

BOROUGH OF POOLE

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2016

The Meeting commenced at 4.20pm and concluded at 17.44pm.

Present:

Group A:

Lynda Forde-Horne – Judaism (Chairman)

Group B:

Rev'd Michael Camp – Church of England (Vice-Chairman)

Group D:

Councillor Wilson

Co-opted Members:

Sally Hawksworth – Humanist

Angela Muir – Special Schools

Also in attendance:

Sue Langdon – Senior Advisor School Improvement, Children, Young People and Learning (CYPL)

Dave Rees – Religious Education Consultant

Michelle Cutler – Democratic Support Officer, Legal, Democratic and Strategy Services

Cheryl Smith – Observer, Bishop Aldhelm's Primary School

Members of the public in attendance: 0

SAC15.16 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed Members to the Meeting and introductions were made. It was noted that the Meeting was not quorate and therefore any decisions made would need to be ratified at the next quorate Meeting.

The Chairman congratulated the Senior Advisor School Improvement Officer for turning Poole Schools around.

Members of the Meeting questioned why 'Matters Arising' no longer appeared as an Agenda item? The Clerk explained that it was not good practice to have 'Matters Arising' as an Agenda Item. If Members would like to discuss business that was not on the Agenda it could be raised under 'Any Other Business', provided that the Chairman considered the

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business of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration. The Chairman and the Religious Education Consultant disputed this advised that they would like 'Matters Arising' included on future Agendas.

The Religious Education Consultant introduced Cheryl Smith who was attending the Meeting as an observer with a view to becoming a Teacher Representative. The Religious Education Consultant advised that under it's Constitution, SACRE could have up to six Teacher Representatives.

The Clerk advised that consideration of Cheryl being appointed to SACRE would need to be taken formally at the next quorate meeting. The Clerk reminded the Meeting that representatives to Poole SACRE must be appointed by the Council, as per the Constitution.

The Chairman advised that she knew a lady who would like to be considered as a Sikh Representative and that she would forward details to the Clerk.

SAC16.16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Renate Diallo (Quaker Representative), Chris Farrow (Middle School Representative) and Councillor Howell.

SAC17.16 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

SAC18.16 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting dated 5 July 2016, having been previously circulated, be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Minute SAC13.16 'Date of Next Meeting' should be 21 March 2017.

The Minutes would be signed by the Chairman at the next quorate meeting.

SAC19.16 REFLECTION

The Chairman asked Rev'd Camp to lead the 'Reflection'. He advised that today was St Cecelia's Day (the Patron Saint of Music). Music was at the heart of religious worship and it helped to lift hearts and minds. The Meeting then held one minutes silence to reflect, followed by a Christian Prayer.

RESOLVED that the 'Reflection' be noted.

SAC20.16 SACRE CONSTITUTION

The Meeting discussed the proposal for a joint SACRE with Bournemouth. Members were reminded that SACRE Local Authorities were required to appoint and maintain a SACRE, as set out in statute and statutory instruments.

It was highlighted that Bournemouth and Poole SACREs had already operated in a joint capacity in April 2016 to jointly agree the adoption of the '2017 Agreed RE Syllabus'.

The Chairman reminded Members that Poole SACRE shared four of its Members with Bournemouth SACRE and that Bournemouth SACRE had voted and agreed on future joint meetings with Poole.

The Senior Adviser, School Improvement advised that Government guidance was still unclear regarding SACRE. RE was a statutory subject but academies were under no obligation to follow the 'Agreed RE Syllabus', however, RE was an important subject.

The following points were then made:

- It was difficult to recruit new members to SACRE.
- The option of holding joint Poole and Bournemouth SACRE meetings had been explored, however, it would be necessary to hold the joint meeting as two separate meetings.
- Poole SACRE received funding of £4, 000 per annum from the Borough of Poole. This was more than Bournemouth SACRE received so it would be necessary to agree who would finance SACRE officers and advisors.
- The potential merger of the Borough of Poole and Bournemouth Borough Council would need to be considered.
- If Poole SACRE agreed to hold joint meetings with Bournemouth SACRE the Council would need to approve this.

A Member noted that Legal and Democratic Strategy Services had advised that the proposal to hold joint meetings should be postponed pending further information on the Education White Paper and potential merger of the two Local Authorities. The Chairman advised that she would like meet with the Head of Legal and Democratic Strategy Services to gauge if there was anything to legally prevent Poole and Bournemouth SACRES holding joint meetings in the future and that it would be prudent to invite the Chairman of Bournemouth SACRE and the Head of Legal Services at Bournemouth Borough Council.

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Councillor Wilson advised that he supported the proposal of joint SACRE meetings and that it would be wise to involve the Leaders of both Councils in the process.

RESOLVED that the Clerk speak to the Head of Legal, Democratic and Strategy Services regarding the legal aspects of Poole and Bournemouth SACRES holding joint meetings.

SAC21.16 PRIMARY NETWORK RE MEETING

The Religious Education Consultant provided an update following a recent Poole SACRE Primary Network Meeting. The following points were noted:

- Many RE Teachers had received little training and many primary RE Leaders had no qualification in RE.
- RE was often taught by Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) to deliver in Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time.
- The time allocated to teaching RE was being threatened by an ever growing curriculum.

A Member queried to what extent Poole Schools were not providing the required amount of RE? The Religious Education Consultant advised that it was very difficult to know exactly what took place within a school.

A discussion ensued with regard to how RE Co-ordinators could be reached? It was suggested that SACRE could visit schools to offer RE support. Cheryl Smith advised that Bishop St Aldhelm's Primary School would welcome SACRE Members for a tour and observations.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

SAC22.16 NEW RE LEADERS MEETING

The Meeting was informed that the Religious Education Consultant had held a training session for RE Teachers, which had been attended by approximately eight people. There had been a good discussion on what the role of leadership entailed and the practical resources available.

The Religious Education Consultant explained that the training session was about raising confidence in respect of teaching RE. He advised that he would send a copy of his Report to the Clerk for circulation to all Members of SACRE.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the update be noted; and**

- (ii) **the Religious Education Consultant would email the Clerk a copy of the 'New RE Leaders Meeting Report' to be circulated to all Members of SACRE.**

SAC23.16 DRAFT SACRE REPORT

The Religious Education Consultant explained that the SACRE Report was currently in a draft format and that it summarised the work carried out by SACRE over the past year. The Report had to be finalised and submitted to NASACRE by the end of December 2016.

The Report covered the outcomes of the 'Agreed Syllabus Review', 'Agreed Syllabus Launch: Primary RE Conference' and 'Teacher Network Meetings'. It was noted that the 'Agreed Syllabus Launch on 17 June 2016 was very well attended.

RESOLVED that the Religious Education Consultant would add 'Examination Results' to the Report before submitting it to NSACRE.

SAC24.16 SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Religious Education Consultant introduced the 'Poole SACRE Draft Action Plan April 2016 – March 2017', which was primarily used to plan support for teachers. Members of the Meeting were asked to think of new ways to support RE teachers.

The following points were highlighted:

- Pan Berkshire SACRES had helped to deliver the 'Crossing the Bridges Project'.
- The Pan Berkshire SACREs had produced material for five large faiths about Synagogues, Mosques and the Hindu Temple, to enable a template to be used in schools to give a more structured visit to places of worship. The template could be adapted so that it was more inclusive.
- Network Meetings and New Leader Conferences would continue annually as an essential part of supporting teachers.

Rev'd Michael advised that it was important to enhance the usage of places of worship and that it was beneficial for children to see how worship took place in real life.

The Religious Education Consultant was asked to clarify the funding amounts on page 6 of the Report. He explained that SACRE may need to request a further £295.00 from the Borough of Poole to fund the cost of the NASACRE subscription and the cost of sending one member of SACRE to the NASACRE conference in May 2017.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

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SAC25.16 'UNDERSTANDING CHRSTIANITY' RESOURCE

The Religious Education Consultant advised that in order to raise the standards of the teaching of Christianity, the Church of England had commissioned a training manual called 'Understanding Christianity'. This would initially be very important for church schools but was available to other schools too.

It was noted that 'Understanding Christianity' training would need to be delivered and that Verity Holloway would need to be contacted about this.

The Religious Education Consultant confirmed that he would be receiving the training next week, however, he was unsure as to whether this would then enable him to deliver the training to others.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

SAC26.16 GCSE JUDIASM RESOURCE AND TRAINING

The Chairman advised of a book entitled 'Judaism GCSE Religious Studies – The Definitive Resource'. The book, which was designed to provide comprehensive information and insight into the Jewish community for those who were teaching the new Judaism GCSE syllabus, was commissioned by the Board of Deputies and written by Clive Lawton, a leading light in the field of RE.

The Board of Deputies had advised that it would deliver training to any Bournemouth or Poole School doing RE.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

SAC27.16 TRAINING FOR MUSLIM VOLUNTEERS IN SCHOOLS – FEEDBACK

The Meeting was advised that Lilian Weatherly had run a training workshop, which was attended by 15 Muslim women. Rita El-Gazali, Poole SACREs Islamic Representative, had been observed delivering training.

The Chairman explained that she would like to produce a 'Code of Conduct' for faith visitors to Poole Schools, which would set out the boundaries for faith visitors. Bournemouth SACRE supported the idea of developing a Code.

RESOLVED that Members support the idea of developing a Code of Conduct for faith visitors to Poole Schools.

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SAC28.16 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

The Chairman informed the Meeting that there would be two separate acts of commemoration for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). One at Bournemouth Borough Council in the Council Chamber on 27 January 2017 11am to 12noon. The main one would be held on 29 January 2017 at 3pm in the Life Centre at Moordown. The main speaker would be Mala Tribich, a Holocaust survivor.

On 26 January 350 Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset students would hear Henry Schachter, who was a hidden child, speak at Corfe Hills School. Cheryl Smith advised that she would like to attend the event if appropriate.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

SAC29.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 21st March 2017 at 4:00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poole.

SAC30.16 URGENT BUSINESS

No business was raised.

CHAIRMAN