

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 October 2009
starting at 6.30pm

Present

Mr Martin Sweet (Chairman)
Councillors Charsley, Martin Curry and Mrs Anne Manning
Rev Camp, Rev Varney, Mr Green, Mr Hagley, Mrs Hawkes, Mr
Mahmood, Mrs Michaelis, Mr Morrell, Mr Stone, Mr Searle and Mr
Town

Also Present

Ms Penny Smith- Orr, RE Adviser, Councillor Bloom

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hobbins, Mr Gupta, Mr Riat and Mrs Tranchina.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN 2009/10

RESOLVED that Mr M Sweet be elected as Chairman and Councillor Anne Manning be elected as Vice-Chairman of SACRE for the 2009/10 Academic Year.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2009

RESOLVED that the minutes of the 19 May 2009 be confirmed.

Matters arising

Councillor Bloom addressed members and apologised for any misunderstanding or offence which may have occurred at the last meeting regarding the role of the work of SACRE centrally and in Bromley. He assured members that the Council

does value the work of SACRE and intends to work with SACRE and schools to implement a government strategy to attempt to stop radicalisation of vulnerable groups in the borough. A pilot scheme will be set up in schools next Spring and will include liaison with the police and other agencies in the borough, including SACRE, to try to prevent the spread of radicalisation and terrorism in Bromley.

RESOLVED It was agreed that an officer involved in the project be invited to talk to members at the next meeting.

5a FEEDBACK FROM FAITH GROUPS – JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs Michaelis reported on a case of a pupil who was the only Jewish pupil in the school who had felt unsupported and confused. There had also been some cases of anti semitic bullying in school. Members discussed the issue in terms of having appropriate school policies in place.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Michaelis for her report.

5b WITHDRAWAL OF PUPILS FROM RE AND CW

Members discussed the need to formulate a clear procedure when pupils are withdrawn from Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools by their parents/guardian. Schools have a duty to ensure that withdrawal from the curriculum is not unprogrammed time and may provide related activities as well as organising where the pupil is to be taught. It was agreed that schools should be encouraged to communicate with parents on the procedure to be used.

RESOLVED that the RE Consultant will draft a discussion paper on the subject.

6. UPDATE ON SACRE SELF EVALUATION Report No. DCYP09150

The Chairman reported that every SACRE had to complete the self evaluation tool document provided and after discussion in Autumn 2008 the relevant committees had identified three areas which needed developing.

Members discussed progress made especially in terms of proposed partnership with the youth SACRE and links with LA initiatives in promoting social and racial harmony.

The Chairman reported that the development phase was on track and progress was being made.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7. ORAL UPDATE & PUBLICATIONS

a) Sixth Form Conference 21 October

The RE consultant reported that the conference had been very successful and that 25 young people had expressed interest in joining a Youth SACRE Members who had attended the conference noted how positive the young people attending had been and thanked the RE Consultant for all the hard work involved in setting it up. A report on the day will follow.

b) Report of NASACRE conference 4 June

The Chairman reported on the conference and tabled a written report at the meeting.

c) Report on London SACRE July meeting

Councillor Charsley reported that the meeting had been very positive in terms of information sharing. Mrs Hawkes also commented on the value of the day and the very good presentation by The Three faiths Forum.

Islamic Competition (5th November)

Mr Mahmood reported that 3 schools had submitted entries to date. He asked members to email him if they wished to attend the event which will take place on 5 November from 7-9pm at Dar-UI- Loom. The Chairman thanked Mr Mahmood and Mrs Hawkes for their hard work and encouragement.

d) National framework consultations

The Chairman reported that the Primary Curriculum review had not yet been published and suggested that members who were interested look on the QCA website for the latest information.

8. NATIONAL INTERFAITH WEEK – Bromley Faith Directory.

The RE consultant reported that following a meeting with members in the summer information had been compiled about members of different faiths who are willing to visit schools and speak to pupils about their faiths. Members discussed the possibility of publishing the directory on a booklet or having a SACRE page on the council website.

RESOLVED It was resolved that the RE Consultant and George Searle will meet to discuss the possibility of setting up a page on the website with an officer from the Council.

9. BROMLEY SACRE SCHOOL VISITS

Members reported positively on the visit to Pickhurst Junior School. Arrangements for visiting James Dixon Primary were unable to be completed and these will be made for the Spring Term. Visits to Darrick Wood and Perry Hall Junior Schools will take place on 4 November and 11 November respectively. The RE Consultant will enquire about the necessity of CRB checks for members visiting schools.

RESOLVED that the report be agreed and the dates of the school visits noted.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Rev Varney invited members to St Mary's Church in College Road for the Christmas Journey from 2 - 4 December.

11. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

6.30pm on Tuesday 2nd February and Thursday 27th May 2010 at the Civic Centre.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm

Chairman