | |
| Subject knowledge | 18 |

Collective Worship

The following question should be answered ONLY by 'Community Schools' and 'Academies which are not of a religious character'

9. Does your school comply with legal requirements to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character?

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 45 |
| No | |

Your school

10. Do you have examples of good or excellent RE in your school?

| | |
|----------|----|
| Yes | 15 |
| Not sure | 18 |
| No | |

Religious education and Collective Worship in Secondary schools

Number of Schools: 17

1. In the academic year 2012-13 does the school meet the legal requirement to teach RE to all pupils?

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 15 |
| No | 2 |

2. In 2012-13 the curriculum time allocated to RE is

| | |
|----------------|--|
| KS3 | 15 schools: 38 hrs, 2 schools 15 – 24 hrs |
| KS4 | 16 schools : 38 hrs, 1 school less than 24 hrs |
| Post 16 | 10 schools : 12 – 40 hrs, 1 school no RE, 4 schools no 16+ |

The Revised Agreed Syllabus

3. How confident are you about implementing the recently revised Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE (2012)?

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Very confident | 7 |
| Confident | 3 |
| Confident in some aspects | 2 |
| Unsure in some aspects | |
| Not confident | 5 |

4. How far do you think your school will have got in implementing the RE syllabus by the end of the 2012 – 13 academic year?

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Fully implemented | 8 |
| Partially implemented | 3 |
| Many aspects still to be implemented | 6 |

Accredited courses

5. In 2011 - 2012 were students entered for Full Course GCSE?

If so, please show the number of entries

9/17 whole cohort entered

7/17 one or two groups entered

1 /17 no entries

6. In 2011 - 2012 were students entered for Short Course GCSE?

If so, please show the number of entries

8/17 full cohort entered

9/17 no entries

7. What total curriculum time (in hours) is allocated to GCSE courses?

| Course | Hours |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Full Course | All at least 80 hrs |
| Short Course | All about 40 hrs |

CPD and teacher support

8. What are the key training needs for teachers of RE in your school? (Tick more than one as appropriate)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Planning RE | Most |
| Cross curricular RE | some |
| Spiritual development | some |
| Assessment | all |
| Creativity in RE | none |
| Developing thinking skills through RE | few |
| RE and values | few |
| Subject knowledge | most |

Collective Worship

The following question should be answered ONLY by 'Community Schools' and 'Academies which are not of a religious character'

9. Does your school comply with legal requirements to provide a daily Act of Collective Worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character?

| | |
|-----|--------|
| Yes | 3 / 10 |
| No | 7 / 10 |

Your school

10. Do you have examples of good or excellent RE in your school?

| | |
|----------|----|
| Yes | 10 |
| Not sure | 4 |
| No | |

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