

## **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 February 2010

### **Present**

Mr Martin Sweet (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs Anne Manning (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Martin Curry, Mr Gupta, Mr Hagley, Mrs Hawkes,  
Ms James, Mr Mahmood, Mr Riat, Mr Town, Ms Tranchina  
and Reverend S Varney

### **Also Present**

Dr George Searle, Ms Penny Smith- Orr, Rabbi Hammond and Cllr Bloom

#### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hillier, Mrs Michaelis, Rev Camp, Mr Green and Mr Stone.  
The Chairman welcomed Rabbi Hammond, Mrs Tranchina and Ms James to the meeting.

#### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

#### **3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 October 2009**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the 21 October 2009 be confirmed

#### **Matters Arising :**

Item 5b) The RE Consultant reported that new guidelines had recently been published concerning the withdrawal of pupils from RE.

Item 7c) Cllr Manning reported that she had attended the Islamic competition event on 5 November which had been very interesting. Mrs Hawkes also reported on a positive visit by pupils.

#### **4 ORAL UPDATE and PUBLICATIONS**

(a) SACRE Annual Report 2008/9

It was reported that the Annual Report had now been sent out to schools. The Chairman thanked the RE consultant for her hard work in producing the report.

b) Christmas Journey - St Mary's Church

The Chairman reported that the event had been very successful and that he would be sending a letter of thanks.

c) Government announcement on RE consultation

Members were requested to look at the National Curriculum website for information. [Curriculum.qcda.gov.uk/new-primary-curriculum/areas-of-learning/religious-education/index.aspx](http://Curriculum.qcda.gov.uk/new-primary-curriculum/areas-of-learning/religious-education/index.aspx) and [www.teacher.gov.uk/teaching](http://www.teacher.gov.uk/teaching) and [learning/subjects/re/guidance](http://learning/subjects/re/guidance)

d) Bromley SACRE website/faith directory

Members discussed the possibility of holding a schools' competition to design a Bromley SACRE website. Members also felt it would be useful to know what involvement religious leaders have in the local community. The RE consultant will write to religious leaders.

**5. REPORT BY COLIN NEWMAN – HEAD OF COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Cllr Bloom introduced the presentation by Colin Newman and explained the importance of faith groups, SACRE and schools in Bromley working together to prevent people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism.

Following the presentation which focused counter terrorism, prevention and protection in Bromley, Colin Newman suggested that faithgroups play an important part in building community cohesion and could signpost vulnerable people and find intelligent gaps. It was intended that a plan would be set up in two Bromley schools with links with neighbouring boroughs.

Members discussed the possibility of launching a celebration of faith with support from the Council, of setting up a small sub group to look into disaffection of younger pupils and what could be achieved at the youth SACRE in March.

It was noted that there was no interfaith representative in Bromley and that the faith forum had not been well attended last year.

It was **RESOLVED** that the matter would be discussed at a future meeting.

6. **SACRE MEMBERSHIP**  
**Report no. DCYP10022**

The Chairman reported that a reply had been received from the British Humanist Association requesting Bromley SACRE accept their representative as a member. The Chairman informed members that it was within the constitution to co-opt members onto SACRE but that such members would not have voting rights. Members discussed the issue fully and put forward differing viewpoints. Mr Mahmood wished to make the point that he disagreed with the co-option of a Humanist member onto SACRE.

After discussion a majority decision was taken.

It was **RESOLVED** to invite the nominated Humanist representative to join Bromley SACRE as a co-opted member and in so doing to make it clear to the member and the BHA that the current locally recommended syllabus does not include secular world views within the religions and beliefs that are to be taught within Bromley schools.  
(as expressed on page 11 of the Bromley Agreed Syllabus ).

7. **SACRE ANNUAL EVENT 2009 -YOUTH SACRE**  
**Report no. DCYP10020**

Members noted the report of the Bromley sixth form conference which had been prepared for the NASACRE/Westhill Trust. The RE Consultant reported that a meeting for interested students had been set up for March 4 and that representatives will be invited to attend the Summer meeting of SACRE.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

8. **SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009-10**  
**Report no. DCYP10021**

Members considered the development plan which had been drawn up with due consideration to the statutory duties of SACRE, which were to:

- require the LEA to review the locally agreed syllabus at least every five years;
- produce an annual report, to be sent to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA);
- advise on matters relating to teaching methods, the choice of teaching material and the provision of training for teachers in RE and collective worship (*eg The RE Centre; in-service training*).

Consideration had also been given to the greater direct monitoring role of SACRE in the light of the changes to OfSTED inspection framework (*eg analysis of examination results, school visits*) and also to the new self-evaluation process that SACREs have been required to do by OfSTED/ DCfS.

All the work of SACRE was done with the aim of raising achievement in RE and improving the quality of teaching and learning. Similarly, it aimed to improve the provision and quality of Collective Worship and to help promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. As a body representing various religions in Bromley, it supported inter faith dialogue and learning about religions for the promotion of respect and racial harmony (*eg. Islamic competition*).

The Chairman suggested that SACRE consider how it might become more aware of the content of the current Bromley Agreed Syllabus in preparation for convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference to write a new syllabus. Penny and Martin will be attending a QCDA conference on 24 March 2010 when the programme will include an introduction to the new Primary Curriculum and how RE relates to this. In addition they will be informed as to how this will impact the design of the new Agreed Syllabus and will report back at the next meeting.

Some time will be spent at the next meeting looking at the current syllabus, which can be found at the following link:

<http://www.lgfl.net/lgfl/leas/bromley/schools/ses/homepage/religious%20education/>

**RESOLVED that the draft development plan be adopted.**

## **9. SCHOOL VISITS**

### **Report no. DCYP10018**

Two school visits were conducted a term. The visits were used to find out (i) how SACRE can be of help to Bromley schools; (ii) the impact of the Agreed Syllabus on RE; and (iii) what strengths and weaknesses for development in RE and Collective Worship had been identified at the school.

The RE consultant reported on the successful visits to Darrick Wood Junior School and Perry Hall Primary School.

The next visit will be to Bishop Justus School on 3 February.

**RESOLVED that the reports of the school visits and the names of those who have volunteered to participate be noted.**

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman highlighted the following dates for members' attention: NASACRE training for members on February 10 and QCDA meeting on 24 March.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

6.30pm on 27 May 2010

**12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006, AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000.**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the item of business listed below as it was likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

The following summary  
referred to a matter involving  
exempt information

**13. COMMISSIONING OF SPECIALIST SUPPORT TO SACRE  
Report no. DCYP10019**

Members were asked to consider a report around commissioning specialist support to SACRE.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to approve the proposals.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm