

A G E N D A

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: **Monday, 9th March, 2009**

Time: **2.00 p.m.**

Place: **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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Herefordshire 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, Mrs L Barker, Revd. P. Barlow, Mr. P. Bowen, Mrs. J. Brown, Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins, Mrs A Daniel, Councillor P Jones CBE, Ms. K. Mayglothling, Mrs S McCamley, Mrs. G. Morris, Sr. D. O'Donnell, Mr Z Pandor and Rev L Rickards

	Pages
<p>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>To receive apologies for absence.</p>	
<p>2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)</p> <p>To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.</p>	
<p>3. MINUTES</p> <p>To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2008.</p>	1 - 6
<p>4. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)</p> <p>To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public.</p>	
<p>5. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME</p> <p>Introduction and welcome by Chairman to new members.</p>	
<p>6. MULTI-FAITH EVENT FOR CHILDREN</p> <p>Mrs Judy Cecil will report on the Multi-faith events held at Holmer Primary and Whitecross High Schools in October 2008 and outline proposals for future events.</p>	7 - 8
<p>7. RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF NEW SACRE MEMBERS</p> <p>A) The Consultant for RE will give a brief outline and feedback on the NASACRE training for new SACRE Members which took place this term in the West Midlands. Mrs Jutle will also report on her attendance at the training .</p> <p>B) Group discussion around the themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What's it like to be a SACRE Member? ▪ What do Members need to help everyone feel they can contribute fully? 	

8. SACRE CONFERENCE 2009

The Consultant for RE to present a draft outline plan for the 2009 SACRE Annual; Conference, provisionally booked for 24th September.

9. QCA ADVICE - AGREED SYLLABUS REVISIONS

9 - 14

To consider the QCA advice on the timing of agreed syllabus revisions in 2009-2010 and advise the local authority on the timing of any revision to the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus 2006-2011.

10. FUTURE MEETING DATES

To note that future meetings of SACRE will be held at:
2.00 pm on 29th June in the Council Chamber Brockington 35 Hafod Road, Hereford
and Tuesday, 1st December 2009 and Monday, 15th March 2010.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held at Committee Room No1, The Shirehall, St Peter's Square, Hereford on Monday, 1 December 2008 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor J Stone (Chairman)

Mrs M Ault, Mrs L Barker (ne Langstaff), Revd. P. Barlow, Mrs A Daniel, Councillor P Jones CBE and Sr. D. O'Donnell

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from: Councillor WU Attfield; Mr P Bowen; Mrs J Brown; Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins; Mrs G Jutle; Ms K Mayglothling; Mrs S McCamley; Mr T Leach; Mr Z Pandor.

16. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no substitutes.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held 24 June 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

18. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No written questions had been received.

19. MEMBERSHIP

SACRE welcomed Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins as a Co-opted Member; Mrs G Jutle as Sikh representative on Committee A; and Mr T Leach, interim Director of Education, Hereford Diocese, representing the Church of England on Committee B (in their absence)

Mrs L Barker (nee Langstaff) was congratulated on the birth of her daughter, Jemima, who also attended the meeting.

20. MULTIFAITH EVENTS

Unfortunately due to sickness Mrs J Cecil, Head of Holmer CE Primary School was unable to attend to discuss her success in organising Multi-faith events and therefore the item was deferred to the March 2009 meeting.

The Consultant for RE reported that an article entitled 'A Wide Range of Religions in Rural Herefordshire' reporting on the multi-faith event at Holmer CE Primary School had appeared in the Autumn 2008 edition of REtoday and copies of the article were circulated to Members.

SACRE noted that a bid had been submitted for funding to continue to support the multi-faith events.

RESOLVED: That Mrs J Cecil be invited to attend the March 2009 meeting.

21. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2008

SACRE considered the 2008 Religious Education examination results for Herefordshire.

Vicky Ward, General Inspector, Children's Services, presented her report which, together with the appendix to the report, summarised the results for the 2008 GCE and GCSE examinations.

She briefly reported the examination entries and outcomes for each of the Counties High Schools.

She concluded that in general, examination success in Herefordshire was improving and this was in common with the national trend. In relation to RE she cautioned that due to differing school policies over pupil entry for examination, and whether pupils were entered for the full or short course examinations, it was difficult to make any clear conclusions. Furthermore there appeared to be no clear trend between schools entering pupils for the full or short courses.

SACRE appreciated there were variations in the examination results on a school by school basis and thereby noted that not all schools had the benefit of specialist RE teachers. It was further noted that in some cases schools had needed to review staffing levels to balance their budgets.

Noting the varying number of pupils entered for either full or short course examinations SACRE questioned whether all pupils were in fact receiving RE provision in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus and statutory requirements.

The generally very good results were noted and this was a tribute to the students and teachers and SACRE wished all schools continued success in 2009.

RESOLVED: That the 2008 GCE and GCSE examination results be noted.

**22. MONITORING STANDARDS AND ACHIEVEMENT IN RE: FEEDBACK FROM
SCHOOLS VISITS**

SACRE considered the findings from support and monitoring visits to schools during autumn 2008 term.

The Consultant for RE presented her report, copies of which had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. She commented that in September /October 2008 twelve schools had been offered the chance of a visit and a sample of six had taken up the opportunity of a support and monitoring visit. These schools were offered a visit as they were due an Ofsted inspection.

Her report on the visits covered the four areas of: RE provision; Standards and Achievement; Quality of teaching and learning and Areas for further development.

In relation to RE provision she highlighted that only two of the schools fully complied with the Agreed Syllabus. Two were only just moving to the new syllabus.

She reported that all the schools visited had seen the visits as helpful and had taken reassurance that they were moving in the right direction. A number of subject teachers had also seen the visit as a spur to attend the network events and Annual Conference.

Her report suggested that SACRE explore ways of working in partnership with schools to continue to provide support to improving planning and assessment of RE in order to enable schools to develop their use of: learning outcomes identified in the syllabus; pupil friendly 'I can statements'; skilful learning strategies for RE and Assessment for Learning in RE.

SACRE concluded that while the small sample indicated there was probably a mixed level of provision in the County, in general there was a commitment in schools to improve the teaching of RE and a willingness to incorporate areas of good practice shown by colleagues.

Questioned whether the local authority employed a specific RE Inspector to inform schools of good practice, SACRE were reminded that the external Consultant for RE was the only subject specific expert available from the authority. While her visits were greatly appreciated, resource limitations in the local authority precluded more schools being visited. SACRE were informed that good practice was disseminated to schools through their attendance at the Annual Conference; network meetings; by the Consultant for RE and by teachers talking to and visiting each other. While good RE teaching practitioners welcomed talking to other teachers this diverted resource time from teaching their own pupils.

RESOLVED: That the position set out in the report be noted and SACRE formally record its appreciation to Mrs J Mackley, Consultant for RE for undertaking this monitoring and support work.

23. STANDARDS OF RE IN HEREFORDSHIRE CHURCH SCHOOLS

SACRE considered the standards of RE in Herefordshire Church schools from information provided by the Diocese and Archdiocese.

The Democratic Services Officer reminded SACRE that as part of its monitoring of Religious Education and Collective Worship in Herefordshire Schools, at its last meeting, had invited both the Diocese and Archdiocese to submit short reports indicating the outcome of inspections to their schools in Herefordshire.

He reported that the response from the Hereford Diocese, Appendix 1 to the report, indicated that aided schools were complying with the requirements for Religious Education.

The Archdiocese had responded by referring to the inspection reports available on their web site and a summary, Appendix 2 to the report, had been compiled setting out the grades awarded to St. Mary's RC High School, Lugwardine and St Francis Xavier RC Primary School, Hereford, being the latest schools in the County to be reported upon. Full copies of both inspection reports had been supplied to SACRE Members and copies were available from the web site at www.rcadc.co.uk

SACRE noted that the inspection process for Church schools was far more rigorous in terms of RE than under the Ofsted system of inspection and therefore SACRE congratulated the diocesan schools on their results.

So that areas of good practice could be picked up on and spread to County schools

SACRE requested that subsequent reports include more commentary on the results.

RESOLVED: That

- a) the standards of RE in Herefordshire Church Schools be noted**
- b) the Diocesan Authorities be thanked for providing the information; and**
- c) the Diocesan Authorities be requested to provide more commentary on the results in subsequent reports.**

**24. MONITORING STANDARDS AND ACHIEVEMENT IN RE: QUESTIONS VIA
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PARTNERS (SIP) TEAM**

SACRE noted the questions to be asked of schools concerning Religious Education during a School Improvement Partner (SIP) visit.

The Lead Officer for SACRE reported that following the meeting on 24 June 2008 the authority had approached the SIP team about getting them to include in one of their visits to schools a question about how RE provision was included in the school. The SIP team had agreed and the question, set out in appendix 1 to the report would be sent to all schools prior to the Spring term round of visits.

She further reported that the results from the questions would be collated, including an indication of any follow up actions taken, and reported to SACRE.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the results be reported to a future meeting.

25. 2008 SACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SACRE received a report on the success of the 2008 SACRE Annual Conference held Thursday 2nd October 2008.

The Chairman congratulated Joyce Mackley and all concerned on producing another very successful Conference. He particularly commended her for leading one of the workshops at very short notice due to the workshop leader being involved in an accident while on route to the venue.

The Consultant for RE reported that approximately 45 delegates had attended and the anecdotal feedback indicated delegates had found it a very enjoyable and informative conference. She reported that one delegate had said they were inspired yet slightly intimidated, referring to how they were going to aspire to all the good works being done at other schools.

SACRE wished to record their thanks to Angela Daniels, Kingsland CE Primary School and Kate Mayglothling, Wigmore High School, for leading two of the workshops and to Robert Hollis and pupils at St Paul's CE Primary, Hereford, for their excellent presentation to the Conference, the pupils portraying a fine example of the excellent work going on in their school.

SACRE considered suggestions for the theme of next year's conference and requested that the Consultant for RE meet with volunteers to brainstorm around the theme of going back to basics: 'What is good RE'.

RESOLVED:: That

- a) the report be noted and the Chairman write to Mr R Hollis and pupils at St Pauls CE Primary; Ms K Mayglothling and Mrs A Daniels to thank them for their excellent contribution to the Conference.**

- b) The Consultant for RE and volunteers consider a possible theme/format for next years conference and report to the next meeting.**

26. FEEDBACK FROM THE NASACRE MEETING 22ND OCTOBER 2008

The Consultant for RE provided feedback on her attendance at the NASACRE meeting held 22 October 2008.

The Consultant for RE reported that the government funded NASACRE project to recruit and train new SACRE members was now underway. Part of the project is a free one day conference in each of the regions (4th February 2009 in Birmingham) targeted at new or inexperienced SACRE recruits. She suggested that Mrs G Jutle (Sikh representative on Committee A) be offered the opportunity to attend. While the conference was free, travelling expenses may be incurred by SACRE.

RESOLVED: That the Consultant for RE invite Mrs Jutle to attend the one day conference in Birmingham.

27. SECONDARY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

SACRE received an update on issues arising from the Secondary Curriculum Development.

The Consultant for RE reported that the curriculum had started life in schools in September 2008. Following good levels of interest at the SACRE Annual Conference Peter Bowen had undertaken to organise a local meeting for the secondary sector teachers which would provide an opportunity to share ideas and move the development forward. At the time of this meeting it was understood that no date had so far been set.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

28. RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF NEW SACRE MEMBERS

This matter was considered under Minute No 26 – Feedback from the NASACRE Meeting 22 October 2008.

**29. DRAFT HEREFORDSHIRE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT - ACADEMIC YEAR
2007/2008**

SACRE considered and commented on the draft SACRE Annual Report for the academic year September 2007 to July 2008 prior to submission to QCA.

The Democratic Services Officer presented the draft Annual report, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda to Members. He reported that following a pilot by QCA and receipt of guidance, this years report now followed the new question and answer format. He further reported that the RE examination statistics and appropriate comments arising from the earlier agenda item would be included in the report.

SACRE offered the following comments or thoughts for inclusion in the 'Summary' section:

- Greater emphasis should be given to the excellent work undertaken on the Multi-faith event and Finding Treasure publication.
- That the Multi-faith event, the Annual Conference; the work done with limited resources and the excellent work in schools be highlighted as areas of good

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- practice.
- That SACRE meetings are held in a generous, respectful and inclusive atmosphere.
 - If the DCSF were to consider changing its advice then SACRE wished to ensure that: RE remained at the heart of the curriculum and SACRE had the means to undertake the statutory role of monitoring RE and CW.

While debating the work of SACRE views were expressed that further consideration should be given to the style of the meetings namely that written reports should be in the agenda for Members to read prior to the meeting and the meeting should then focus on debating/ questioning the reports. It was suggested that Members should have more of an opportunity to meet informally (a social event) and have informal meetings with various other faiths. It was also suggested that the Chief Executive; Leader of the Council or Cabinet Members should be invited to specific meetings so that they can be made aware of local and national RE issues, the local enthusiasm for RE and the work of SACRE.

RESOLVED: That

- a) **Subject to the comments indicated above being translated into the Annual Report the report be approved for submission to QCA; and**
- b) **The Chairman, Lead Officer and Clerk consider the future format of SACRE meetings.**
- c) **The Chairman consider inviting the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council or Cabinet Members to appropriate meetings.**

30. HEREFORDSHIRE RE IN RE TODAY

SACRE noted the article on the Multi-faith event published in the Autumn edition of REtoday and mentioned earlier at minute No. 20.

31. NEXT MEETING DATE

SACRE noted that date; time and venue of the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 4.12 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

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Multi-faith event for children

Judy Cecil Headteacher Holmer CofE Primary school;
Hereford Multi-faith Development Group committee member

Purpose

To inform SACRE of Multi-faith events held in 2007 and 2008 and seek support from SACRE for proposed events in the academic year 2009/2010.

Events held in 2007 & 2008

Four multi-faith events for children have been held since Sept 2007 (September 2007; January 2008; June 2008; October 2008)

The events enabled children to have positive enjoyable encounters with people from 4 faith communities they would not normally meet (Jewish/Hindu/Sikh and Muslim)

In total 800 primary school pupils from Herefordshire schools have now attended these events

All of these events were hosted by Holmer CE Primary school, with the October 4 day event jointly hosted by Whitecross High school . The Whitecross event involved a small number of Yr 8 pupils and was a transition project – aimed at helping primary school pupils in their future move to secondary school.

The benefits of these events

- Providing young people with positive encounters with members of other faiths, with whom they would not naturally have contact.
- Improve understanding of the commitments and experiences of minority faith communities.
- First hand experience of meeting people and interacting with them rather than using media like film or books.
- The experience often leads to greater respect for other beliefs.
- This model of working involves teacher training in order to develop teacher confidence and understanding.
- This event enables schools to show they are working towards fulfilling their community cohesion commitments.

One parent is quoted as saying..... “ *There can be no better way of gaining an understanding of these other faiths than of meeting real people, with their own personalities and stories to tell....This understanding is so valuable in promoting respect for all in the context of the increasingly multicultural, multi faith nature of our wider society.*”

The challenge of these events is to

- Provide funding when school budgets have many demands on them.
- Ensure that teacher training is incorporated into the preparation.
- Reach every Year 6 child in Herefordshire.
- Diversify the event so that it can address the needs of other sections of the community.

Funding

To date funding has come mainly from grants from a range of sources and from small contributions from participating schools in the case of the Whitecross transition project. A further bid has been submitted to the Community Development Foundation Faiths in Action fund – HMFDG will hear in April 09.

The actual costs of running the event works out at £22.00 per child. This would prohibit most primary schools from participation in a future non-subsidised event (e.g. one school bringing a year group of 70 Yr 6 - £1540)

Proposal for future events

An analysis of schools who have not attended, and the reasons, why suggests that a key issue is distance/travel. The schools not yet attending appear to be located in 7 main groups – Wigmore area; Peterchurch area; Ledbury area; Ross on Wye area; Lady Hawkins / Kington area; Hereford city larger schools; special schools. + (Holme Lacey / Madley /Lugwardine / Whitchurch)

The proposal is to target these clusters and explore holding an event (should funding become available) in these regions e.g. Ledbury, Wigmore and Ross on Wye, Golden Valley and Kington. In the absence of outside funding partnerships of schools can access money by collaborating and using Extended Services funding.

Request for SACRE support

For this to go ahead HMFDG **seeks the support of SACRE** to explore ways in which the LA might give financial support to ensure that this activity continues.

HMFDG is seeking financial support to enable the group to offer some funding with participating schools making up the rest. If HMFDG were able to receive a donation of £12000 from the LA, it would enable the group to provide 8 days of Multi Faith Events in the academic year 2009/2010. This would reach 640 children and at least 35 teachers.

Judy Cecil
Feb 9th 2009

QCA ADVICE – AGREED SYLLABUS REVISIONS

Report By: Clerk to SACRE

Purpose

To consider the QCA advice on the timing of agreed syllabus revisions in 2009-2010 and advise the local authority on the timing of any revision to the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus 2006-2011.

Background

1. Correspondence has been received from the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) stating that “QCA have issued non-statutory advice to local authorities and SACREs on the timing of reviews of Agreed Syllabus given the publication of new RE Guidance and the Primary Curriculum Review expected next year. This is useful particularly for those SACREs who are due to begin Agreed Syllabus reviews in the next twelve months. The NASACRE Officers, along with officers from other RE professional associations, looked at a draft of this advice and fully support its intentions.”
2. A copy of the QCA advice, issued December 2008, has been received and is appended to this report. The Consultant for RE will outline any implications arising from this advice.
3. One of the functions of SACRE is to monitor the use of the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus 2006-2011 and, when considered appropriate, can require the local authority to review it. The Agreed Syllabus has to be reviewed every five years.
4. The work of reviewing the Syllabus is undertaken by the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference which by law is a separate body from SACRE but can comprise of a similar membership.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT SACRE considers the QCA advice and any implications outlined by the Consultant for RE and advises the local authority on the timing of any Agreed Syllabus review.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- QCA advice on the timing of agreed syllabus revisions in 2009-2010.



Qualifications and
Curriculum Authority

QCA advice on the timing of agreed syllabus revisions in 2009 – 2010

Non-statutory guidance for local authorities, SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences

December 2008

QCA advice on the timing of agreed syllabus revisions in 2009 – 2010

The purpose of this guidance is to advise local authorities, Standing Advisory Councils on RE (SACREs) and Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASCs) in England on making key decisions about revisions to agreed syllabuses for RE during 2009. The information contained here is for guidance only, and is intended to help SACREs, ASCs and local authorities to use their resources to support RE as effectively as possible. The guidance has been agreed with relevant national RE organisations, including the RE Council, the National Association of Teachers of RE, the National Association of SACREs, and the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants.

The three key points in this guidance are

- (a) that those SACREs whose agreed syllabus for RE comes up for review in 2009 might consider timing their review, and any revision, so that it takes account of changes to the primary curriculum;
- (b) that they might also consider timing their review and revision so that it takes account of updated government guidance on RE (the successor to Circular 1/94);
- (c) it is the intention of QCA to work with SACREs and local authorities in 2010 to facilitate agreed syllabus revisions that take account of the above two developments.

Since 2004, SACREs and agreed syllabus conferences have been working with the non-statutory national framework for RE, a development that has helped to bring about wider coherence in the subject. In 2007, QCA worked with the RE community to align the framework with the new curriculum for key stages 3 and 4. This gave us programmes of study for ages 11 to 16, reflecting the framework fully in the format of the rest of the curriculum, with up to date supporting materials. It has helped to strengthen the profile of the subject and to demonstrate its contribution to curriculum aims, community cohesion and personal wellbeing.

QCA is presently working with Sir Jim Rose to develop proposals for a new primary curriculum. While the outcomes of this review cannot be known at this stage, it is probable that any changes to the primary curriculum will have some implications for RE. It is intended that the new primary curriculum will be made public in Autumn 2009, following public consultation.

QCA, together with the RE community, is also supporting the DCSF's work to revise government guidance on RE, and it is intended that this new advice will be launched in Autumn 2009 following public consultation.

QCA's approach to RE is, and will remain, to recommend to all SACREs the advantages of making a coherent use of the newly aligned framework in their agreed syllabuses. Local authorities whose syllabus comes up for review during 2009 are invited to consider the advantages of waiting, and revising their syllabus in the light of all the expected curriculum and RE guidance changes. This would mean waiting until December 2009 or January 2010. Alternatively, if it is not appropriate to wait, they could initiate a separate review timed to take account of the expected changes. The 1996 Education Act requires local authorities, through their SACRE, to review their syllabus no later than every five years. Therefore, one option for those local authorities whose review period comes up during 2009 could be to start their review and keep their existing syllabus in use whilst the review process is under way. They

could use this time to survey the effectiveness of their present syllabus, to consider the likely implications of the coming curriculum and RE guidance changes, and to be in discussion with their local authority, faith/belief communities and teachers about curriculum change. They could then choose to revise their agreed syllabus in the light of the expected new primary curriculum and the new RE guidance.

It is the intention of QCA to work with SACREs and RE organisations on milestones towards a unified step-change in all agreed syllabuses from 2010. The outcome of this would be a new, coherent 'generation' of modern agreed syllabus, all demonstrating their relevance to the bigger curriculum picture of the Children's Plan, to wellbeing and community cohesion. This would enable all syllabuses to reflect the aims of the new curriculum, use key concepts and adopt the same level scale, as well as taking account of the new government guidance on RE. These syllabuses would also benefit from the less prescriptive curriculum approach, and could be supported or exemplified by QCA non-statutory materials that promote good practice within RE and across subjects.

This guidance is non-statutory. Agreed Syllabus Conferences remain the statutory body with legal responsibility for devising an agreed syllabus for RE. QCA invites all SACREs to consider the advantages of waiting for the expected new primary curriculum and for the new RE guidance, or, if they prefer, initiating a separate review. QCA considers that, all other factors being equal, this course of action will give the users of agreed syllabuses stability during a period of curriculum change, and will also offer all SACREs the opening to make new changes coherently once the new primary curriculum and the new RE guidance have been agreed and published. We believe this course of action will prove of most benefit to SACREs, teachers of RE and, therefore, to learners.

