

**ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)**

Venue: Wingfield Business and Enterprise College,
Wingfield Road, Wingfield,
Rotherham, S61 4AU

Date: Thursday, 10th October,
2013

Time: 4.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Confirmation of the Chair of the Rotherham SACRE, 2013/2014.
3. Confirmation of the Vice-Chair of the Rotherham SACRE, 2013/2014.
4. Apologies for absence.
5. Declarations of Interest.
6. Minutes of previous meeting held on 1st July, 2013. (Pages 1 - 8)
7. Matters arising from previous minutes.
8. Collective Worship. (Pages 9 - 10)
 - Application for renewal of a Determination – attached for discussion;
 - Communication to all schools.
9. GCSE and AS and A2 Performance, 2012. (Pages 11 - 15)
10. GCSE and A-Level Performance, 2013.
11. REwards, 2012/2013 - reflection.
12. Update on the RE team.

13. Date and time of next meetings.

- Thursday 13th February, 2014;
- Monday 30th June, 2014.

Both to start at 4.00 p.m.. Venue to be confirmed at the meeting.

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(SACRE) - 01/07/13**

**ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)
MONDAY, 1ST JULY, 2013**

Present:-

Group 1

N. Goodwin (in the Chair), I. Jones, M. Shah, G. Raha, T. Williams, S. Alam, C. Wells, G. Gray.

Group 2

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Group 3

D. Homer.

Group 4

Councillors C. Beaumont and T. Sharman.

Also in attendance were: - V. Gregory, Z. Ahmed and H. Etheridge.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest to record.

22. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS ON THE ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

The Vice-Chair welcomed three new members who had recently joined the Rotherham Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education, in Group A, 'other Christian denominations and other faiths': -

- Mr. Roy Dyson, representing the Catholic faith;
- Mr. Tony Griffin, representing the British Humanist Association;
- Ms. Tricia Williamson, representing the Bahai faith.

All present welcomed the new members and looked forward to working with them in the future.

All present re-welcomed Maryam Shah, who had recently had a baby and been on maternity leave. All were happy to see her and wished her well and looked forward to working with her again.

23. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH FEBRUARY, 2013.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Rotherham Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education held on 14th February, 2013, were considered.

Resolved: - That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an

accurate record.

24. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES.

Under matters arising, consideration was given to Minute number 10 (Minutes and matters arising of the previous meeting held on 1st October, 2012) of the previous meeting held on 14th February, 2013, relating to future school representation on Rotherham SACRE agendas. It was noted that the agenda for today's meeting and celebration event had not allowed time for the inclusion of a School presentation, but this was something that would continue throughout SACRE meetings in the 2013/14 School Year.

25. PRESENTATION FROM PROFESSOR JOHN ROGERSON, BEAUCHIEF ABBEY, SHEFFIELD.

The Curriculum Consultant for Religious Education introduced Professor John Rogerson and Dr. Linda Adams, both of Beauchief Abbey, Sheffield. Vanessa had recently taken a group of Year 7 students to visit the Abbey for a rewards trip. Photographs of the students in the Abbey's grounds and working with Richard Parry were shown to the Rotherham SACRE as examples of the resources and opportunities available at the Abbey.

Professor John Rogerson thanked the Rotherham SACRE for the opportunity to spread the Abbey's message and talk about the provision available: -

- Founded in 1174, one of Beauchief Abbey's functions was the provision of education. It was no longer known where the library was based in the Abbey, but one would have been sited there;
- In 1490, the Abbey's accounts show that a man called Christopher was employed to teach Latin to the young men and boys who worked in the Abbey who wished to join the monastical life;
- In 1537 the Abbey was closed down as part of the Reformation;
- Between 1660 – 1670 the Abbey was re-built and an addition to the 12/13th Century Tower was added;
- A 'broad church congregation' was developed through the theory/philosophical thinking of F. D. Morris, C. Kingsley and Eversely Robertson;
- The Beauchief Trust had been established to safeguard the Abbey and continue with one of the original functions that had been consistently present throughout the ages: the provision of education through 'scholarship and openness';
- Funding had been identified to support the work of Richard Parry in working with Schools in Rotherham and Sheffield so that pupils could visit the Abbey;
- Richard was also available to advise and help Schools with aspects relating to Ofsted's framework for SMSC issues and teaching the Religious Education syllabus;

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- There was a Beauchief Abbey Press that was publishing on-line and hardcopy resources;
- It was intended that the provision available through the Abbey would grow as the needs of the local communities, including school partners, became apparent.

The educational visits to the Abbey and the resources and learning opportunities available through Beauchief Abbey aimed to help students: -

- Expose fundamentalisms;
- Become self-critical and self-aware;
- Listen to and judge arguments and 'respond to and accept the force of the better argument'.

Full information about Beauchief Abbey could be accessed from the website: -

<http://beauchiefabbey.org.uk/>

The Abbey's location was: Beauchief Abbey, Beauchief Abbey Lane, Sheffield, S8 7BD.

Discussion ensued on the information presented. The Rotherham SACRE found the presentation on Beauchief Abbey to be exciting and interesting. School visits to the Abbey would be a useful exercise and provide an opportunity to compare with other religions' places of worship.

Resolved: - (1) That the information presented by Professor John Rogerson and Dr. Linda Adams be noted, and they be thanked for the informative presentation and their contribution to the discussion.

(2) That Beauchief Abbey be approved and incorporated onto the Rotherham SACRE's list of 'places to visit'.

26. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP.

Consideration was given to the document that had been circulated that was the Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education's draft policy guidance document for schools in relation to their responsibilities around Collective Worship.

A sub-group of the SACRE had met and collaborated on the document. It was envisaged that, when agreed, the guidance document would be circulated to schools in September, 2013.

Discussion ensued amongst the Rotherham SACRE on the document as presented: -

- A small number of formatting issues were raised, including

establishing a consistent format;

- The inclusion of the religious festivals calendar that had been included as an appendix. There would be a requirement to provide a yearly update on the appendix. There was potential for some slippage between the yearly updated policy based on the school year, and religious festivals taking place. In response to this risk, it was decided that the body of the report should make explicit reference to the timeframe of the appendix, and that it would be subject to a yearly refresh.

Resolved: - (1) That the content of the draft Collective Worship Policy be approved, subject to the amendments being made, and it be distributed to all of Rotherham's Schools.

(2) That the Rotherham SACRE record their thanks to the sub-group for their work on the Collective Worship Policy.

27. COMMUNITY COHESION UPDATE.

The Schools Community Engagement and Cohesion Officer (Resources Directorate) was welcomed to the meeting. Zaidah gave a presentation to outline her recent work with schools and communities: -

Model United Nations: -

- Participating Schools: - Oakwood, Wingfield, Clifton and Newman;
- Students were mixed and worked with others from different Schools;
- The event had worked extremely well;
- The Council's Leader, Councillor Roger Stone, had made the opening speech, and Joyce Thacker, Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services had been on the judging panel;
- Councillor Mahroof Hussain, Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion, had also been involved throughout the event;
- The topic that had been debated was the conflict in Syria;
- The national Schools Linking Body had been involved and informed Zaidah that Rotherham's event was one of the best events across the country;
- The event had been extended at Wingfield School where Year 9 students who had already taken part in the event, had mentored Year 7 students so they could take part in a similar event.

Schools' Linking Network: -

- 20 schools had taken part in this programme during 2012/13;
- Faith schools had been linked to non-faith schools;
- Winterhill CLC had been used as a neutral venue;
- CPD was planned from September 2013.

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SMSC: -

- Delivered via a partnership approach.

RIGA: -

- 10 bids were made by schools in Rotherham, eventually 7 schools were successful;
- Judging criteria required schools to demonstrate international global working and collaboration with partners across the globe;
- A RIGA ceremony for the winning school would take place, and a trophy would be presented to the winner;
- This had been the first year of operation, participation was expected to increase;
- Work was underway to develop a franchise model for the sub-region.

On-going support to schools: -

- Zaidah had experienced an increase in requests;
- More mosque visits had been arranged;
- Schools that had previously engaged were returning for further experiences;
- Development of comparison visits between different places of worship;
- Displays and assemblies in Schools;
- Support with the Religious Education Syllabus;
- Support following reports of racist incidents within schools and the wider community;
- A bespoke strategy was designed in response to each situation;
- Sessions had been provided on islamophobia and had been well received;
- REWIND programme (anti-racism) training had been delivered under a buy-back model.

Attendees endorsed Zaidah's presentation and thanked her for her informative and engaging presentation.

Resolved: - That the information shared be noted.

28. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE AND A-LEVEL PERFORMANCE, 2012.

Resolved: - That this item be considered at the next meeting of the Rotherham SACRE due to be held on Monday 30th September, 2013.

29. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE ROTHERHAM SACRE FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR.

Resolved: - That this item be considered at the next meeting of the Rotherham SACRE due to be held on Monday 30th September, 2013.

30. DATES AND TIME OF 2013/14 MEETINGS: -

The following dates were agreed for the 2013/14 meetings of the Rotherham SACRE: -

- Monday 30th September, 2013;
- Thursday 13th February, 2014;
- Monday 30th June, 2014.

All meetings were due to begin at 4.00 p.m.

Discussion was held as to whether to hold the meetings in the Rotherham Town Hall or at Wingfield Business and Enterprise College.

31. REWARDS, 2012/13.

Following the close of the Rotherham SACRE meeting, attendees were joined by a wonderful attendance of the winners of the 2012/13 REwards categories.

Winners and the people/organisations that had nominated them had been invited to meet with the Rotherham SACRE and celebrate their examples of good practice and innovation in teaching RE.

Five REwards were awarded by Nicki Goodwin, Vice-Chair of the Rotherham SACRE, and Vanessa Gregory, RE Curriculum Consultant.

The winners were: -

- **Hilltop Special School**
- Nominated under the Team category for evidencing innovative work to enhance the Religious Education curriculum;
- Nominated by – the RE Co-ordinator, Hilltop Special School;
- Reasons why they won: -
 - Over the last four years a group of teachers had successfully developed and implemented a week of RE activities based around the Christian, Islamic or Jewish faiths. They have offered a huge range of activities to pupils at the school during a week of events, developed the subject material to suit students with severe learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorders and complex learning difficulties and disabilities, for students aged between three and nineteen. The School had undergone an amazing journey to make these very different faiths meaningful and accessible to their students and they are proud of what they have accomplished. The School had encouraged believers to visit

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them. Students and colleagues had learnt such a lot about these faiths and from these faiths. This was now a BIG hit in the School's calendar.

- **Open The Book –**
- Nominated under the Community category for supporting the delivery of Religious Education;
- Nominated by – the RE Co-ordinator of Anston Hillcrest Primary School;
- Reasons why they won: -
 - 'Open the Book' are valued volunteers who come into the school every half term. They dramatise different stories from both the Old and New Testament of the Bible. The children and staff really look forward to the "Open the Book" team coming into school; each member of the team always dresses up in costume and together they bring the stories alive for the children. Each story portrayed provides children with a message/moral demonstrating how to be a good Christian and how to live a good life.

- **Lesley Gruszka, HLTA, Dinnington Primary School-**
- Nominated under the Teacher category for supporting the delivery of Religious Education;
- Nominated by – Headteacher, Dinnington Primary School;
- Reasons why she won: -
 - Lesley Gruszka has led RE throughout the school for many years and to a very high level. She teaches RE in all year groups and leads staff to ensure high standards in this area. She has organised many trips to a variety of religious buildings and is always keen to bring RE 'alive' in her style of teaching, with many lessons enhanced by drama, philosophy for children enquiries, music, art and role play. She has massive commitment to the subject area and all children love learning RE with Lesley. She is inspirational!

- **Open The Book –**
- Nominated under the Community category for supporting the delivery of Religious Education;
- Nominated by – Headteacher, Aston Lodge Primary School;
- Reasons why they won: -
 - Open the Book are attached to the Methodist church and come into our school fortnightly to deliver assemblies based on the teachings in the bible. The group were purely voluntary and put a lot of effort into their planning to act out, using props, the stories. Pupils really enjoy the assemblies and were gaining knowledge of the Christian religion and its teachings. Some members of the group also volunteered to come into school to help deliver learning champions.

- **The RE Team –**
- Nominated under the Community category for supporting the delivery of Religious Education;
- Nominated by – Nicki Goodwin, Lead, the RE Team;
- Reasons why they won: -

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