

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: **Monday, 10th December, 2007**

Time: **2.00 p.m.**

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

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

For any further information please contact:

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**County of Herefordshire
District Council**

AGENDA

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

To: Councillor J Stone (Chairman)

Councillor WU Attfield, Mrs. C. Ault, Revd. P. Barlow, Mr. P. Bowen, Mrs. J. Brown, Mrs A Daniel, Councillor P Jones CBE, Miss L Langstaff, Ms A Manghan, Ms. K. Mayglothling, Mrs S McCamley, Mrs. G. Morris, Mr Z Pandor, Rev L Rickards, Mr M. Rollnick and Revd. I. Terry

	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 2nd July 2007.	1 - 6
4. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY) To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public.	
5. INTRODUCTION TO THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLES PLAN To receive an overview of the Children and Yong People's Plan for Herefordshire.	
6. MULTI-FAITH EVENT 2007 AND POSSIBLE FUTURE EVENT To receive a report on the 2007 Multi-faith event held on 25th & 26th September 2007 and to consider the possibility of a future event.	
7. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXAMINATION RESULTS 2007 To report the Religious Education examination results for pupils in Herefordshire.	7 - 10
8. ANNUAL PROGRAMME OF INSET 2008 To report upon the annual programme of INSET training.	
9. SACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007 To receive a report on the SACRE Annual Conference 2007.	
10. PROPOSALS FOR THE SACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008 To suggest proposals for a SACRE Annual Conference 2008.	

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| <p>11. UPDATE ON THE NEW SECONDARY CURRICULUM - RE</p> <p>To receive an update on the Secondary Curriculum launched in July 2007.</p> | <p>11 - 14</p> |
| <p>12. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP GUIDANCE 'FINDING TREASURE'</p> <p>To receive an update on progress relating to the Collective Worship guidance 'Finding Treasure'.</p> | |
| <p>13. DRAFT HEREFORDSHIRE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT - ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/07</p> <p>To comment on the draft SACRE Annual Report for the academic year September 2006 to July 2007 prior to submission to QCA.</p> | <p>15 - 16</p> |
| <p>14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>To note that the next meeting is scheduled for 2.00pm on Monday 3rd March 2008 at Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford.</p> | |

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT 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, 2nd July, 2007 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor J Stone (Chairman)

Councillor WU Atfield, Mrs. C. Ault, Revd. P. Barlow, Mr. P. Bowen, Mrs. J. Brown, Councillor P Jones CBE, Miss L Langstaff, Ms. K. Mayglothing, Rev L Rickards and Revd. I. Terry

In attendance: Students from Wigmore High School: Miss L Wells, Miss E Pearson, Master A. Neilson and Master L Vincent.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs A Daniel, Mrs S McCamley, Mr Z Pandor and Mr M Rollnick.

2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no named substitutes.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting held 5th March 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No written questions had been received.

5. SACRE MEMBERSHIP - UPDATE

The Democratic Services Officer updated SACRE on its membership.

He reported that following the May local elections the Council had re-appointed (to Committee D) Councillors: J Stone (Chairman) and Mrs WU Atfield. Councillor Brig P Jones CBE had been appointed to replace Mr P Harling who had not stood for re-election. He also reported that in accordance with SACREs request the Local Authority had appointed Mrs A Daniel as a co-opted member. Notice had been received from Fr. C Marrison that he was unable to continue as the Roman Catholic member (Committee A) and a replacement was being sought. Efforts would continue to obtain a replacement Sikh member.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

6. SACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE - UPDATE

Due to transport arrangements and to enable the students to return to school the Chairman agreed to take Agenda Item 8 – SACRE Annual Conference – Update, as

the next item.

The Chairman welcomed Miss L Wells, Miss E Pearson, Master A Neilson and Master L Vincent who were students from Wigmore High School.

Kate Mayglothling explained that a number of Year 10 students from Bordesley Green Girls School, Birmingham, visited Wigmore High School in March for a one-day conference, when Muslim and Christian speakers shared their views with students on the theme of 'what it is to be human'. Though different in culture, Bordesley Green being an urban all girls predominantly Muslim school, both sets of students had enjoyed discussing their common humanity.

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation compiled by student from Wigmore the four Wigmore students gave an excerpt from the presentation they intend to give at the SACRE Annual Conference in September.

The students reported that the day conference had taken the form of four workshop sessions based on exploring Christian or Muslim perspectives on 'being human' and feed back sessions. A major learning point had been that what you hear or read in the news may not be the full picture in that the extremist actions in the name of religion by a few should not be seen to be representative of the whole. An outcome of the day had been the wish to have videoconference links with other schools to further their development of understanding and contact with other school/faith communities.

SACRE noted that the students had had time to talk informally and had ascertained that the preconception of the Muslim students had been that the Wigmore students would be atheists and have inferior morals. Rather than having any major religious concerns the Muslim students seemed to have been more surprised by the rural location and the lack of local facilities e.g. a shopping mall.

Questioned further on areas of difference between the two sets of students the Wigmore students had found, apart from some language difficulties, they had actually more areas in common e.g. music and sport.

Kate Mayglothling reported that while the event had taken a lot of organising it was hoped that a similar visit to Bordesley Green Girls School could be arranged. SACRE appreciated the effort Kate Mayglothling had put into both the day conference and the preparation of the presentation and commended this type of exchange of view to other schools.

The Chairman thanked the Wigmore students for their presentation and looked forward to the full presentation at the SACRE Annual Conference on 27th September.

At this point the meeting adjourned for 5 minutes.

On resuming The Consultant for Religious Education reported that arrangements were proceeding well for the Annual Conference to be held at Hedley Lodge Belmont, however, she was a little disappointed that at this stage the take up of places had been slow.

It was commented that as a number of school self-evaluation forms had identified the provision of further professional development in Religious Education to be an issue, it was a concern that schools hadn't, as yet, taken up this opportunity to attend.

RESOLVED That the presentation and the report be noted.

7. OFSTED REPORT: MAKING SENSE OF RELIGION

SACRE considered the findings contained in the OfSTED report “Making Sense of Religion: a report on religious education in schools and the impact of locally agreed syllabi”. A copy of the OfSTED press release had been printed in the agenda and copies of the full report had been sent with the agenda to members.

The OfSTED report found that “some progress had been made in enhancing the provision for religious education in recent years. Pupils’ achievement had improved. Developments nationally have contributed substantially to this improvement, but the overall quality of RE is still not consistently high enough”. A number of recommendations for consideration by the DFES, QCA, and schools were included in the report. Recommendations for local authorities and SACRE’s related to how they need to consider ways in which SACREs could be better supported to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities effectively; use the Framework rigorously in reviewing their agreed syllabus and consider how the work of SACREs might support further promotion of community cohesion and educating for diversity.

The Consultant for Religious Education commented upon the compilation of the report; some of the reasoning behind the recommendations; how the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus already picked up on issues from the non-statutory Framework; the opportunities for SACRE, particularly in the area of contributing to community cohesion, and the need for SACRE to be adequately resourced.

Following discussion on the under achievement of boys and in particular para 29 of the main report concerning getting boys engaged in the subject, it was noted that GCSE courses were to be revised to make the subject more challenging. Discussion then lead to the need for trained and enthusiastic teachers to be adequately resourced and equipped with a relevant breadth of experience to motivate the pupils in the subject.

Reference was made to the earlier agenda item and presentation by Wigmore High School students concerning SACREs opportunity to contribute to community cohesion by means of widening pupils understanding of other faiths to dispel any misconceptions or stereotyping of other cultures.

Rev I Terry circulated at the meeting copies of the Church of England’s response to the OfSTED report. The Church of England concurred with OfSTED’s concern about the variable quality of locally agreed syllabuses; strongly supported a statutory national Framework/Curriculum Order/Syllabus for RE; strongly endorsed the continuing role of SACRE’s in relation to supporting and monitoring RE locally and recognised the continuing areas of weakness and concern highlighted by OfSTED and called on the Government to give serious consideration to implementing both OfSTED’s recommendations and also the related recommendations in the RE Council’s recently published RE National Strategy.

The Chairman reiterated the need for local input to the RE Syllabus and concurred with the view that, given the resources, the work of SACRE could contribute to the community cohesion agenda.

RESOLVED That

- a) the OfSTED report “Making Sense of Religion: a report on religious education in schools and the impact of locally agreed syllabi” be noted; and**

- b) the recommendations contained in the report concerning local authorities and SACREs be considered as part of the ongoing review of the SACRE Development Plan.

8. INSPECTION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS

SACRE considered a report on the inspection of Religious Education in Church of England schools in the County.

The Director, Hereford Diocesan Board of Education, was delighted to share with SACRE the results of Statutory Inspection of Anglican School (SIAS) inspections September 2005 – April 2007 copies of which were issued at the meeting.

The report gave the school inspection rating (1 outstanding – 4 inadequate) against the key question “How distinctive and effective is the school as a church school?” and against a number of further questions. He commented that overall the 28 diocesan schools listed generally performed to high standards. A similar report including diocesan schools in the south of Shropshire could also be made available. He further commented that a number of schools had encountered issues concerning the use of the self evaluation form (SEF), however, these had been addressed and schools were now focusing on any identified areas of weakness.

Responding to a comment that a number of schools had received a 3 rating (satisfactory) for question 2 “what is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community” The Director responded that this point had already been noted and there was always room for improvement.

SACRE thanked The Director, Hereford Diocesan Board of Education for supplying the information and appreciated the contribution that church schools made to education in the County.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

9. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP "FINDING TREASURE" - UPDATE

SACRE were informed that the Collective Worship guidance “Finding Treasure” was in the final stages of proof reading and printing and that it was anticipated that the guidance would be launched in the Autumn Term. The Director, Diocesan Board of Education, offered, if thought appropriate, the use of the Great Hall at the Bishops Palace.

10. MULTI-FAITH FESTIVAL - UPDATE

SACRE were updated on the proposed Herefordshire Multi-faith Festival.

The Consultant for Religious Education was pleased to report that the Herefordshire based Multi-faith Development Group had finally been successful in its bid for funding from the Herefordshire Local Network Fund. While the first bid had been rejected a further bid had been submitted and had been successful. Work on the festival by the Group had continued and invitations for schools to take part had been issued. This had resulted in a significant oversubscription. Schools had therefore been chosen to attend on a first come first served basis. The festival would comprise of 8 workshops per day for the 2 days prior to the SACRE Annual Conference. Fortunately this would also enable the workshop facilitators to also attend the SACRE Annual Conference. Teachers from the schools attending were to

attend a pre-event training day so that they could prepare the pupils for the day and organise the questions for the sessions. 160 pupils from 16 primary schools and 38 teachers would attend the event.

She further reported that Mrs J Cecil, Head of Holmer CE Primary School, who were very kindly hosting the festival was investigating the possibility of recording the event as part of a post festival information pack to aid the dissemination of activities and strategies to other schools in the county.

While disappointed that such an event had had to rely on an external group obtaining grant funding to proceed, SACRE were delighted to hear that the event was proceeding. In view of the obvious interest by schools, evidenced by the significant oversubscription, SACRE hoped that the local authority would consider supporting such an event in the future as it supported schools in their RE and multi-cultural development targets and contributed to the Council's community cohesion agenda.

RESLVED That the report be noted.

11. THE "SECONDARY CURRICULUM REVIEW 2007" - UPDATE

SACRE received an update on the national "Secondary Curriculum Review 2007".

The Consultant for Religious Education reported that following the discussion and resultant resolution at the previous meeting in March, a response had been made to the consultation on the national "Secondary Curriculum Review 2007".

She reported that the Key Stage 3 and 4 national curriculum had been revised to give teachers a less prescriptive, flexible framework for teaching with the aim of creating scope to meet the learning needs of each individual student. She commented that further information was available on the QCA web site and she thought that the new curriculum would be introduced from September 2008.

She was aware that advertisements for the posts of national advisor(s) and national leader(s) had recently been placed and hoped that further support and training would be made available.

SACRE hoped that as more information became available at secondary schools on the implementation then further reports would be made to SACRE.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

SACRE noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 2.00pm on Monday 10th December 2007 at Brockington, Hafod Road, Hereford.

The meeting ended at 3.56 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXEMINATION RESULTS 2007

Report By: Primary School Improvement Manager

Purpose

1. To report the Religious Education examination results for pupils in Herefordshire.

Background

2. The results of the 2007 RE examinations are set out in appendix 1. For comparison purposes the statistics for 2006 and 2005 have also been included.
3. SACRE will wish to study these results and consider any comments it wishes to make to the Local Authority.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT SACRE study the results and consider any comments it wishes to make to the Local Authority.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

Religious Studies 2005 – 2007

GCSE

2007 GCSE Results	Attempted GCSE	Achieved A*-C	Achieved A*-G
Religious Studies	Total Pupils	Total	Total
National			
Short & Full Courses	140,073	69%	98%
Herefordshire LEA			
Full Courses	631	60%	97%
Short Courses	677	44%	95%

2006 GCSE Results	Attempted GCSE	Achieved A*-C	Achieved A*-G
Religious Studies	Total Pupils	Total	Total
National			
Short & Full Courses	130,587	68%	98%
Herefordshire LEA			
Full Courses	413	79%	100%
Short Courses	855	51%	94%

2005 GCSE Results	Attempted GCSE	Achieved A*-C	Achieved A*-G
Religious Studies	Total Pupils	Total	Total
National			
Short & Full Courses	131,400	68%	98%
Herefordshire LEA			
Full Courses	365	79%	100%
Short Courses	1002	44%	93%

A Level

Religious Studies		A2 Level				AS Level			
Year	Establishment	% A-B	% A-C	Passes	Candidates	% A-B	% A-C	Passes	Candidates
2007	Hereford Sith Form College	67.3%	95.9%	100.0%	49	40.7%	74.1%	85.2%	27
2007	John Kyrle	50.0%	66.7%	100.0%	6	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	1
2006	Hereford Sith Form College	83.0%	94.3%	100.0%	53	47.5%	80.0%	97.5%	80
2006	John Kyrle	60.0%	100.0%	100.0%	5	40.0%	100.0%	100.0%	5
2006	Lady Hawkins					100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	1
2005	Hereford Sith Form College	58.2%	83.6%	100.0%	49	64.5%	82.9%	100.0%	76
2005	John Kyrle	50.0%	75.0%	100.0%	8				

**UPDATE ON THE NEW SECONDARY CURRICULUM -
RE****Report By: Primary School Improvement Manager****Purpose**

1. To receive an update on the New Secondary Curriculum – RE launched in July 2007..

Background

2. Further to discussion at previous meetings the attached briefing paper has been received from the Executive Officer, NATRE, regarding the roll out of the new secondary curriculum - RE. Any further information will be provided by either the Primary School Improvement Manger or the Consultant for RE at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION**THAT SACRE note the current position.****BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified.

The New Secondary Curriculum – RE

The roll out of the new secondary curriculum is now gathering pace; this brief document is to update you on what is happening, and to open up discussion about how SACRE can support the initiative.

Organisation

NATRE and RE Today are working with CfBT to deliver the roll out on behalf of the DCSF (Dept for children schools and families). To achieve this **Dave Francis** has been appointed as the **National Subject Lead for RE**. **Rosemary Rivett** (National Association of Teachers of RE) is the project manager.

Both are in regular communication with the REC (RE council) and PREG (Professional RE group which includes NASACRE), and have their support for this significant initiative.

Statutory Syllabus for RE

The statutory position of RE remains unchanged and the locally agreed syllabus (or aided school syllabus) has to be taught. The materials used will make reference to the non-statutory National Framework for RE (2004) and the revised Programmes of Study published by QCA in July 2007. For RE, these PoS represent minimal change due to the relative youth of the Framework; other subjects have seen much more significant changes and reductions in content.

This whole-curriculum initiative provides us with **a range of new approaches to consider, to enhance delivery of the agreed syllabus (or aided school syllabus), maximise student engagement and raise standards.**

Regional Subject Advisers

In the **summer term 2007** some 200 advisers with responsibility for RE were contacted, asking them to suggest high calibre teachers (possibly ASTs, but not necessarily) who would be suitable for the role of **Regional Subject Adviser (RSA)**. There was a good response. All the suggested teachers were contacted, along with others, to alert them to the advert for the post of RSA. As a result, **32 RSAs** were appointed, almost all of them serving teachers, and with **between 2 and 5 in each DCSF region**. The RSAs will all be aware of the place and status of the Agreed Syllabus (or aided schools syllabus) but will not need to know the details and particularities of each one in their area. They will also be aware of the role of RE in the various types of school (e.g. community, aided etc).

The RSAs attended a briefing meeting on the **18th September**, during which their role was outlined and the process of identifying how that role might best be carried out in their local context begun. They are employed for just **2 days per month** between September 2007 and March 2008, which means that they will need to be very alert to opportunities for maximising their impact (e.g. a session at a teacher training event is more effective use of time than visiting an individual school). The initiative depends on the support of LA and/or Diocesan advisers.

The RSAs will be adding temporarily to a region's capacity to support schools as they work with the new curriculum; they are not in any way a replacement for current provision.

Senior leader training

During the **autumn term 2007** training for senior leaders in schools will take place – this will be delivered by the NCSL (National College of School Leadership) and SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust). Although the Subject Associations are not involved in this, the curriculum messages are the same. At least one senior leader from every school (presumably the head) will be invited to a training event. Therefore, when the RSAs start work there will already be at least one person in every school who understands the initiative and is thinking of its implications for their school. ASPECT will be involved in this training, and they are also working with the Subject Associations on the subject-specific parts of the roll out.

Regional Conferences for Subject Leaders

Between January and March 2008 there will be **one regional conference for RE in each of the 9 regions**. This will be for up to 100 teachers, plus subject advisers, and representatives of other stakeholder groups. The details of this are being worked out by CfBT – each subject will have the same opportunities. These conferences will be led by Dave Francis (National Subject Lead) and Rosemary Rivett, with input from the RSAs in that region. No dates are available for this as yet. As soon as they become available these will be circulated.

Materials

The materials for this project will all be web-based. This is one of many ways in which this strategy roll out is different to previous ones. The website went live on 1st September, and some materials are already there. The majority of the subject-specific materials are currently being written and filmed, and will be available from 1st January (possibly slightly earlier). The web link is <http://curriculum.qca.org.uk>. This was mentioned in the QCA newsletter circulated earlier this week.

Diocesan Advisers

RE today and NATRE are very keen to ensure that we have a comprehensive and up-to-date list of Diocesan and LA RE Advisers who work with secondary schools, so that they can be included in all updates. If anyone has been missed, please **send names and contact details to Rosemary Rivett**.

Rosemary Rivett
Executive Officer, NATRE
Director of Professional Services, RE Today
Tel: 0121 430 2959
Email: rosemary@retoday.org.uk

17th September 2007

DRAFT HEREFORDSHIRE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT – ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/2007

Report By: Democratic Services Officer

Purpose

1. To comment on the draft SACRE Annual Report for the academic year September 2006 to July 2007 prior to submission to QCA.

Report

2. DfE Circular 1/94 requires SACREs to produce an annual report for submission to QCA. The draft annual report, copies of which have been issued to members of SACRE, gives an indication of the work of Herefordshire SACRE during the academic year September 2006 to July 2007 and follows the reporting principals set out by QCA and used in your previous Annual Reports. Copies of the draft report are also available to the public on request.
3. Members were informed earlier in the year that a revised format for the annual report was being piloted by QCA. No further guidance has been received on the expected format for the 2006/07 report and therefore the current guidance has been followed.
4. SACRE will have received at this meeting a report on the results of Religious Education examinations in the County and these details, together with any appropriate comments made by SACRE, will also be included in the final document.
5. Comments are invited from SACRE on the content and tone of the report. Final proof reading will be undertaken prior to finalising the report. The final report is required to be submitted to QCA before the end of December.
6. As in previous Annual Reports the Chairman of SACRE will provide a forward letter to introduce the report.
7. It is also intended to make the report available to Schools, the press and the public by usual methods e.g. libraries, Council Area offices etc, and via the Council's Committee Meeting Web site.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT subject to any comments by SACRE and final proof reading the SACRE Annual Report 2006/07 be submitted to QCA.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

