

AGENDA

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: **Monday 28 March 2011**

Time: **2.00 pm**

Place: **The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road,
Hereford HR1 1SH**

Notes: Please note the **time, date** and **venue** of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

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Agenda for the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Membership

Chairman	Councillor J Stone	
Vice-Chairman		
	Councillor WU Attfield	The Local Authority
	Mrs. C. Ault	Bahai faith
	Mrs L Barker	Secondary School Teachers
	Revd. P. Barlow	Church of England
	Mr. P. Bowen	Church of England
	Mrs S Bryant	Church of England
	Ani-La Choesang	Buddhist
	Mrs A. Daniel	Primary School Teachers
	Councillor Brig P Jones CBE	The Local Authority
	Mrs Gurmit Jutle	Sikh Faith
	Rev DT Meachem	Churches Together in Herefordshire
	Sr. D. O'Donnell	Roman Catholic Church
	Mr. Z. Pandor	Muslim Faith
	Ms D Vickress	Special Education School Teachers
	Ms C Wolfe	Jewish Faith
Non Voting	Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins	Co-opted member
	Ms. K. Mayclothling	Co-Opted Member
	Miss Allyson Taylor	Co-opted Member

GUIDANCE ON DECLARING PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

The Council's Members' Code of Conduct requires Councillors to declare against an Agenda item(s) the nature of an interest and whether the interest is personal or prejudicial. Councillors have to decide first whether or not they have a personal interest in the matter under discussion. They will then have to decide whether that personal interest is also prejudicial.

A personal interest is an interest that affects the Councillor more than most other people in the area. People in the area include those who live, work or have property in the area of the Council. Councillors will also have a personal interest if their partner, relative or a close friend, or an organisation that they or the member works for, is affected more than other people in the area. If they do have a personal interest, they must declare it but can stay and take part and vote in the meeting.

Whether an interest is prejudicial is a matter of judgement for each Councillor. What Councillors have to do is ask themselves whether a member of the public – if he or she knew all the facts – would think that the Councillor's interest was so important that their decision would be affected by it. If a Councillor has a prejudicial interest then they must declare what that interest is. A Councillor who has declared a prejudicial interest at a meeting may nevertheless be able to address that meeting, but only in circumstances where an ordinary member of the public would be also allowed to speak. In such circumstances, the Councillor concerned will have the same opportunity to address the meeting and on the same terms. However, a Councillor exercising their ability to speak in these circumstances must leave the meeting immediately after they have spoken.

AGENDA

	Pages
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence.	
2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY) To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
3. MINUTES To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2010.	1 - 4
4. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY) To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public.	
5. SACRE MEMBERSHIP To report the following changes to the SACRE Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reverend David Meachem, leader of the Methodist circuit of Herefordshire, has been appointed as the Free Church Member on Group A. Reverend Meachem was nominated by Churches Together in Herefordshire.• Mrs Angela Daniel has been appointed as the full voting Member to represent Primary School Teachers on Group C. Mrs Daniel was formerly a non-voting co-opted teaching Member.• Miss Allyson Taylor, Headteacher, St Mary's Fownhope, has been appointed non-voting co-opted teaching Member.	
6. NEW AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RE - UPDATE Following formal agreement of the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, SACRE will receive an update on progress in producing the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education for introduction into schools in September 2011.	
7. SACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2011 To update SACRE on arrangements being made for the launch of the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE at the SACRE Annual Conference on 8 June 2011 at the Queen Elizabeth Humanities College, Bromyard.	
8. SACRE BUDGET 2011/12 To receive an outline of the 2011/12 budgetary position for SACRE.	
9. NASACRE/WESTHILL AWARDS 2011/12 To seek SACRE's support in submitting a funding bid to NASACRE/Westhill Awards 2011/12 for a Local Young Inter-Faith project.	

10. GOVERNMENT EDUCATION STRATEGY- IMPLICATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	5 - 6
To receive an update on the latest position concerning the government education strategy and consider possible implications for Religious Education.	
11. PROVISION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS 2010-2011	7 - 8
To report the findings following the School Improvement Partnership (SIP) survey into Schools provision for RE.	
12. MINDFULNESS IN SCHOOLS PROJECT	
Ani-La Choesang to inform SACRE about her involvement in the 'Mindfulness in Schools Project'.	
13. FUTURE MEETING DATES	
To note that future meetings of SACRE have been programmed for 2.00pm at the Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford, on the following dates:	
Wednesday 6 July 2011	
Monday 21 November 2011	
Monday 19 March 2012	

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Monday 22 November 2010 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Stone (Chairman)

Councillor WU Attfield, Mrs C Ault, Mrs L Barker, Revd. P. Barlow, Mr. P. Bowen, Mrs S Bryant, Ani-La Choesang, Mrs A Daniel, Councillor Brig P Jones CBE, Mrs G Jutle, Ms. K. Mayglothling, Mrs S McCamley and Ms C Wolfe

In attendance: Councillors WLS Bowen (Chairman, Children's Services Scrutiny Committee)

44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from: Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins; Sr. D O'Donnell and Mr Z Pandor.

45. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no named substitutes.

46. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held 5 July 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

47. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No written questions had been received.

48. RESIGNATION OF THE FREE CHURCH MEMBER

Rev L Rickards

The Democratic Services Officer reported that Rev L Rickards, Free Church representative on Committee A, had resigned due to work commitments and that a nomination had been sought from Herefordshire Churches Together.

SACRE thanked Rev Rickards for his contribution to the work of SACRE.

Mrs S McCamley

Mrs Sally McCamely, announced that this would be her last meeting as Primary Sector teacher Member on Committee C as she would be leaving Stoke Prior Primary School at the end of December to take up the post of Deputy Director Schools Officer with the Diocese of Hereford Board of Education.

On behalf of SACRE the Chairman thanked Mrs McCamley for her commitment to education in the County, the promotion of multi-faith events and for her valuable contribution to the work of SACRE over the years. SACRE wished her continued success in her new post.

RESOLVED that the resignations be noted.

49. RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS IN 2010

SACRE considered the Religious Studies examination results for the 2010 academic year for Herefordshire.

The Lead Officer for SACRE presented her report and highlighted a number of strengths in the 2010 examination outcomes namely:

- An increased number of entries for the CGCSE full course;
- A continued rise in the percentage of high grades gained at GCSE full course;
- An increased number of entries for A-Level; and
- A 100% pass rate at A-Level in the school sixth form that offered A-Level.

She commented that the picture was confused by the variations in entry policy in schools for the short or full course examinations. However, when compared to previous years, the overall picture was good. She confirmed that all secondary schools had entered pupils for examination.

On considering the results the following principal points were noted:

- SACRE congratulated the high schools, and in particular the John Kyrle High School, on achieving the improved results and requested that the Chairman write to the schools to convey SACREs congratulations.
- SACRE were pleased to note that 69% of candidates at the Hereford Sixth Form College had gained A*-C in Theology.
- while attainment in the short course was below the national average this may be due to the increased numbers taking the full course and that schools were directing high attaining pupils towards the full GCSE examination.
- Questioned whether the increase in performance had been down to any one area of improvement SACRE were informed that the increase was probably due to pupils enjoying the learning experience and the high quality of teaching.

RESOLVED: that the improved results be noted and the Chairman write to the high schools to congratulate them on the improved 2010 Religious Studies results.

50. SACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

SACRE received a report on the SACRE Annual RE Conference held 30 September 2010 at the new Earl Mortimer College, Leominster.

The Lead Officer for SACRE reported that RE Today had provided an excellent, busy and varied programme that balanced a wealth of practical and creative ideas with opportunities for teachers to discuss and work together. Feedback from the event evaluation forms indicated that the key note talk had been very highly rated and other sessions had been rated as good or excellent.

She further reported that staff at the Earl Mortimer College had been most helpful and welcoming. Thanks to the generosity of the college in hosting the event the conference had been able to stay within budget.

Through Councillor Brig. P Jones SACRE thanked the Earl Mortimer College for hosting the conference and for helping to make it the success that it had been. They also thanked the professionals at RE Today for the excellent thought provoking and inspiring presentations/workshops which had been enjoyed by all.

SACRE briefly considered the 2011 conference which for budgetary reasons will have to be combined with a new Agreed Syllabus launch conference earlier in the year. This

would be further debated at the Agreed Syllabus Conference meeting immediately following this meeting.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

51. DRAFT HEREFORDSHIRE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT - ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/10

SACRE considered the draft SACRE Annual Report for the academic year September 2009 to July 2010 prior to submission to QCDA.

The Democratic Services Officer presented the draft for consideration and highlighted that the examination statistics discussed earlier in the meeting, together with any comment made by SACRE, would be added to the report. He also requested that SACRE provide guidance on any comment it wished to amend or include under the 'summary' section. Members agreed to provide the Democratic Services Officer with any comment within the next few days for consideration.

RESOLVED: That subject to the inclusion of the examination statistics and any suggested commentary under the 'summary' section, the Annual Report be approved for submission to QCDA.

The meeting ended at 2.30 pm

CHAIRMAN

GOVERNMENT EDUCATION STRATEGY – IMPLICATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Report By: Lead Officer for SACRE

Purpose

To receive an update on the latest position concerning the government education strategy and consider possible implications for Religious Education.

Report

1. **The Education White Paper, *The Importance of Teaching***

In the White Paper the government outlines among its proposals its intention to reform the school curriculum, qualifications and Ofsted inspection.

2. **2011 Review of the National Curriculum**

The Secretary of State has set up an expert group to review the National Curriculum. There will be a phased timetable for the implementation of new programmes of study, core subjects and PE from 2012 and other subjects from 2014. The programmes of study will specify the core knowledge and understanding expected for each subject at each key stage. Schools will decide how to teach the programmes, there will be no guidance requiring particular approaches and the Government proposes to abolish the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA).

Religious Education is NOT included in the remit for the review. The DfE states that this exclusion is due to the nature of the programmes of study for RE that are locally agreed to reflect local circumstances.

Additionally, the DfE states in the remit for the review that the Government does not intend to make any changes to the statutory basis for religious education.

The National Curriculum will represent a benchmark core curriculum. Academies and Free Schools will retain the freedom they have currently to depart from aspects of the National Curriculum although they are required to teach a broad and balanced curriculum.

All state schools will be held accountable for their performance in tests and exams which will reflect the National Curriculum.

3. **School performance tables - a new national measure for comparing secondary school performance, the English Baccalaureate**

This academic year when the government published the test and examination results for schools they included a new measure for judging the success of secondary schools, the English Baccalaureate. The publication of this measure was in advance of the finalisation of their proposal to establish an English Baccalaureate, an award for students who achieve GCSE passes at grades A*-C in 5 traditional subjects, English, mathematics, science, a modern or classical language and a humanities subject.

Religious Studies was NOT included in the list of eligible humanities subjects.

4. Ofsted inspection focus

The current Ofsted Framework inspects schools under 27 headings, many reflecting previous government initiatives. From September 2011 Ofsted will focus inspection on 4 aspects: pupil achievement, the quality of teaching, leadership and management and the behaviour and safety of pupils.

5. Implications for religious education

RE teachers and the RE community including NASACRE have been campaigning in recent months, urging the Secretary of State to recognise religious studies full GCSE as an eligible humanities subject for the English Baccalaureate.

Areas of concern for the RE community include:

- the risk of reduced GCSE provision of religious studies;
- the risk of a diminished status for RE in the curriculum;
- the focus on knowledge not skills in the remit for the revised National Curriculum;
- the risk of school non-compliance with the statutory requirement to teach RE;
- the risk of reduced funding on local authorities' support for SACREs.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT SACRE note the position and that it be kept informed of any further developments concerning Religious Education arising from changes to the governments education strategy.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

PROVISION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS 2010-2011

Report By: Lead Officer for SACRE

Purpose

1. To report the findings following the School Improvement Partnership (SIP) survey into 'Schools provision for RE'.

Report

Primary schools

2. The response to the survey conducted by school improvement partners was small representing 27 out of 82 primary schools. All schools use the Agreed Syllabus as the base for planning schemes of work except in schools that use the syllabus of the RC Archdiocese.
3. Half of the schools responding (13) judge that the RE curriculum and teaching in their school is outstanding. A recent SIAS or Ofsted inspection had confirmed this view in most of these schools. A further 25% judge that the RE curriculum and teaching in their school is good. No school expressed concern about the quality of provision of RE.
4. In more than half the schools non specialists, usually the class teachers, deliver RE lessons and in some cases the quality of their teaching is outstanding.
5. The support of a headteacher or effective and enthusiastic co-ordinator committed to RE appears to be a factor in promoting good provision and teaching.
6. The take up of training and networking opportunities varies. One school identified a wish for support in teaching mixed age classes.

Secondary schools

7. Just over half the schools responded to the SIP survey, 8 out of 13. All schools responding use the Agreed Syllabus as the base for planning schemes of work except St Mary's where the syllabus of the RC Archdiocese is used.
8. Some high schools have more than one specialist RE teacher. Only one school does not have a degree level specialist teacher but their RE co-ordinator is highly committed and engaged in training opportunities. All schools responding judge the quality of teaching and learning to be at least good and in several cases outstanding.
9. The great majority of schools teach and enter all students for GCSE accreditation in religious studies. Attainment is generally above national averages.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT SACRE note the report and comment upon the result of the survey.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

