

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Wednesday, 26th June, 2019**

**Present:-**

**Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths**

Sue Elbrow, Guzari Lal Babber, Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan, Waqar Bhatti, Ashpreet Singh Nainu (In part) and Hardip Singh Sohal

**Committee 2 – Church of England**

Rev Andrew Allen, Christine Isles and Andrea Sparrow

**Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations**

Lynda Bussley (Chair for this meeting)

**Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA**

Councillors Basra, Brooker and Qaseem

**Apologies for Absence:-** Julie Siddiqi and Shujah Hamid

**CHAIR OF THE MEETING**

Lynda Bussley was nominated by Hardip Singh Sohal, seconded by Councillor Brooker and appointed as Chair for this meeting.

**28. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 20 March 2019**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 March 2019 be approved as a correct record.

**29. Matters Arising**

Minute 20 – Lynda Bussley gave a brief update on the Department for Education (DfE)'s introduction of compulsory Relationships Education for primary pupils and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) to be taught in schools from September 2020. The teaching would be age appropriate and schools would have the discretion as to how the subject was taught. Parents also would also have the right to withdraw their children at primary level.

The Senior School Effectiveness Officer added that it would also be compulsory for all schools to teach Health Education. The Council would be supporting schools and headteachers with the introduction of compulsory health and relationships education.

Minute 21 – It was agreed that the Clerk would set up a meeting with David Rees, SACRE Professional Adviser (Adviser), the Chair/Vice-Chair and nominated SACRE members in the summer term to discuss the draft Action Plan and allocated budget for 2019-2020.

**Resolved** – That the update be noted.

**30. SACRE Membership Update**

The Chair welcome newly appointed Councillors (Cllr) to their first SACRE meeting. It was noted that Cllr Brooker would not be appointed to SACRE in 2020 as he would be holding the position of deputy mayor.

**Resolved** – That the update be noted.

**31. SACRE Membership News (An update from members regarding activities undertaken since the last SACRE meeting)**

The following updates were received:

Zubayr Abbas Bowkan updated on the appointment of Sajid Khaliq as principal of Eden Girls' School from September 2019.

Sue Elbrow reported that Kings Church International would be holding an International Sunday celebration of all cultures on Sunday 7 July 2019. Details would be sent to the Clerk for circulation to all SACRE members.

**Resolved** – That the updates be noted.

**32. SACRE Professional Adviser Update**

The Clerk confirmed that David Rees had been appointed as the Slough SACRE Professional Adviser. Mr Rees was unable to attend the meeting due to prior engagements he had arranged before his appointment.

**Resolved** – That the update be noted.

**33. Notes of the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub Meeting held on 3 June 2019**

Christine Isles provided an update on the latest developments with the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub (SACRE Hub). The minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2019 were noted. Members were advised that the Syllabus Guidance materials had been developed to support the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2018-2023.

It was highlighted that Key Stage (KS) 1 and KS2 guidance had been completed and KS3 materials were still currently being developed. In addition, further Discovery materials that existed for Sikhism had been launched at a gurdwara in Slough in March 2019. These materials however were only available to schools that had subscribed to the Discovery Scheme of Work.

SACRE members were requested to review and note any changes to the guidance materials that required amendments. The revised version would be posted on the council's website as soon as practicable.

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Following the success of the Westhill bid, £4000 had been awarded for the Westfield Project. Each SACRE had been invited to source schools with high quality media department in their boroughs.

Sue Elbrow advised that the media departments at Langley Grammar and Langley Academy were of the highest quality in the borough. The schools had been approached and a response had yet to be received. It was suggested that Baylis Court School could also be approached and acknowledged that contacts for the media aspect of the project may not necessarily be in Slough.

Members were reminded that each SACRE was required to commit to contributing £900 for this financial year to enable the Hub to continue providing support for the six SACRES.

*Ashpreet Singh Nainu arrived at the meeting.*

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub meeting held on 3 June 2019 be noted.

### **34. Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub Contribution for 2019-2020**

Members acknowledged that the joint working with the SACRE Hub had been useful, particularly in the recent five yearly review of the Agreed Syllabus.

**Resolved** – That £900 be agreed as contribution to the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub for 2019-2020.

### **35. Draft Slough SACRE Action/Forward Plan for 2019-2020**

Members noted the SACRE Action Plan April 2019 – March 2020.

During discussion, it was agreed to resume the production of a quarterly news letter and for costs to be indicated for each outlined item in order to ensure sufficient funding was available to achieve the objectives in the Action Plan.

A revised Action Plan would be reported to the next SACRE meeting following the proposed discussion meeting.

**Resolved that:**

- i) A meeting with the SACRE Professional Adviser and nominated SACRE members to be arranged to discuss the SACRE Action Plan for April 2019 – March 2020.
- ii) The revised SACRE Action Plan April 2019 – March 2020 be reported to the next SACRE meeting on 6 November 2019.

### **36. RE Resources Catalogue Project Update**

Members discussed the on-going work on the RE resources catalogue project. The resources were currently stored at St Mary's CE Primary School.

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Waqar Bhatti, Sue Elbrow with the help of other colleagues had reviewed and photographed a number of items on Hinduism and Sikhism. Items in the Christianity box appeared to be missing. The photographed items had been saved on a USB memory stick. Mr Bhatti would be arranging further visits to complete the photographing process.

It was noted that many of the items in the boxes were out dated and very few were still useful. St Mary's School had collected their own range of artefacts which were in a better state than those contained in the boxes.

During discussion, it was agreed that it would be helpful to ask a religious leader from each faith group to review respective religious artefacts in order to ascertain whether they were fit for purpose. On completion of the listing of the artefacts, members would need to decide whether SACRE should continue to be the host for maintaining the materials for schools to borrow, particularly as many schools now provided their own materials. In addition, many artefacts could now be viewed online.

After discussion, it was agreed that Lynda Bussley would review the photographs and refer non-relevant items to an appropriate SACRE religious representative member to ascertain whether they should be discarded or not. It was noted that the Community Development Officer at the Slough Central Library could be asked to provide support with cataloguing the artefacts.

Rev Andrew Allen and Ashpreet Singh Nainu would provide additional assistance with reviewing the boxes containing the Christian and Sikhism artefacts and advise whether the items should be retained. Gulzari Lal Babber would arrange for a priest to review the Hinduism resources.

Waqar Bhatti advised that religious artefacts were displayed on the Bracknell Forest Council website but it was not clear whether the resources were replenished or updated by Bracknell Forest SACRE. Christine Isles would raise the subject of SACREs sharing RE resources with schools at a Hub meeting to find out whether other local authorities did so.

Members acknowledged that St Mary's School had been helpful in storing the resources but noted that finding permanent storage was currently an issue. On completion of the cataloguing project, Ms Bussley would send details about available resources to Cllr Basra to circulate to all schools to establish whether any of the items would be useful in supporting the teaching of RE at their schools.

**Resolved** – That the RE Resources Catalogue Project be progressed.

### **37. Members' Attendance Record**

**Resolved** – That Members' Attendance Record be noted.

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**38. Information Items:**

Members noted the information items and agreed that any amendments relating to the KS1/2 guidance materials should be emailed to the Clerk who would collate and send forward the comments to the Adviser to be actioned.

**Resolved** – That the information items were noted.

*Cllr Brooker left the meeting.*

**39. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 6 November 2019**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at a school and Rev Allen would be approaching St Mary's CE Primary to host the next meeting.

**Resolved** – That the date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 6 November 2019.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.38 pm and closed at 6.09 pm)