

**BOROUGH OF POOLE**  
**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

**10 MARCH 2015**

The Meeting commenced at 4:10pm and concluded at 5.30pm.

Present:

Group A:

Lynda Ford-Horne – Judaism  
Karen Preston – Humanism

Group B:

Derek Holloway – Church of England (Chairman)  
Reverend Michael Camp

Group C:

Angela Muir – Special Schools (Vice Chairman)

Group D:

Councillor Meachin

Co-opted Member:

Dave Rees

Also in attendance:

Sue Langdon – Senior Adviser for School Monitoring and Intervention  
Gabrielle Longdin – Democratic Support Officer, Legal and Democratic Services

Members of public in attendance: 0

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wilkins, Renate Diallo, Sarah Tempest and Chris Farrow.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

3. MINUTES

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 November 2014, having been previously circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

4. MATTERS ARISING

Agenda Item 6 – The Senior Adviser for School Monitoring and Intervention, advised that with regards to the use of the remaining SACRE budget, it was no longer necessary to pay £95.00 to Hampshire Hub. The Officer explained that several hundred pounds of the SACRE budget had not been spent and considerations needed to be made on how to best to spend the remaining resources.

Agenda Item 9 – The Chairman explained that Angela Muir, Abid Khan and Chris Farrow were no longer able to attend the SW SACRE Conference, but Dave Rees would be attending in their place.

## 5. REFLECTION

The Chairman and Members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education reflected on the parable of the Lost Sheep from Luke 15.

## 6. TROJAN HORSE AND (CHURCH SCHOOL VALUES)

The Chairman explained that the Document that had been circulated prior to the Meeting was produced by the Church of England with the purpose of guiding schools on issues surrounding the 'Trojan Horse' enquiry that had taken place in Birmingham and had led to changes in Ofsted inspection requirements.

It was explained that according to Ofsted, the social development of pupils was reflected in their acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of Democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The Chairman advised that Ofsted had found it very difficult to inspect fundamental British Values and there was a safeguarding issue in relation to the protection of pupils against extremism.

The Chairman also outlined suggested actions that schools may consider taking to ensure they were prepared in order to avoid the risk of extremism.

Discussion and comments included:

- The Senior Adviser for School Monitoring and Intervention commented that it was important to understand how Local Authorities monitored schools. It was explained that every school was visited by the Senior Adviser on an annual basis and a school 'walk around' took place to ensure Officers fully understood the school environment and pupil behaviour. The Officer also highlighted that the majority of schools were now Rights Respecting Schools, which meant that anything of concern was raised and followed up.
- In response to a question on whether SACRE had any influence on the training of Governors, it was advised that all Governors attended an induction session and that preparation was given for the carrying out of inspections. It was also explained that the Primary Advisor at the Borough of Poole was an Ofsted-accredited Inspector.

- It was commented that there was an area of difficulty surrounding sexuality, in which British values failed to distinguish between various forms of sexuality. The Chairman commented that training and school awareness could eradicate this issue.
- The Vice-Chairman advised that posters reflecting SACRE values had been distributed amongst special schools and children with complex needs had responded well.
- It was suggested that consideration be taken to use some of the remaining funds of the SACRE budget to create specialised e-safety courses to prevent religious radicalisation and not just the general e-safety courses that were currently available.

**RESOLVED that the Report be noted.**

## 7. NATIONAL UPDATES

### GCSE 'A' Level Reform

The Chairman explained that there was a new subject criteria for Religious Studies for GCSE and A Level, which had implications for the KS3 curriculum, which would now need to include the study of an additional religion. The next stage will be for the Exam Boards to create the specifications.

The Chairman also outlined that the new subject criteria for A Level had generated a large amount of discussion, with clear interest in including Philosophy in the A Level content.

### Implications of Lord Nash's Letter

The Chairman explained that the letter from Lord Nash had been send to the Chairs of SACRE.

Concern was raised that the letter stated that Lord Nash was writing as the Minister responsible for faith schools, and this was not the correct term to use because 'faith schools' was a term predominantly used by the media.

The Chairman highlighted that the letter stated a report must be produced annually outlining the activities of SACRE, and that this report should be submitted to NASACRE for inclusion on their website.

**RESOLVED that:**

- i) **The Senior Adviser for School Monitoring and Intervention create an annual report to be sent to NASACRE.**
- ii) **The update be noted.**

## 8. REVIEW OF GCSE AND 'A' LEVEL RESULTS

The Senior Adviser for School Monitoring and Intervention introduced the Report, which included the following:

- Students attending Poole schools perform above national average in GCSE and 'A' Level examinations.
- At KS4 full year cohorts of students were entered for GCSE Religious Studies (full course), through a variety of exam boards. The schools were to be commended for ensuring that students were provided with the opportunity to explore different faiths and beliefs.
- 85% of students attained a grade A\*-C, against 71.3% nationally, which was significantly above the national average and recognises the quality of teaching in this subject.
- At 'A' Level, students of Poole schools outperformed national attainment levels in all grades.

### **RESOLVED that:**

- A letter be written from the Chairman of SACRE to congratulate those students and thank the teachers and schools for providing the opportunity for the significant examination success in 2014.**
- The review of GCSE and A Level results be noted.**

## 9. JOINT PLANNING FOR THE NEXT AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW

The Senior Adviser for School Monitoring and Intervention explained that a meeting had taken place to start the new syllabus for 2016 and this had now been shared with Bournemouth. It was explained that if this syllabus was to be implemented in September 2016, then it would need to be launched in June/July 2016.

### **RESOLVED that:**

- The Senior Adviser for School Monitoring and Intervention bring a timeline to the next meeting of SACRE to reflect upcoming activities.**

## 10. CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE BY TEACHERS

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting for consideration.

## 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on Monday 15 June 2015 at 4pm.**

## 12. URGENT BUSINESS

Lynda Ford-Horne, the Judaism representative expressed disappointment at the recent low level of turnout for the Holocaust Memorial Day.

**CHAIRMAN**