

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Monday, 14 November 2011

2.00 pm

Kingston Centre, Fairway, Stafford ST16 3TW

John Tradewell
Director of Law and Democracy
4 November 2011

A G E N D A

1. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Welcome to New Members**
4. **Declaration of Any other Business**
5. **Minutes of the SACRE Meeting held on 17 June 2011** (Pages 1 - 6)
6. **Update on Key Issues** (Pages 7 - 10)
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People
7. **NASACRE Update** (Pages 11 - 12)
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People
8. **The British Humanist Association** (Pages 13 - 18)
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People
9. **SACRE Annual Report 2010-2011** (Pages 19 - 20)



Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

10. **Application for Variation of Practice** (Pages 21 - 24)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

11. **SACRE www.sln2.net Login Codes** (Pages 25 - 26)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

12. **Monitoring of Primary School Provision 2010-2011** (Pages 27 - 28)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

13. **Explore Islam and Interfaith Week November 20 - 26th** (Pages 29 - 32)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

14. **The SACRE Budget 2011-2012** (Pages 33 - 34)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

15. **Any Other Business**

16. **Date of the next SACRE meeting**

That the next SACRE meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7 February 2012, 2.00pm, Kingston Centre, Stafford.

Membership

Ann Hewetson	Sue Blackmore
Diana Cutler	Mary Gale
Tajinder Singh	Colin Hopkins
Paul Lewis	Rosemary Woodward
Jane Essex	Dave Lyons
Christine Chadwick	Peter Davies
G Devadason	Veronica Downes
Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal	Terry Finn
Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf (Chairman)	Ivan Jennings
Karen Knobbs	Liz Staples
Dr Laow	Tricia Budd
Liz O'Brien	Frankie Durairatnam
Muhammad Parekh	Liz Williams
	Rev. J. Kime

Sam Phillips
Gurmeet Singh

MINUTES

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Meeting - 17 June 2011

Present: **Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf**

Jane Essex, Christine Chadwick, G Devadason, Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal, Liz O'Brien, Mary Gale, Rosemary Woodward, Dave Lyons, Veronica Downes and Frankie Durairatnam

Apologies for absence: Karen Knobbs, Muhammad Parekh, Sam Phillips, Sue Blackmore, Colin Hopkins, Peter Davies, Terry Finn, Liz Staples, Tricia Budd, Liz Williams and Rev. J. Kime

Also in attendance - Emma Senior and Helen Phillips

PART ONE

1. **Mr Sydney Morris MBE**

The Chairman informed members of the sad news that Mr Sydney Morris, the Jewish representative on SACRE for a number of years, had died. Members shared their views on the very valuable contribution he had made to interfaith work and SACRE, and shared a moments silence in remembrance.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Members considered the position with the EBac and specifically that RE had not been included as one of the humanities subjects. Anecdotally it was looking more positive for the inclusion of RE. Members considered a range of ways in which they could support the promotion of RE and its inclusion as a named humanity in the EBac.

3. **An Update on Key Issues**

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

- i. Letters had now been sent to academies giving guidance on legislation, inviting them to continue using the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus and offering appropriate support; and,
- ii. The Student Council had met for a third time, attending a Hindu Manir and Sikh temple in Wolverhampton.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

4. NASACRE Update

The Chairman gave an oral update on recent NASACRE developments, including:

- i. NASACRE had substantially supported the Celebrating RE initiative and two members of the Staffordshire SACRE had attended the NASACRE event in March 2011;
- ii. At the NASACRE AGM Bruce Gill had been elected as the new Chairman and Julie Grove remained secretary;
- iii. Administrative support for NASACRE would now be undertaken through the new RE Council Centre near London;
- iv. There was some concern over funding for NASACRE as this was largely dependent on local authority (LA) subscriptions and fees from attendance at events, under the current financial constraints it was possible that LAs may not be as willing to fund these; and
- v. The matrix for SACRE self evaluation was being revised and it was hoped that the new format would be ready for November.

RESOLVED – That the oral report be noted.

5. The Student Council

Currently there were twenty members of the Staffordshire Student Council for Religious Education (SSCRE). As members were based across Staffordshire transport to and from events and meetings had been costly. This year a new method of working had been trialled for SSCRE members to attend the Global Student Forum (GSF), held in Westminster. This was a national student conference organised by The Damaris Trust. The theme this year would be “Dying for Life: save the mothers, save the world”, engaging students with current ethical and moral issues, discussing faith and training the students as peer educators to work within their schools.

SACRE had paid an annual membership to GSF of £340 to allow student councillors to attend this forum, which roughly equated to the cost of taxis for one student council meeting. A further £900 had gone into schools to contribute towards the cost of transport and help fund activities that follow on from the GSF. The £900 was funding that remained from the 2010/11 SACRE budget.

Following the GSF, rather than students meeting at Seabridge as previously, the Advisory Teacher for RE would be invited to attend student council led conferences within individual schools. The students would also be expected to take assemblies and support the teaching of RE where appropriate.

This new initiative would be evaluated at the end of the year and influence any approach taken subsequently.

Members were pleased to note that The Damaris Trust had made it clear that they felt this approach was innovative and were interested to see what the impact of bringing the SSCRE, rather than a group from one specific school, would have on sharing the issues raised and work undertaken at the conference.

Members considered the possibility of the SSCRE using a face book page for communication between the Council and were informed of a page developed by Clare Dempsey, a sixteen year old student from Birmingham, who had developed a face book page to promote RE. The GSF also had its own face book page, and SLN2 could also be used for communication between Council Members.

RESOLVED – That the SACRE note the proposed new approach to the SSCRE and welcome the opportunity to consider the future outcome of this development.

6. SLN2

SLN2 was Staffordshire's learning Platform. 84% of primary schools were using SLN2, with just over half of Staffordshire secondary schools also having subscribed to it. It was a password protected system that allowed information to be shared with subscribers only, and incorporated the option to share blogs, documents, hold discussions and carry out surveys amongst a number of other initiatives. A new RE page was now available on the SLN2 and SACRE members received details of the content of this page.

The monitoring surveys for collective worship and provision of RE were also included on SLN2 for schools to complete and members reflected that they would wish to evaluate whether this initiative increased the number of responses received.

Members requested a SACRE members page and it was proposed that the Senior Advisor for RE would investigate the possibility of SACRE members receiving a password to enable them to access and participate in any SACRE discussion page.

RESOLVED – That the introduction of the RE page on the SLN2 be noted.

7. Applications for Variations of Practice

Members were aware that SACRE had the authority to determine any application for variation of practice from the requirement for broadly Christian collective worship and/or make amendments to the way the Agreed Syllabus was followed within a school.

SACRE were informed that no applications had been received.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. The SACRE Awards 2011 and the SACRE Lecture 2011

The SACRE Awards had been held annually since 2006. This year in a change to the previous format of the event, it would be held in conjunction with Stafford Friends of Faith at the Gatehouse, Stafford, during the evening of Thursday 7 July. Schools would be asked to nominate individuals for the usual categories of, pupils, teachers, schools/departments and members of the wider community. The event would celebrate peace and harmony between people of faith and recognise the success that interfaith networking could bring.

SACRE members were invited to both the SACRE Awards and the SACRE Lecture. Lat Blaylock, a high profile figure within the world of RE and the editor of RE Today

Magazine, would take the lecture this year, to be held on Tuesday 20 September 2011, Kingston Centre, Stafford.

RESOLVED – That the arrangements for both the SACRE Lecture and the SACRE Awards be noted.

9. The SACRE Development Plan 2010-2011 and 2011-2012

At their meeting in June 2007 SACRE had agreed to merge their existing Staffordshire Action Plan with the Ofsted self-evaluation documentation to create a single document addressing the key issues. At that meeting members also agreed that progress against the self-evaluation document should be reviewed annually at their summer term meeting, with targets set for the forthcoming year.

Members received details of key areas for action in 2011/12, these being:

- i. Supporting the further development of web-based guidance materials to accompany the 2009 syllabus with a focus on SLN2;
- ii. Developing electronic systems to monitor and gather information from county schools;
- iii. To commission the work from the Senior Teacher Consultant for RE to develop resources;
- iv. To consider ways to financially support professional development for teachers; and,
- v. To organise a joint celebratory event with Friends of Faith.

RESOLVED – That the targets set in the key areas for action in 2011/12 be agreed.

10. The SACRE Budget 2010-2011

SACRE members received an account of the spending on the budget for 2010-11. Members noted that continued priorities for the SACRE budget were:

- i. Professional development for SACRE members
- ii. Support for the Student Council for RE
- iii. Development of guidance materials to accompany the 2009 Agreed Syllabus
- iv. The SACRE Awards 2010 and
- v. The SACRE Lecture.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

11. AOB

The Senior Advisor for RE had been successful in a bid for £5000 from NASACRE to develop a project with schools around visiting the National Memorial Arboretum, producing a film and support materials for use within school.

There were a number of vacancies currently held by SACRE, including two from the Free Church group. Consideration needed to be given to how the Free Church vacancies could be filled, and which body should be approached to seek a nomination.

There were a number of lectures taking place at Staffordshire University alongside the Islam exhibition. The Vice Chairman had previously circulated details of these lectures but a further email could be sent to members with the outline of events. SACRE members were welcome to attend.

**Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf
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

14th November 2011

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

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 spring term 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:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

The Student Council for Religious Education

This term I negotiated for Dance4life to tour Staffordshire High schools. Dance4life were one of the organisations that I made contact with during my visit to the Global Student Forum with the Staffordshire assembly of students. dance4life is an innovative, international initiative designed to inspire, mobilise and unite young people (13–19 years old) to push back the spread of HIV/AIDS. dance4life aims to have created one million active participating youth by 2014 as a last urgent call to the world leaders to keep their promises around the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). The tour was well received, with participating schools commenting on its contribution to the KS4 and 5 RE curriculum on matters of relationships, SRE, and values. Gavin Williams, MP for South Staffordshire, attending the workshop when it visited Cheslyn Hay High school and wrote a column on its impact for his local news paper.

Recruitment and retention

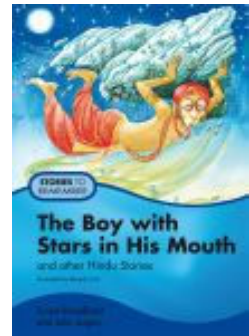
The following jobs have been advertised since the last meeting:
Main Professional Scale: Teacher for RE, John Taylor High School

Farmington Fellows

The Staffordshire tradition of promoting Farmington fellowships continues with Jerome Peat from Abbot Beyne School. Jerome's mentor will be Lat Blaylock. Bev Young from Thomas Alleyne's High School is nearing the completion of her Farmington Fellowship.

Offers: SHAP Calendar and resources

This year the SHAP calendar has not been offered to teachers as they have changed the format of the calendar and have moved to an electronic version only. With the changing ways of working and the changing role of ET it is no longer possible to bulk buy resources at a reduced rate. Teachers will continue to be offered the quality resources that we currently have in stock at reduced rates. This includes a pack of five storybooks that 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. RE Today have also worked with Staffordshire to offer a reduced price for resources. These resources and offers have been communicated to teachers throughout Staffordshire.



SACRE Lecture

The SACRE lecture was delivered by Lat Blaylock on 20th September. It was well attended and a most informative evening. A personal letter of thanks was received from the Head teacher at Madeley High school who attended the event.

Subject focused RE inspections

Maryhill High School is to receive a subject focused RE inspection on 2nd and 3rd November. The inspection will be led by Jacqueline Wordsworth HMI.

Schools causing concern

This term a letter was sent to Norton Canes after concerns were expressed over possible changes to RE in light of the Ebacc. The issue was also raised by the school SEP.

14th November 2011

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

NASACRE Update

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 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 NASACRE is the national body of SACRE's. National meetings are held to which members of SACRE are invited and encouraged to attend. Issues are discussed which have local or national importance for RE.

4.2 Members will be briefed on any key developments.

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:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

14th November 2011

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

The British Humanist Association

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on recent correspondence with The British Humanist Association.

2 Summary

2.1 Members of SACRE will receive a brief update on recent correspondence with the British Humanist Association. This is a matter on which it is appropriate to brief members of SACRE.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE hear the update and note the contents

4 Background

4.1 The British Humanist Association have emailed SACRE to request that we grant full membership to a humanist representative to committee A of SACRE.

4.2 Staffordshire SACRE currently has a co-opted humanist as a member of SACRE. Members are asked to discuss whether they can see any reason for changing the current arrangements. developments.

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:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

A copy of the email from The British Humanist Association:

From: Richy Thompson [mailto:richy@humanism.org.uk]
Sent: 13 September 2011 16:15
To: Phillips, Helen (L&D)
Subject: Humanist on SACRE

Dear Mrs Phillips,

I am emailing you to ask if you would grant full membership to, or at least co-opt, a humanist representative to Committee A of your SACRE.

As you may be aware, in January 2010 the government published *Religious Education in English Schools: Non-statutory Guidance 2010* which solidified many positive improvements that have been made in recent years. Importantly, it deleted the explicit prohibition on humanists serving as full members of SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASCs), which had appeared in the previous guidance (*Circular 1/94*). It also observed that SACREs could co-opt members to represent non-religious views (p.13) and noted how this could be done in the interests of inclusion (p.21).

Following on from this, we believe that humanists should be full members of Committee A, and have obtained legal advice which confirms that it is illegal to refuse humanists such admittance. I append a summary of that advice to this email (the full advice is available upon request), but in brief, the Human Rights Act sections 3 and 6 and the Equality Act 2006 section 52, when read together, mean that references in law to 'religions' should be read as 'religions and beliefs'.

With regards to RE syllabuses the 2010 guidance also reaffirmed the government's view that RE should examine both religious and non-religious perspectives. It noted that:

- 'Religious education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human. It can develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, of other principal religions, other religious traditions **and worldviews** that offer answers to questions such as these' (p.7).

The Government had already set out that RE should examine non-religious perspectives in:

- the new secondary curriculum published in 2007, which noted that RE should study a 'secular world view' (p.7 of the KS3 programme of study)
- the new RE programme of learning for the primary curriculum published in September 2009, which recommended that 'over the primary phase as a whole, children should draw on both religious **and non-religious world views**' (p.2)
- the 2004 national framework for RE, which recommended that there should be 'opportunities to study secular philosophies such as **humanism**' (p.14). The framework was endorsed by a wide range of RE professional and religious groups, including the Church of England, the Catholic Education Service and the Muslim Council of Britain.

We are emailing all those SACREs in England that do not currently have a humanist representative on their Committee A, to urge them to admit one. We believe the new guidance has removed any sound reason that SACREs may have had about not admitting a humanist, while we believe there are compelling reasons why you should admit one, whether as a full or co-opted member of Committee A.

Firstly, given that non-religious views should be taught in RE lessons, it follows that humanists should have a role in monitoring how their views are taught. This is a right only extended to religious representatives. Admitting a humanist will ensure that your SACRE is both inclusive and also acting fairly.

Secondly, the addition of a humanist will make a positive contribution to the work of your SACRE and help ensure that the RE in your area remains broad and accurate. Humanists have had a long history of contributing towards and improving RE. The British Humanist Association has been a member of the Religious Education Council for over thirty years, while some of our representatives have served on SACREs throughout this period with distinction, including as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of both SACREs and ASCs.

Thirdly, we question the legality of excluding a humanist, as the appended advice corroborates.

We hope that you will agree that your SACRE should admit a humanist representative as a full member and we would be very happy to help find a suitable humanist for you if you are not already in touch with one. If you would like any more information or would like to explore how to find a humanist to nominate please contact me by email or on 020 7462 4993.

Periodically we discover SACREs that have appointed a humanist representative by going through a local humanist group. If you have already granted full or co-opted membership to a humanist we would be very grateful if you could let us know so we can update our records accordingly. We would also be grateful if we could have their contact details so we can send them useful material. Again please contact me with any of this information.

Yours sincerely,

Richy Thompson
Campaigns Officer (Faith Schools and Education)
British Humanist Association

Humanist membership on a SACRE:

The legal situation

Not only is the extension of full membership of SACREs and ASCs to include humanists required on educational grounds: it is also what the law demands.

The present guidance (***Religious Education in English Schools: Non-statutory Guidance 2010***) fails to fulfil the Department for Education's (DfE's) obligations under the Human Rights Act sections 3 and 6 and the Equality Act 2006 section 52.

The latter prohibits the DfE from doing "any act which constitutes discrimination", and the exception at subsection (4)(k) plainly does not apply to membership of SACREs and arguably not to the scope of the syllabus.

More particularly the Human Rights Act at section 6 prohibits the DfE from "act[ing] in a way which is incompatible with a Convention right". By virtue of reading Article 9 with Article 14, this encompasses discrimination between religions and beliefs.

Moreover, section 3 positively requires that "so far as it is possible to do so, primary legislation and subordinate legislation must be read and given effect in a way which is compatible with the Convention rights." That this section needs to be given a wide and powerful interpretation has been underlined by the House of Lords (*Ghaidan v. Godin-Mendoza* (FC) [2004] UKHL 30)^[1].

However, to bring the law on RE and on membership of SACREs and ASCs into compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights requires no serious or violent re-interpretation of the legislation. If section 3 means anything at all, it must mean that discrimination between religious and non-religious worldviews or lifestyles should be eliminated by reading references to 'religions' in the present law on RE as references to 'religions or beliefs' in the new guidance.

In particular, in references to membership of SACREs and ASCs, 'religions' must be read as 'religions or beliefs', giving humanists the right to be full members alongside the religious representatives.

Not only is such a reading of the law now required by the Human Rights Act – as, of course, it was not in 1994 – but it is wholly in line with the developing consensus in the Council of Europe, the OSCE and other international bodies to which the United Kingdom is committed. We refer, for example to the OSCE's *Toledo Guiding Principles* and the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers recommendation CM/Rec (2008)12) and the fact that even the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief has singled out the UK's discriminatory approach in RE as an issue of concern.

Further justification for our argument here and further advice on the question is available upon request.

The Legal Situation explained

The BHA believes that the Human Rights Act (HRA) and Equality Act (2006) support the inclusion of humanists on SACREs as full members. Section 3 of the HRA requires that legislation previous to the HRA be interpreted to meet its requirements; so that, for example, references to "religion" should be interpreted to mean "religion and belief". Thus a

case could be made for humanists to be full members of Committee A (which includes "other religions").

Education in English Schools: Non-statutory Guidance 2010 is the most up to date non-statutory guidance on SACREs. This document replaced Circular 1/94.

Circular 1/94 (which is no longer applicable) stated that "The inclusion of representatives of belief systems such as humanism, which do not amount to a religion or religious denomination, on Committee A of an agreed syllabus conference or Group A of a SACRE would be contrary to the legal provisions referred to at paragraph 103."

Education in English Schools: Non-statutory Guidance 2010 does not state this however appears to recommend co-opted, non-voting membership of Standing Advisory Councils for RE (SACREs – the local committees that oversee RE) for humanists and no membership at all of Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASCs – the local committees that set the RE syllabus).

However

- DfE Circulars are guidance only, and do not have legal authority, unless there has been a court ruling on a particular aspect. To our knowledge, there has been no legal challenge to the inclusion of humanists in Group or Committee A.
- In the past a few SACREs have ignored the DfE circulars and allowed humanist representatives to retain full membership of Group A. They have taken the (correct) view that Circular 1/94 is only advice and that the matter has not been tested in court. These SACREs include Westminster and Oxford.
- Humanist representatives have been elected as Chairs or Vice-Chairs of SACREs including in Hounslow, Brent, Camden, Hammersmith and Fulham, Oxford and York. In particular, Humanist representatives have been the chair of the SACRE in Brent and in York
- In addition, Humanists have been invited to serve on ASCs and have taken a full part in conference proceedings and/or they have participated in syllabus working groups. However, because of the ambiguous legal position they are sometimes listed officially as 'observers'.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

14th November 2011

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

SACRE Annual Report 2010 - 2011

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present the SACRE with it's Annual Report.

2 Summary

2.1 SACRE produces an annual report of its work which is published as a public document. A copy of the 2010-2011 SACRE Annual Report will be presented at the meeting for approval by members prior to distribution.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report

4 Background

4.1 SACREs are required to produce an annual report of their work. This report is sent to headteachers of all schools in the county, to the teachers associations and to the local faith communities. The report is also made available on the Staffordshire Learning Net.

4.2 Members are requested to read and approve the report prior to general distribution.

4.3 Members are also asked to consider whether they wish for paper copies to be sent to all of those who need to receive the report or whether to send copies of the report electronically.

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.

Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Emma Senior
01785 27799

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

14th November 2011

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

Applications for variation of practice

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider any applications for variation of practice to religious education and or collective worship.

2 Summary

- 2.1 Upon receipt of a written application from a Headteacher of a county school SACRE should determine whether it is appropriate to disapply the requirement for broadly Christian collective worship and/or make amendments to the way the Agreed Syllabus is followed in the case of that school.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members of SACRE are updated on any new developments in this area.

4 Background

- 4.1 No applications have been received at this time.
- 4.2 Nationally Collective Worship has been high profile in recent months. In July Secularist Peers tabled amendments to the Education Bill, at the committee stage of the house of Lords which sort to end the statutory status of collective worship and religious education within schools without a religious designation. The amendments were debated before being withdrawn by their sponsors.
- 4.3 The RE council and NASACRE have clarified their positions on Collective worship. Statements are attached.

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 immediate financial implications

Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN SCHOOLS
STATEMENT BY THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL OF ENGLAND
AND WALES
5 SEPTEMBER 2011

The Religious Education Council (REC) of England and Wales believes collective worship has played an important role in schools, following the requirements set out in 1944 (and amended in 1988). The requirements for collective worship as a school activity are both different and distinct from the requirements regarding RE in the curriculum.

The REC is aware that the requirements for collective worship are not now being followed in all schools, especially secondary schools, for a variety of reasons, including lack of suitable spaces and/or leaders for collective worship. This has been reported regularly by Ofsted over the years. However, this does not mean that schools have not provided opportunities for the spiritual and moral development of young people, many good examples of which Ofsted have also reported.

In 1998 the REC conducted, with others, a review of collective worship. The findings were reported to the government of the day, but no action followed either in terms of a governmental review or the provision of new guidance, training and resources. With an apparent lack of government interest in this area, the REC has focussed its attention over the past ten years or so on the curriculum subject of RE, which, until this year, has shown signs of improvement in many but not all areas of the country. The REC believes that, now, RE itself is in danger of government neglect.

The REC has plans to debate the issues around collective worship again in the near future, and hopes to be able to be in a position to discuss these with the government and others as appropriate.

John Keast

Chair of the RE Council of England and Wales

17.00 hours

NASACRE comment

It is impossible to give a definitive statement as to 'NASACRE's position' on specific Collective Worship issues because the organisation is so diverse; its members are the SACREs which, in themselves, would represent a range of views on such matters.

NASACRE officers and executive of the association would strongly support the view that collective worship is a valuable and unique opportunity to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and, as such, deserves to be taken seriously and offered in a meaningful way. Statutorily, promoting pupils' SMSC development is still the first aim of schooling.

Where a school values these opportunities, pupils of all ages benefit enormously and the daily requirement ceases to be a chore and, therefore, an issue. It only becomes contentious where the activity is not recognised as being worthwhile and the practice consequently reflects that.

Daily CW is a duty on schools and our council's view would always be to meet the legal requirements. NASACRE would never give advice or take up a stance which contradicted the law. At most, it might relay strong views from its member SACREs.

Julie Grove
Secretary NASACRE

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

14th November 2011

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

SACRE www.sln2.net login codes

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on developments with SLN2

2 Summary

2.1 Members of SACRE will receive an update on developments with SLN2 and will receive sln2 login codes. As this will have an impact on all aspects of religious education it is appropriate to share this with members of SACRE.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE hear the update and note the contents

4 Background

4.1 SLN2 is Staffordshire's learning Platform. 84% of primary schools are using SLN2 and just over half of all secondary schools have also subscribed to it.

4.2 SLN2 is password protected and allows information to be shared with subscribers only. It incorporates the option to share blogs, documents, hold discussions, carry out surveys etc.

4.3 Members will be briefed on updates to the new RE page on SLN2 and will be shown how to access the site.

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.

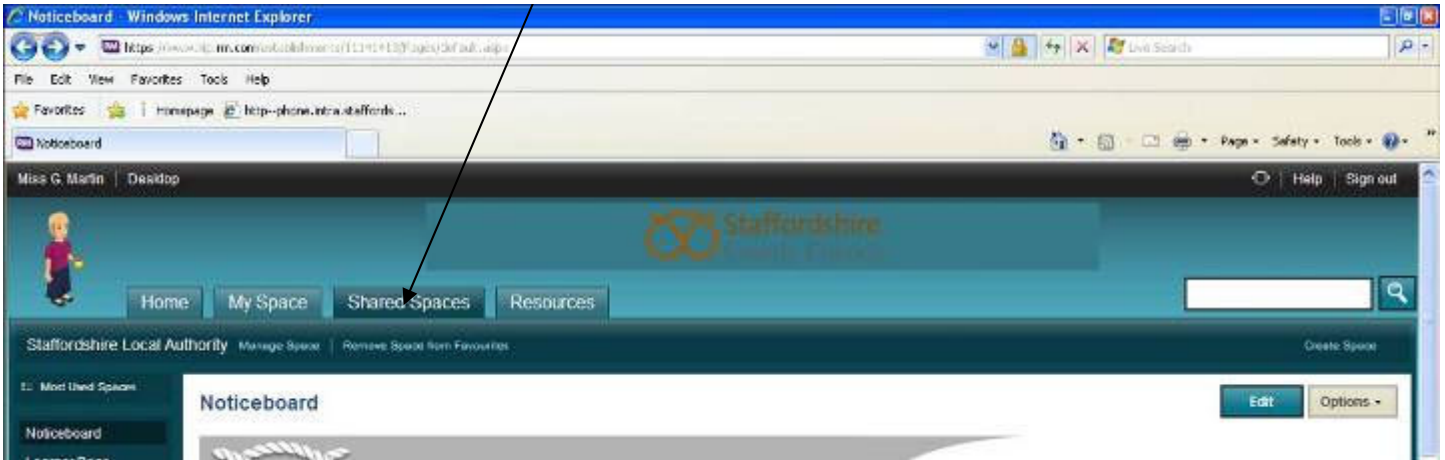
Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

To Access The SLN2 Staffordshire Local Authority RE Area...

- Login using your User Name and Password.

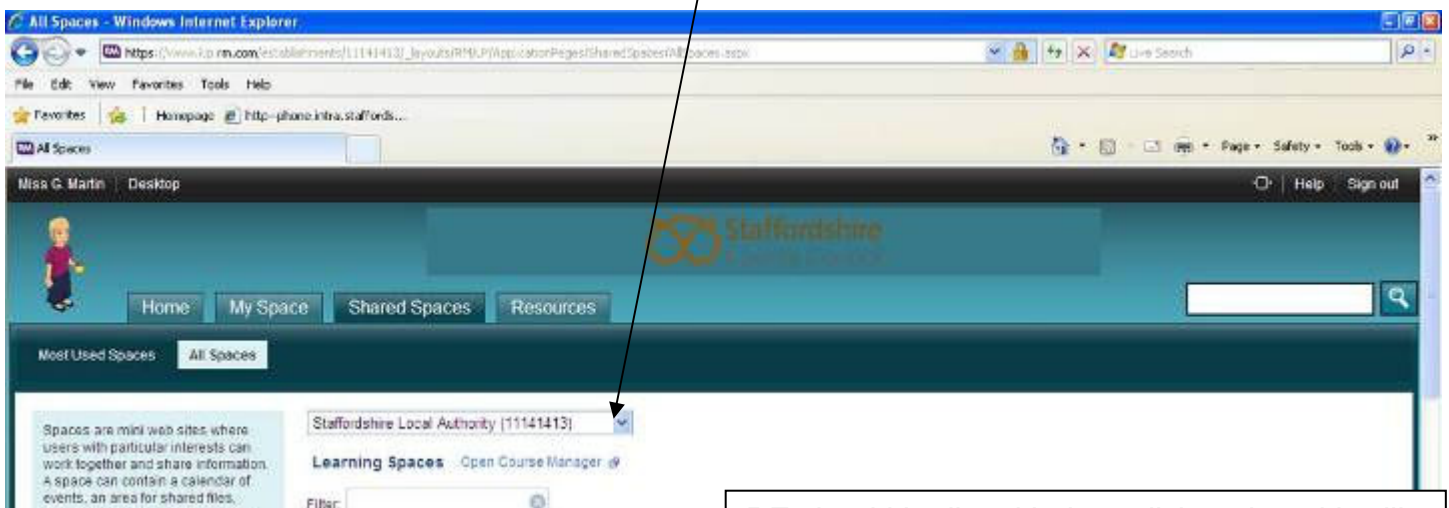
Click on 'Shared Spaces'



Click on 'All Spaces'



Select 'Staffordshire Local Authority' from the drop down box



RE should be listed below, click on it and it will take you to the RE area.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

14th November 2011

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

Monitoring of Primary School Provision 2010-2011

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present members with an analysis of findings from the monitoring questionnaires for primary schools 2011.
- 1.2 To invite members of SACRE to make comments and/or recommendations in the light of the findings.

2 Summary

- 2.1 In order to provide members with sufficient information to carry out their monitoring duties, schools have, for a number of years, been issued with questionnaires requesting detail about provision. In order to allow schools to engage fully with the review of the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus, monitoring questionnaires were not issued in the academic year 2008-2009.
- 2.2 Collated findings from questionnaires issued to primary schools in the summer term 2010 are attached to this paper. Recommendations are identified.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members of SACRE receive the findings from the 2011 primary questionnaires and consider the recommendations.

4 Background

- 4.1 Monitoring questionnaires have been circulated to secondary and middle schools for a number of years. From September 2005 these questionnaires have formed the main source of information about the provision for RE in Staffordshire schools.
- 4.2 In a change to the previous system of written questionnaires a new system of electronic questionnaires has been set up on SLN2. Schools have been invited to complete the online questionnaire through a letter and an e-update. With SACRE members now able to access SLN2 it is possible for members to view responses on a regular basis.
- 4.3 Information gathered through the monitoring exercise relating to RE in Staffordshire Schools can be shared via SLN2 at the meeting. Criteria for discussions is attached below.

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 will be considered in the light of Member's recommendations.

Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

Religious Education in Staffordshire

Monitoring Provision 2010-2011

Collated responses

Returns

How many schools have responded?
Is this a reasonable return?

Subject leader

All schools named a subject leader for RE. In a few instances this was identified to be the headteacher.

Time

SACRE recommends 36-45 hours per year (45-60 minutes each week)

Use of Teaching Assistants (TAs)

How are they employed in the delivery of RE

Planning

Should be based on the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus

Professional development

Have schools accessed CPD

Comments / Recommendations

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

14th November 2011

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

Explore Islam and Interfaith week November 20-26th

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To brief members of SACRE on Explore Islam November 14th-18th and the opportunities for Interfaith week November 20-26th

2 Summary

2.1 Staffordshire Education Transformation in association with partners will be offering opportunities for Staffordshire schools throughout interfaith week.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the summary and note its contents.

4 Background

4.1 Members will be briefed on all events which are taking place. 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 There are no immediate financial implications

Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

Inter faith
week 20th
26th and
Explore
Islam 14th – 18th
November 2011



National Inter Faith Week takes place this year from Sunday 20 to Saturday 26 November in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Information about the Week can be found on the Inter Faith Week website: www.interfaithweek.org.

The Week aims to strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels, and to increase awareness of the faith communities in the UK, celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society. It also aims to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

Last year, the Week was marked in many schools and RE teachers played an important part in organising events such as classroom discussions in RE about inter faith relations; class visits to local places of worship; and exhibitions with stalls about different faith communities. A list of event ideas and resources developed by NATRE and NASACRE to aid schools in marking the Week are available here: <http://www.interfaithweek.org/index.php/resources>

How can my school get involved?

This year we are pleased to offer a range of exciting opportunities for Staffordshire schools. Schools can invite a person of faith to come and speak to students in school, take their pupils to visit a faith building or visit the 'Explore Islam' exhibition.

People of faith:

The following people have offered to visit Staffordshire schools during this year's Inter faith week to contribute to lessons and/or lead assemblies. The Staffordshire RE website provides contact details for people of all faiths:

<http://education.staffordshire.gov.uk/Curriculum/Subjectareas/ReligiousEducation/visits/>

Places of faith:

Stafford's Sikh **Gurdwara** on Tithe Barn Road will be opening its doors to schools on the 23rd and 25th of November. If you would like to arrange a visit please see the attached flyer.

Explore Islam will be taking place at Staffordshire University between 14th – 18th November. If you would like to arrange a visit please see the attached flyer.

For further information on these and many more available opportunities see the '**places to visit**' section of the Staffordshire RE website:

<http://education.staffordshire.gov.uk/Curriculum/Subjectareas/ReligiousEducation/placestovisit/>

Staffordshire University and Staffordshire Education Transformation Division

Invite Staffordshire schools
to

Explore Islam

Staffordshire University, The Gallery, Beaconside, ST18 0AD
14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th November 2011

An opportunity to explore Islam and get answers to any questions you may have. The event will be supported by volunteers from the local Muslim community

Learn about Muslim beliefs and values
Follow the route of the pilgrimage
Find out about life in a Muslim home

The exhibition is especially suitable for pupils in Key Stages 2 and 3
With notice, special arrangements can be made for students in Key Stage 4 and Post-16

Allow approximately 90 minutes per visit

Places are limited. Please use the slip below to book
Time slots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis

✂

I would like to book a time slot for the 'Explore Islam' exhibition at Staffordshire University

Name:

School:DCSF no:

Contact no:

Preferred date:

14 th Nov		15 th Nov		16 th Nov		17 th Nov		18 th Nov	
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Preferred time:

10.00		1.15	
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Number of pupils/students: Year Groups:

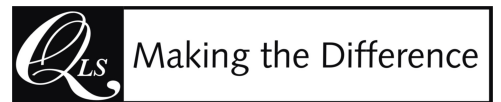
Signed:

Schools will be contacted following the closing date whether or not their application has been successful.

Please return by email emma.senior@staffordshire.gov.uk



**Stafford's Nanaksar Gurdwara and
Staffordshire Education**



Making the Difference
Education Transformation Division

Transformation Division

Invite Staffordshire schools
to

Discover Sikhism

Nanaksar Gurdwara, 90 Tithe Barn Road, Stafford, ST16 3PQ

24rd and 25th November 2011

Members of Sikh Gurdwara will lead this opportunity to discover Sikhism
and to answer any questions.

**Take a tour around the Gurdwara
Learn about Sikh belief and practice
Share in the langar**

The exhibition is especially suitable for pupils in Key Stages 1, 2 and 3
With notice, special arrangements can be made for students in Key Stage 4 and Post-16

Points to note: In keeping with Sikh practice, all visitors will be offered a drink and food (usually a biscuit). Appropriate permissions will need to be arranged. Girls and boys will need to cover their heads. Head coverings will be available for all at the Gurdwara. If visitors prefer to bring their own, then a scarf is appropriate. Shoes must be removed just inside the main door. Adults should dress respectfully. Sikh women would cover their arms and legs, but modest clothing (trousers or a long skirt) is appropriate for visiting women. There is no problem if children's arms and legs are not covered however this could be a good learning point to discuss. It is likely that visitors will need to sit on the floor, so loose, comfortable clothing is helpful. The Gurdwara can accommodate 60 people. A donation to the Gurdwara is not required. However if schools wish to make a contribution, it is suggested that 50p per pupil up to a maximum of £25 would be acceptable.

Allow approximately 60 minutes per visit

Places are limited. Please use the slip below to book
Time slots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis

✂

I would like to book a time slot for '**Discover Sikhism**' at the Nanaksar Gurdwara, Tithe Barn Road, Stafford, November 2010

Name:

School:DCSF no:

Contact no:

Preferred date:

24 rd Nov	
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25 th Nov	
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Preferred time:

10.00	
-------	--

1.15	
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Number of pupils/students: Year Groups:

Signed:

Schools will be contacted following the closing date whether or not their application has been successful.

Please return by email (emma.senior@staffordshire.gov.uk)

by **Thursday 17th November 2011**

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

14th November 2011

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

SACRE Budget 2011 - 2012

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 2011 - 2012 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 2011 – 2012 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 2011-2012 will be presented at the meeting.

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.

Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Emma Senior
01785 27799

SACRE Budget 2011/2012

Cost Centre EM1100

Expenditure from 01/04/11 to 31/03/12

Allocation	-12,030.00
	-12,030.00

<u>Expenditure</u>	£
E Senior Time	6,500.00

Other	
Student Council Meeting 28/04/11	96.25
Printing	3.43
AREIAC Assessment Conference	75.00
Damaris Trust	300.00
Staffordshire University	500.00
RE Today Services	296.40
Postage	4.10
AREIAC Membership	70.00
Recall from King Edward VI, Lichfield	-290.00
	7,555.18

Total	-4,474.82
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Updated 02/11/2011