

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Wednesday, 18 November 2009

3.15 pm

Kingston Centre, Fairway, Stafford ST16 3TW

John Tradewell
Director of Law and Governance
29 October 2009

A G E N D A

Note: The meeting will be preceded by a training session starting at 12.40 with a lunch. See attached for training itinerary.

1. **Apologies**
2. **Welcome to New Members**
3. **Declaration of Any other Business**
4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 13 May 2009** (Pages 3 - 8)
5. **Review of membership of the SACRE** (Pages 9 - 12)
Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)
6. **An Update on Key Issues** (Pages 13 - 18)
Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)
7. **NASACRE Update**
Oral Report of the Chairman
8. **Professional Development Opportunities - Uptake 2008/09** (Pages 19 - 22)
Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)



9. **Procedures for Schools Causing Concern** (Pages 23 - 24)
Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)
10. **The Twentieth Annual Report (To be Tabled)** (Pages 25 - 26)
Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)
11. **An Analysis of Examination Results for Staffordshire Schools 2009 (To be Tabled)** (Pages 27 - 28)
Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)
12. **SACRE Budget 2009/10 (To be Tabled)** (Pages 29 - 30)
Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)
13. **Any Other Business**
14. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the SACRE is scheduled for Monday 22 February 2010 at 2.00pm, Kingston Centre

Membership

Rummy Bajaj	Blackmore
Christine Chadwick	Mary Gale
G Devadason	Mr. C. Hopkins
Lynn Godden	Rosemary Woodward
Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal	Catherine Brandrick
Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf (Chairman)	Dave Lyons
Janet Kemp	John McCarthy
Karen Knobbs	Davies, P.R.
Dr Laow	Mrs. V.M. Downes
Sydney Morris	Finn, T.V.
Liz O'Brien	Jennings, I. F. J. K.
Muhammad Parekh	Mrs E. Staples
Sam Phillips	Pat Budd
Gurmeet Singh	Frankie Durairatnam
Bill Walley	

SACRE meeting 18 November 2009

Professional Development Activity

Kingston Centre, Seminar Room 7

- 12.40 Lunch
- 1.30 The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus 2009
- The aim of the syllabus and how this works in practice
- The importance of the Early Years Foundation Stage
- The qualities and the process
- Making progress in RE
- Making RE exciting
- 3.00 Refreshments

MINUTES

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Meeting - 13 May 2009

Present: Rummy Bajaj, Pat Budd, Christine Chadwick, Davies, P.R., Drinkwater, E.N., Frankie Durairatnam, Finn, T.V., Mary Gale, Lynn Godden, Colin Hopkins, Janet Kemp, Karen Knobbs, Dave Lyons, Michael Metcalf, Sam Phillips and Bill Walley

Apologies for absence: Blackmore, Veronica Downes, Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal, Sydney Morris, Muhammad Parekh, Wilkins, A.J. and Rosemary Woodward

Also in attendance – Heather Farr, Senior Advisor for Religious Education; Helen Phillips

PART ONE

52. Apologies

53. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2009

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

54. Update on Key Issues

(Schedule 1)

SACRE received an update on key issues that had developed or arisen since their last meeting. The issues raised included:

- i) frequency of subject inspections (Members received a copy of the letter sent to Mr A. Brine, HMI with responsibility for RE, and his letter of response);
- ii) subject inspection report for Endon High School (SACRE asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to the School);
- iii) the Student Council;
- iv) Staffordshire SACRE web page;
- v) Monitoring of provision;
- vi) The SACRE awards (the Awards were scheduled for 2 July and all SACRE members were welcome to attend); and
- vii) Persona dolls.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

55. NASACRE Update

The Chairman gave an oral report updating members on the key issues raised by the National Association of SACRE's (NASACRE), including: NASACRE Annual meeting; consultation on draft guidance for RE; and, the Interfaith Network.

RESOLVED – That the oral report be noted.

56. The Agreed Syllabus Review

(Schedule 2)

At their meeting of 17 June 2008 SACRE had convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference and had set in motion the Agreed Syllabus Review for Staffordshire. Members had considered the progress made at subsequent meetings.

Members received details of the action taken following comments and recommendations made by SACRE. Specifically members were informed that:

- a) The Early Years Adviser had been consulted and it had been decided to leave the sections on Early Years Foundation Stage and Reception/Key Stage 1 as they were in the statutory section of the syllabus to reflect the legal position of RE in these phases. Full account would be taken of SACRE's comments in the guidance material where careful attention would be paid to addressing the specific needs of each area.
- b) It was not a requirement for special schools to follow the locally agreed syllabus and therefore it was not appropriate to include guidance in the statutory section of the syllabus for this sector. For teachers of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in other schools an information box had been added to the section **“How can pupils and teachers recognise progress in religious education?”** referring them to the guidance material which would include planning information and the 'P' (performance) scale for RE, a set of descriptions for recording the achievement of pupils with SEN. This was in keeping with the way in which requirements were presented for other subject areas by QCA.
- c) The text had been amended as appropriate to include full reference to conceptual and experiential faiths.

The draft syllabus had been circulated to all subject leaders in secondary and middle schools, to primary subject leaders on the county database and to SACRE members. All responses received had been taken into account and members considered the amended syllabus.

SACRE discussed the amended syllabus in detail. In particular discussion centred on the section outlining Key Stage 4 Programmes of Learning and whether it was appropriate to alter some of the wording to allow greater flexibility without compromising the standards.

After a considered debate SACRE agreed the following amendments to the Key Stage 4 section, to now read:

“At Key Stage 4 all pupils should follow, as a basis, an accredited specification (from a recognised examination board) in Religious Studies. Schools should provide reasonable time for pupils to complete this, and if appropriate, to attain an external qualification.

Schools wishing to base a Religious Studies programme on any other accredited specification, for example Humanities or Citizenship, must take advice from SACRE.

In keeping with the aim of religious education and the underlying principles of the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus pupils must have the opportunity to study Christianity and to draw examples from at least one other faith.

The decision to enter pupils for an examination at the end of the course is at schools’ discretion.”

A further amendment was agreed within the Legal Framework page to move the table showing hours of study per year for each key stage from the “statutory requirement” section to the “strongly recommended” (though not a legal requirement) section.

It was intended that, once the Syllabus had been agreed, it would be launched on the evening of the SACRE lecture, on Tuesday 22 September 2009.

RESOLVED – That: a) the report be received;
b) the new Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus, with the inclusion of the amendments listed above, be approved for consideration by the Agreed Syllabus Conference; and,
c) outline arrangements for the launch of the new syllabus be agreed.

57. Agreeing the Staffordshire Syllabus: The Agreed Syllabus Conference

(Schedule 3)

The SACRE’s is required by law to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to enable the any new syllabus for Religious Education to be formally agreed.

The Chairman convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference. Each Committee formally considered the amended Syllabus, as approved by SACRE for their consideration.

The four Committees were unanimous in agreeing the new Syllabus.

RESOLVED – That the Agreed Syllabus for Staffordshire 2009 be approved.

58. Professional Development Opportunities for SACRE Members

(Schedule 4)

SACRE was presented with a draft copy of the Professional Development Programme available to teachers of RE in Staffordshire for 2009-10. SACRE members were invited to attend any of the events, with prior notice given to the Senior Advisor for RE.

Previously members had discussed the possibility of an activity focusing on SACRE's professional development. It had been suggested that this be arranged during an extended meeting to be held in the autumn term. Key Stage 4 RE was suggested as the topic for the development session.

RESOLVED – That, a) the draft professional development programme be noted; and b) the autumn term professional development session for SACRE be based around Key Stage 4 RE.

59. National Inter Faith Week 15 - 21 November 2009

(Schedule 5)

The Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom and the Department for Communities and Local Government was facilitating a one off Inter Faith Week in 2009.

The event was designed to:

- strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels;
- encourage local faith groups and communities to reach out to each other and build stronger bonds of understanding and cooperation;
- increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, with a particular focus on the contribution their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society;
- to gain positive profile for inter faith initiatives, locally, regionally and nationally as well as for the overall work of building good inter faith relations;
- increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs;
- encourage the development of new partnerships within local communities and by faith communities with statutory and third sector partners.

SACREs and other organisations were being invited to consider ways to highlight the importance of inter faith understanding and co-operation. Information on this would be circulated to schools.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

60. SACRE Development Plan

(Schedule 6)

At their meeting of 25 June 2007 SACRE agreed to merge the existing Staffordshire action plan with the Ofsted self-evaluation documentation to create a single document addressing the key issues. It was proposed that progress against the self-evaluation document be reviewed by SACRE annually at their summer term meeting, with targets agreed for the forthcoming academic year.

Members received copies of the development plan for 2008-09 and considered targets for 2009-10.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

61. The SACRE Budget 2009 - 2010

(Schedule 7)

Members received a breakdown of the SACRE budget for the financial year 2009-10.

Continuing priorities for the year 2009-10 were: support for the Student Council; development of guidance materials to accompany the 2009 Agreed Syllabus; the sixth form conference; the SACRE awards 2010; and, the SACRE lecture.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

62. Any Other Business

- a) Protocols – a copy of proposed protocols to help SACRE carry out its statutory duty to monitor the provision of religious education was circulated to members for their consideration. Members were asked to consider this and forward any observations to the Senior Advisor for RE.
- b) Chasetown Specialist Sports College – SACRE were informed of current difficulties in offering the short course RE at Key Stage 4 and the temporary measures taken to overcome these problems in the short term. (Mr T.V. Finn and Mr E.R. Drinkwater declared an interest in this item.)

63. Date of next meeting

RESOLVED – RESOLVED – That the next meeting of SACRE is scheduled for Wednesday 18 November 2009, 2.00 pm, Kingston Centre, Stafford. This would include an optional professional development activity for members, subject to confirmation.

**Michael Metcalfe
Chairman**

Documents referred to in these minutes as Schedules are not appended, but will be attached to the signed copy of the Minutes of the meeting. Copies, or specific information contained in them, may be available on request.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
18th November 2009
Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)
A review of the membership of the SACRE

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To enable members of SACRE to review its membership following the decision taken in 2008 that this would be an agenda item at the autumn term meeting each year.

2 Summary

2.1 The Terms of Reference for the Staffordshire SACRE were reviewed during the academic year 2007-2008. The relevant sections of the document are attached to this paper

2.2 Also attached to the paper is a table indicating the length of service of each member and the last meeting attended.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That the membership of the SACRE be reviewed taking account of the fact that membership would normally be for a period of five years

3.2 That members consider whether there are instances where Section 4.9 (h) of the Terms of Reference is applicable

4 Background

4.1 During the academic year 2007-2008 members took time to review the Terms of Reference which had been in existence since 1989.

4.2 At the summer term meeting 2008 the representative nature of the SACRE was discussed and it was decided that the allocation of places to faith groups and organisations continued to be relevant. There are currently vacancies for the following representatives:
Catholic (1), Sikh (1), Hindu (1), ASCL (1), NAHT (1).

4.3 The Terms of Reference include a requirement to review the membership of the SACRE at the autumn term meeting of each academic year on receipt of the Annual Report.

4.4 Members are invited to consider the information presented with this paper to:

- review the membership of those who have served for more than five years
- consider whether there are instances where Section 4.9 (h) of the Terms of Reference is applicable.

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

6.1 There are no financial implications.

Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Heather Farr
01785 277997

An extract from the Terms of Reference for the Staffordshire SACRE

1. MEMBERSHIP.

Representative Members

- 1.1. In line with the relevant legislation, the SACRE will include members appointed by the LA from the following four representative groups:
- (a) such Christian and other religious denominations not including the Church of England, as in the opinion of the LA, broadly reflect the proportion of those denominations or religions represented in the area;
 - (b) the Church of England;
 - (c) associations representing teachers, as in the opinion of the LA, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area; and
 - (d) the LA.
- 1.2. Appendix 1 lists the current Members and the denominations or groups that they represent.

Co-Opted Members

- 4.3 The SACRE may include co-opted members, who are persons appointed by its own members and identified in Appendix 1.
- 4.4 The relevant appointing body must notify the SACRE Clerk in writing of any representative and co-opted member appointments, prior to the new Member's first meeting.

Vacancies.

- 4.5 In the event of a vacancy on the SACRE the Clerk shall:
- (a) advise the relevant appointing body of the vacancy;
 - (b) where appropriate, refer any nomination to the LA; and
 - (c) where such nominations are agreed, record the person as a member of SACRE.
- 4.6 In the absence of nominees from a representative group, the LA may nominate and appoint any person that it considers to be representative of that group and it deems appropriate, to fill the vacancy.

Term of Office

- 4.7 Appointments to SACRE shall generally be for a term of five years from the date that the new Member should have attended their first meeting.
- 4.8 The SACRE shall review the membership annually at the autumn term meeting on receipt of the Annual Report.

End of Membership

- 4.9 A Member shall be removed from the SACRE if:
- (d) they reach the end of their term of office;
 - (e) they write to the SACRE or the Clerk and tender their resignation;
 - (f) they were appointed by virtue of being representative of the religion, denomination or associations which they were appointed to represent, but in the opinion of the LA, they cease to be such a representative, or to be representative of the authority;
 - (g) the other members of their representative group notify the LA that the Member should no longer act as one of its representative on the SACRE, and the LA agrees to their removal;
 - (h) the LA determine, on reasonable grounds, that the Member is unable, unwilling or an unsuitable person to continue these duties.

	Committee	Year of commencement of service	Last attendance
Mrs. L. Godden (Baptist) ##	A	1990	May 2009
Mr. G. Devadason (Hindu) #	A	2003	Feb 2008
Mr. S. Morris (Jewish) ##	A	1993	Feb 2009
Mrs. H. Haroon-Iqbal (Muslim)	A	2005	June 2008
Mr. W. Walley (Religious Society of Friends) #	A	2002	May 2009
Mrs. E.M. O'Brien (Roman Catholic)	A	2005	Feb 2009
Mrs K. Knobbs (Methodist)	A	2009	May 2009
Mr R. Bajaj (Sikh)	A	2007	May 2009
Lieutenant C. Chadwick (Salvation Army)	A	2007	May 2009
Mrs. S.J. Phillips (Methodist)	A	2008	May 2009
Ven. Dr. Phramaha Laow Payasiri (Buddhist)	A	2009	Feb 2009
Mr. M. Parekh (Muslim)	A	2008	Feb 2009
Mrs. S. Blackmore	B	2009	Feb 2009
Mr C. Hopkins	B	2006	May 2009
Rev. Preb. M.R. Metcalf ##	B	1996	May 2009
Mrs. M. Gale ##	B	1997	May 2009
Mrs R. Woodward	B	2007	Feb 2009
Mrs C.M. Brandrick (ATL)	C	2008	May 2009
Mr. D. Lyons (NUT) ##	C	1996	May 2009
Ms D. Kirkham (NASUWT) *	C	2009	
Mrs. V.M. Downes	D	2005	Feb 2009
Mr. T.V. Finn #	D	2000	May 2009
Mr. P.R. Davies	D	2005	May 2009
Mr. I. Jennings *	D	2009	
Ms E. Staples *	D	2009	
Mrs. P. Budd (Co-opted) #		2002	May 2009
Mr T. Durairatnam (Co-opted)		2007	May 2009

The membership of all members with over 5 year's service in the academic year 2008-2009 was reviewed in November 2008 with the appropriate representative bodies.

There are no members whose membership falls due for a 5 year review during this academic year

Members with over 5 years of service

Members with over 10 years of service

***** New members for autumn 2009

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
18th November 2009
Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)
An Update on Key Issues**

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on key issues that have developed or arisen since the last meeting of SACRE.

2 Summary

- 2.1 Members of SACRE will receive a brief report on a number of key issues. These are matters which have either been raised at previous SACRE meetings and which have moved forward, or matters on which it is appropriate to brief members of SACRE.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report and note the contents

4 Background

- 4.1 Since the summer meeting of the SACRE there have been developments in a number of areas which had previously been agenda items for SACRE or which have local or national importance for RE.
- 4.2 Members will be briefed on these key developments. A summary is attached to this paper.

5 Equal Opportunities

- 5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

- 6.1 Financial implications may be raised by individual items. These have been dealt with elsewhere, or will be raised at future meetings of SACRE.

Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Heather Farr
01785 277997

The Student Council for Religious Education

The late summer term meeting of the Student Council was held on June 18th 2009. The minutes of the meeting are attached below.

A new feature of the meeting was a session called 'Tell SACRE' which is set to become a standing agenda item. Students were asked to consider the viability of regular debates to inform SACRE of the students' perspective. An account of the discussion can be found in the minutes. In summary, Councillors considered this to be a useful suggestion and identified areas for future meetings, including collective worship, cross-curricular RE and trips.

What the council says about RE – comments included:

- RE deals with controversial issues. It's surprising that more people aren't interested
- There are lots of sides to it. You need to ensure that people know you don't have to be religious to do RE
- There is a need to make sure RE tackles atheism
- RE can be promoted through assemblies
- The really interesting stuff only starts at GCSE
- Year 9 students are mature enough to study some of the interesting topics such as euthanasia
- Pupils need to know what RE is all about
- It would be good to give Year 9 an introduction to philosophy
- Some do projects – across the curriculum – and teach themselves
- Newspapers – incorporating what is going on in the world
- Application of religion – how does it work in practice
- Building your own view – understanding rather than knowledge
- Thinking about the consequences of your actions
- You are asked your opinion, but not asked about other people's views
- Encourage lunch time groups led by sixth formers to help debate and discussion
- Visit to modern places of worship – a wider range of Christianity
- Religion is cool



The SACRE Awards

As ever the SACRE Awards proved to be a popular and enjoyable event. Entertainment was provided by Bonita King of Articles of Faith and Habte Wold with musicians from the Birmingham Ethiopian Orthodox Christian Community. There was a quiz, which almost everyone got right, and an excellent buffet. Members of the Student Council did their usual efficient job of making sure the proceeding ran smoothly. Certificates were awarded in all four categories – to students, teachers, schools/departments and members of the wider community.

Those gaining the special 'PRESSie' Awards were:

Student	Harriet Jackson, John Taylor High School
Teacher	Anne Steele, Endon High School; Chris Easom*, Wolstanton High School
School/Department	Yoxall, St. Peter's CE (VC) Primary School
Members of the wider community	Paul Lewis, Sydney Morris* Stoke on Trent Hebrew Congregation

* Awarded 'Super Pressies' for their outstanding contribution

The Agreed Syllabus Launch

The new Agreed Syllabus was launched very successfully on September 22nd 2009 with around 100 people attending the event. There was a very positive atmosphere, with a number of teachers expressing pride in being involved with the development of the syllabus. Copies of the document were sent to all schools immediately after the launch, along with 'Policy Guidance for Religious Education in Staffordshire: non-statutory guidance'. There has been a pleasing response, with professional development opportunities drawing good numbers on courses where the syllabus is a major feature. To support senior managers in schools, a brief summary of the key issues 'A Guide to Religious Education in Staffordshire for Headteachers and Senior Managers', was sent out in October

The SACRE Lecture

Bishop Gordon Mursell, the Bishop of Stafford, entertained, amused and challenged the audience at the Fifth Annual SACRE lecture which followed on from the syllabus launch. Whilst confessing that he was not an educationalist, the bishop hit just the right note with a thoughtful talk focusing on relevant current issues and encouraging the development of young people's moral compass. His punch line was that it mattered less where you had come from, and more where you were going to, a motto taken up by at least one school to encourage examination students.



The speaker for 2010 will be Laurie Rosenberg, a representative of the Jewish community.

Spirited Dance

Through the School Improvement Division's Study Support Programme a joint project was undertaken to explore religion and spirituality through dance. The Friary School and three partner primaries, Willows, St. Stephen's and Chadsmead, worked with a dance artist to explore Buddhist meditation, Christian Prayer, Jewish Rites of Passage, Muslim patterns, Hindu Divali and Sikh banghra dancing. Following a day of intensive work in each school and a morning of rehearsals an evening performance was given in the theatre at the Friary. The venue was packed and the children performed in an electric atmosphere. It was a moving evening for all involved, and the project exceeded expectations. Caroline Holder, School Improvement Division's Innovations Officer deserves credit for the original idea and for bringing the project to fruition. It is hoped that the success can be replicated in other schools around the county, using 'Spirited Dance' as a transition project for pupils in their final year at primary school.

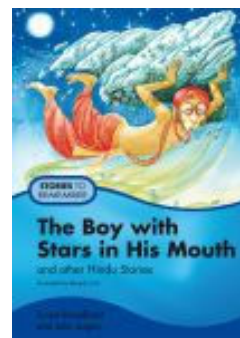
Farmington Fellows

The Staffordshire tradition of promoting Farmington fellowships continues with two further Fellows working on projects in 2009-2010. Gaye Tayler from King Edward VI School, Lichfield and Janet Young from Queen's Croft High School, Lichfield, began their Fellowships at a Conference in Oxford in July 2009. Staffordshire teachers who completed their Fellowships in 2009 were Celia Maddock from William Shrewsbury Primary School, Burton on Trent, and Ruth Parrott from Silverdale Primary School, Newcastle.



Offers; SHAP Calendar and storybooks

Teachers continue to be offered quality resources at reduced rates through bulk buying by the County. As has been the custom in recent years, the SHAP calendar has been offered to schools at a small discount, and for the second half of the autumn term a pack of five storybooks is to be offered to primary schools. The pack includes stories from the Christian, Hindu and Sikh traditions as well as two books which explore difference within faiths through the eyes of children brought up in the tradition. These offers are always well received.



Minutes of the Staffordshire Student Council for Religious Education

Date	18 th June 2009
Time	1.30-3.45pm
Location	Seabridge Centre

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes and matters arising
3. An update on events since the last meeting
4. Attracting new members 2009-2010
5. Elections
6. Tell SACRE
7. SACRE Awards - Student Council input
8. The Student Council Annual Report 2008 - 2009
9. Autumn term visit to a place of worship
10. Where do we go from here?

Dates of future meetings:

2nd July 2009

SACRE Awards

2 Minutes and matters arising

- Minutes of previous meeting approved.
Apologies accepted by councillors from Jessica George, Sian Burr, Lauren Cartwright,

3 An update on events since the last meeting

- Emma updated the council on the London Conference situation. The trip is unfortunately no longer going ahead directly through SSCORE this year. However for those who want to go, tickets are available but will have to make their own way there. Agreed to definitely organise for next years Year 12 councillors to go.
- The visit to the Arboretum was discussed and is open to any councillors. It is to take place on the 15th July, meeting there at 1.15. Brief description of visit and place followed and councillors informed that if anyone needs transport (taxis) they are to contact Heather. Those wishing to go are to confirm their attendance with Heather via e-mail please and any needing directions or further details can e-mail Heather or Hannah.
- Council feedback on how successful they'd felt the input of different speakers had been this during the last few meetings. Ideas for next year were also discussed. Harriet proposed a Jehovah's Witness and further ideas were Mormons, Pagans, Wicca and a scientologist, of which Heather will investigate possibilities.
- The development of supporting a charity for the year was confirmed as a project to begin next year. The confirmed charity to be supported is a small personal charity, proposed by Hannah Goodwin. "The Libby Croome" charity raises money to purchase equipment, bikes etc, for disabled children and fundraising will begin next year.
- Heather informed council briefly of the recent Adult SACRE meeting, mentioning the Inter-Faith week (15th-21st October) that was discussed, among other issues and events.

4 Attracting new members 2009-2010

- The basic process of sending out invitations to schools involved will once again be done in the new academic year, and all councillors were encouraged to promote SSCRE in their schools!
- Posters created last year to be continued. The council liked the idea of continuity rather than annual change. Small changes were discussed to some posters; "in a good way" to be added to the poster reading "SSCRE messes with your head". Council had time to discuss in two groups any new poster ideas. Two very different but effective ideas emerged, and Heather to take ideas away to Rob.
- The information leaflet was also discussed and councillors proposed it should be made more into a leaflet, improving the aesthetics and increasing the colours and images on it. Again to be taken to Rob to try and improve slightly.

5 Elections

- Elections went ahead and votes were taken. Results for positions in next years council were as follows:
 - Chairperson- Hannah Goodwin
 - Vice Chair- Harriet Jackson
 - Lizz Wilkins- Secretary
- Congratulations to all who were selected and thank you to all who applied for any of the roles. There will be many opportunities for further responsibilities next year!
- Further roles were discussed briefly, and it was decided a charity secretary would be useful to manage money raised and ways of raising it. Amy Southwell offered to take up this role, many thanks to you.
- The idea of school reps for each school present at the council was also discussed. However it was agreed to not be necessary with no more than 3 students from each school attending at a time. To be considered for future years though.

6 Tell SACRE

- The general idea of "Tell SACRE" was supported. The format suggested would be a proposed subject of discussion each time. The theme of this meeting was to discuss how R.E can or should be approached in schools and how it can be made increasingly relevant.
- It was suggested to promote the idea of R.E in assemblies in general- perhaps including SSCRE.
- It was also suggested that topics such as "euthanasia" and "abortion", which many of the council felt are the "interesting" subjects should be taught, even if briefly, lower down in school, rather than just being reserved for GCSE. They felt this would firstly be beneficial to those going on to study GCSE RS, but also help to improve RE's status to students at a younger age.
- The possibility of cross-curricular schemes also discussed. Using RE in other subjects and encouraging extra-curricular activities such as debating society to utilise skills from RS was suggested.
- This raised debates about when "discussion" comes into the RS syllabus, councillors feeling that again injecting personal points of view on issues should not be reserved for just GCSE evaluations.
- The discussion inspired Heather reconsider the format of the 6th form conference. Instead Heather felt it would be extremely successful if councillors were trained in how to lead discussions or just promote RE in schools. Councillors could utilise these skills at the conference with peers and then take them back into schools to promote both religious studies and SSCRE. The council really liked the idea, and Heather took away ideas to continue that thought.

- A final proposition was regarding trips with school to places of worship.
- Many councillors felt they had been taken and had had the experience of visiting a very traditional and stereotypical church building however felt the status of R.E could be promoted, especially to non-religious students in school, if it was made compulsory for all to visit a very modern church.
- All agreed this would be successful in challenging the stereotypes of many students and hopefully increase the popularity of religious studies! Heather to take ideas away to be discussed. Thank you to the council for all your valid ideas and input.

7. SACRE awards -Student Council input

- Heather explained the general format of the SACRE awards to the year 12 students and the jobs available to councillors that would be available and needed on the day.
- Jobs will be assigned on the day and heather to send an e-mail out with any further details.

8. The Student Council Annual Report 2008-2009

- Anyone who has not already, please send your pieces for the annual report to Heather as soon as possible.
- Many thanks to those who have already contributed.

9. Autumn term visit to a place of worship

- The councillors discussed the idea of a trip for the year 12's in the autumn term, perhaps a re-visit to the Buddhist temple in Kings Bromley.
- A day in perhaps Wolverhampton or Birmingham was also proposed, where councillors could visit a multitude of places in the one day.
- An alternative to a trip out, if transport was difficult, was also suggested. Rather than having a speaker restricted to 20 minutes in the afternoon of a SSCRE meeting it was suggested that councillors could arrive earlier and have a morning with a speaker of their choice, prior to the afternoon meeting.
- All ideas were welcomed and decision to be confirmed next time.

10. Where do we go from here?

- The four year 13 councillors present shared what their hopes were for next year.
- Helena is hoping to study Geography at Lancaster University.
- Sophie R is hoping to study Philosophy and Ethics at Stafford University.
- Hannah L is hoping to study Philosophy and Theology at Durham University.
- Jess C is hoping to study Philosophy and Ethics (?) at

Agenda Item 8

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
18th November 2009
Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)
Professional Development Opportunities Uptake 2008-2009

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update members on the uptake of professional development opportunities 2008-2009.

2 Summary

2.1 Quality Learning Services offers a central programme of professional development to teachers in Staffordshire schools on an annual basis. Members were advised of the activities proposed for the current academic year at the summer term meeting 2009. A summary of the uptake of professional development in 2008 – 2009 is attached to this paper.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report.

4 Background

4.1 Officers of the Staffordshire County Council School Improvement Division prepare an annual portfolio of professional development activities for teachers.

4.2 For the academic year 2008-2009 393 participants took part in the central programme for RE. This compares favourably with 389 participants in the academic year 2007-2008, particularly in view of the fact that school budgets continue to be squeezed. No courses were cancelled during the year.

4.3 Network meetings remain the most popular option. These are free to Staffordshire schools and incur no costs when teachers attend twilight sessions. Over a hundred participants attended primary networks over the year, with more than forty participants attending secondary meetings.

4.4 Schools are also able to purchase bespoke professional development to support teachers in school although this has not been a popular option in recent years. Demand for support from the Advanced Skills Teacher, Emma Senior, is rising and this is pleasing. This incurs no charge to schools, unless supply cover is needed.

4.5 The **Subject Self-evaluation Programme** is funded by the Director, Children and Lifelong Learning Directorate, and for 2008-2009 was free to schools. One half day visit was offered to RE departments in participating schools and this proved popular. 3 special, 7 middle and 14 high schools took part in 2008-2009. This initiative continues in a revised format for 2009-2010, where schools will still be offered a half day review, but at a cost of £100 per visit. This will continue to support close links with departments, providing further monitoring information for the SACRE.

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

6.1 There are no financial implications for the SACRE.

Contact Officer **Heather Farr**
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**Religious Education
Provisional Professional Development Opportunities
2008 - 2009**

Date	Primary/Secondary	Title	
17.09.08	Primary REN31101	Special Schools Primary Network	2
25.09.08	All REB31201	The Fourth Annual SACRE Lecture: Guest Speaker Andrew Copson	31
09.10.08	Primary REB31301	Religious Education for Teaching Assistants	27
15.10.08	Primary REB31501	Visits and Visitors in RE	27
15.10.08	Primary REN31601	Religious Education Network (Primary Strategy) Kingston	26
21.10.08	Secondary REN31401	Special Schools Secondary Network	4
22.10.08	Primary REN31602	Religious Education Network (Primary Strategy) Coton Centre	11
04.11.08	Primary REN31603	Religious Education Network (Primary Strategy) Seabridge	13
06.11.08	Secondary REN31701	Religious Education Network (Secondary Strategy) Kingston	18
11.11.08	Primary REN31604	Religious Education Network (Primary Strategy) Chasewater	8
20.11.08	Primary REB31801	Managing RE in the Primary School	18
04.12.08	Secondary REB31901	Religious Education Network for NQTs (Secondary)	5
09.12.08	Middle REN32101	Religious Education Network (Middle Schools) Kingston	6
09.12.08	Middle REB32001	Leading and Managing Religious Education in Middle Schools	4
08.01.08	Primary REN32301	Special Schools Primary Network	4
21.01.09	Primary REB32201	Getting started in RE in Staffordshire (for NQTs)	10
27.01.09	Secondary REN32401	Special Schools Secondary Network	3
29.01.09	Primary REB30901	Specially for Key Stage 1: Creative RE for Younger Pupils	15
06.03.09	All REB32501	The RE Conference 2009	36
19.03.09	REB32601	Collective Worship	5
22.04.09	Primary REN41501	Special Schools Primary Network	5
24.04.09	Secondary REB41401	Religious Education Network for NQTs (Secondary)	4
20.05.09	Primary REN41601	Religious Education Network (Primary Strategy) Kingston	11
21.05.09	Primary REB41701	Getting the best from the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus (Primary)	19
21.05.09	Primary REN41602	Religious Education Network (Primary Strategy) Seabridge	16
03.06.09	Primary REN41604	Religious Education Network (Primary Strategy) Chasewater	6
04.06.09	Primary REN41603	Religious Education Network (Primary Strategy) Coton Centre	14
11.06.09	Secondary REN41801	Special Schools Secondary Network	3
25.06.09	Secondary REN41901	Religious Education Network (Secondary Strategy) Kingston	24
25.06.09	Secondary REB42001	Getting the best from the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus	18
		Total	Page 20
			393

Schools purchasing consultancy from the Senior Adviser 2008-2009

Date	School	Activity
17.10.09	Grange Community School	Staff Meeting
24.03.09	Parkside Primary	Staff Meeting
07.05.09	Kingsfield First School	Staff Meeting
04.06.09	Five Ways Primary School	Staff Meeting
24.06.09	Perton, Sandown First School	Staff Meeting

Schools involved in the Subject Self-evaluation Support Programme 2008-2009

Abbot Beyne School
 Blackfriars Special School
 Cardinal Griffin Catholic High School
 Cheshire High School
 Christ Church CE (VA) Middle School
 Churnet View Middle School
 Codsall Middle School
 Endon High School
 Fair Oak Business and Enterprise College
 John Taylor High School
 King Edward VI High School Stafford
 Newcastle Community High School

Oldfields Hall Middle School
 Ounsdale High School
 Paget High School
 Painsley Catholic College
 Paulet High School
 Penkridge Middle School
 Perton Middle School
 Queen's Croft High School
 Ryecroft CE (C) Middle School
 The Fountains High School
 Walton Priory Middle School
 Wolstanton High School

Agenda Item 9

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
18th November 2009
Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)
Procedures for Schools Causing Concern

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present SACRE members with proposals for procedures to be followed in the case of schools causing concern.
- 1.2 To give members the opportunity to consider the proposals and to make suggestions regarding the way forward.

2 Summary

- 2.1 The SACRE has, in the past, taken every possible opportunity to congratulate and commend students, teachers, departments and schools for positive approaches and achievements in RE and collective worship.
- 2.2 Where examination results have raised concerns, the SACRE has also offered the assistance and support of the Senior Adviser for RE.
- 2.3 There has, to date, been no formal procedure for contacting schools where other concerns have been identified. Proposals are attached to this document.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report and consider the adoption of appropriate procedures for schools causing concern.

4 Background

- 4.1 The monitoring evidence available to the SACRE, formal and informal, identifies schools to be commended and schools causing concern.
- 4.2 To date the Staffordshire SACRE has been generous with its praise but has seldom taken action to challenge schools causing concern.
- 4.3 The primary and secondary curriculum reviews have encouraged schools to take a creative approach to the curriculum. In some cases this may lead to schools compromising the provision and quality of RE.
- 4.4 The development of procedures to be undertaken where concerns are identified will allow the SACRE to respond to concerns immediately to challenge and offer support.
- 4.5 Draft procedures, first presented at the summer term meeting 2009 are attached. Members are invited to discuss and amend the procedures with a view to approving a course of action for the future.

5 Equal Opportunities

- 5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications for the SACRE.

Contact Officer **Heather Farr**
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Procedures for schools causing concern

Where, in carrying out its statutory duty to monitor the provision of religious education as appropriate within the Local Authority, the SACRE has identified a cause for concern:

1. The SACRE or a sub-committee will request that a letter be sent from the Senior Adviser for RE or an appropriate LA officer to outline concerns to the school and offer support.
2. Any responses will be referred to the SACRE or a sub-committee for consideration.
3. Where no reply is received, a further letter will be sent by the chair of SACRE reiterating concerns and offering the support of the Senior Adviser or appropriate LA officer.
4. Any responses will be referred to the SACRE or a sub-committee for consideration.
5. Where no reply is received, the SACRE, through the chair, will send a further letter to the school reiterating concerns and alerting the school to further action:
 - a) Concerns to be raised with relevant LA officers (School improvement Partners, District Strategic Improvement Managers) with a request that the SACRE be informed of the outcome of any ensuing discussion.
 - b) A note of concern be sent to the Senior LA officer with responsibility for SACRE (usually a deputy director)
 - c) The SACRE to hold a note of concern on its records

Agenda Item 10

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
18th November 2009
Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)
The Twentieth Annual Report

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present SACRE Members with the Twentieth Annual Report.

2 Summary

2.1 The Twentieth Annual Report covers the proceedings of the Staffordshire SACRE meetings in the academic year 2008 - 2009.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That Members of SACRE receive this report.

3.2 That members alert the Senior Adviser for RE to any suggested amendments within a fortnight of the meeting.

4 Background

4.1 Each SACRE must publish an annual report on its work. Members will receive a copy of the Twentieth Annual Report at the meeting.

4.2 This report should

- i) specify any matters on which it has advised the LEA
- ii) broadly describe the nature of that advice and
- iii) set out its reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the LEA.

4.3 A copy of the report will be sent to the headteachers of all schools in the County, to the teacher's associations, to the local faith communities and to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA).

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

6.1 The report will be circulated to schools and other relevant bodies by Staffordshire County Council Democratic Services.

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**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
18th November 2009**

**Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)
An Analysis of Examination Results for Staffordshire Schools 2009**

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present SACRE members with a statistical analysis of the standards achieved in GCSE (Full Course and Short Course), Advanced Level and Advanced Subsidiary GCE Religious Studies by pupils examined in the summer of 2009.

2 Summary

2.1 Members of SACRE will receive a graphical analysis of the standards achieved.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report.

3.2 That letters be sent on behalf of SACRE to identified schools offering congratulations or support as appropriate.

4 Background

4.1 A statistical analysis of the standards achieved by Staffordshire schools in examinations held in summer 2008 and key issues identified in the analysis will be presented at the meeting.

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 This report has been prepared in line with the County Council's policy on Equal Opportunities.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications

Contact Officer:
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Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
18th November 2009
Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)
SACRE Budget 2009 - 2010

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To advise members of SACRE of the current budget position

2 Summary

2.1 A breakdown of the SACRE budget for the financial year 2009 - 2010 to date will be presented at the meeting.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report

4 Background

4.1 A budget has been made available to support the work of SACRE during the financial year 2009 – 2010 as approved by the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning).

4.2 An account of the monies spent to date in relation to the budget for 2009-2010 will be presented at the meeting.

4.3 Continuing priorities for the year 2009-2010 include:

Professional development for SACRE members

Support for the Student Council for RE

Development of guidance materials to accompany the 2009 Agreed Syllabus

The SACRE Awards 2010

The SACRE Lecture

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

6.1 Financial implications are indicated in the budget account.

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