

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

Venue:	Town Hall, Moorgate Street, ROTHERHAM. S60 2TH	Date:	Tuesday, 13th October, 2015
		Time:	4.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Declarations of Interest.
4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 16th June, 2015. (Pages 1 - 7)
5. Locally Agreed Syllabus.
6. Succession planning for the RSACRE Chair, 2016/2017.
7. Annual Report, 2013/2014. (Pages 8 - 15)
 - Draft/working report attached.
8. Student Conference, 2015.
9. Development Plan, 2015/2016. (Pages 16 - 17)
 - Draft/working plan attached.
10. Date and time of next meetings.
 - Tuesday 2nd February, 2016 – 4.00 pm, Rotherham Town Hall;
 - Tuesday 21st June, 2016 – 4.00 pm, New York Stadium.

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(SACRE) - 16/06/15**

**ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)
TUESDAY, 16TH JUNE, 2015**

Present:- N. Goodwin (in the Chair).

Group A – other Christian denominations and other faiths – N. Goodwin (Pentecostal), I. Jones (Evangelical Christian), G. Raha (Hindu), L. Shaw (Salvation Army), T. Williams (Baha'i), C. Wells (Methodism), D. Homer (Buddhism).

Group B – the Church of England – No member in attendance.

Group C – Teachers' Professional Associations – C. Webster.

Group D – Rotherham Local Authority - Councillor S. Alam.

Co-opted members – N. Robinson (PAIS) (*not yet confirmed member*).

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

Observers: - R. Keenan and C. Mellon.

Apologies for absence were received from: - There were no apologies to report.

32. NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENT TO THE ROLE OF CHAIR OF THE ROTHERHAM SACRE FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR.

Discussion was held on the role of the Chair of the Rotherham SACRE so that attendees, and other potential Chairs, could better understand the role and the time commitment required. Attendance at planning meetings and conferences was essential.

Attendees with previous experience of writing the Agreed Syllabus had found that it was beneficial for the Chair of the SACRE to also be the Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) as this had worked well in the past. It was beneficial for Chairs to have an educational background/knowledge.

Agreed: - That, due to this meeting not being quorate, the appointment of the Chair of the Rotherham SACRE be deferred to the October 2015 meeting.

33. NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENT TO THE ROLE OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE ROTHERHAM SACRE FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR.

Agreed: - That, due to this meeting not being quorate, the appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Rotherham SACRE be deferred to the October 2015 meeting.

34. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10TH FEBRUARY, 2015, AND MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Rotherham SACRE held on 10th February, 2015, were considered. All matters arising were on the agenda of this meeting.

Agreed: - That the minutes of the previous meeting be noted.

35. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ROTHERHAM SACRE.

Membership of the Rotherham SACRE was discussed.

Work was required to build membership in Group B – The Church of England – as this group had not been represented for the previous two meetings, making them inquorate. To date, communications with the Sheffield Diocese asking for nominations to this group had not been successful.

Non-Statutory guidance stated that membership in Group D – The Local Authority – could also include School Governors and senior local authority staff. This would be explored further for the Rotherham SACRE.

‘The Voice’, a teaching union, had also expressed an interest in receiving information about the Rotherham SACRE.

The Clerk had recently learned about the Rotherham Faith Leaders’ Council comprising of members from the Anglican, Catholic, Muslim and Sikh faiths. It would be useful to make contact with this group to invite them to nominate members or possibly link work.

Naomi Robison, representative of an organisation called PAIS, had been nominated to be a co-opted member of the Rotherham SACRE as the links would be beneficial to both organisations. This would need to be formally agreed at the next meeting. The principle was supported at this meeting.

Agreed: - (1) That efforts continue to increase membership and partnerships of the Rotherham SACRE as outlined above.

(2) That the co-option of a member of PAIS be formally agreed at the next meeting of the Rotherham SACRE.

36. DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

Nicki Goodwin, Chair of the Rotherham SACRE, outlined her thoughts on creating a ‘development plan’ for the Rotherham SACRE. This document would include an annual calendar of the key RE events each year. The calendar would be based on a school year and would enable the SACRE to identify where there was capacity to undertake additional work.

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Members in attendance felt that the agreed syllabus needed to be the SACRE's focus for the coming months.

One member felt that a more organised approach needed to be taken in respect of the REwards. There was no meeting in the last term of the school year when the majority of REward applications were received.

Agreed: - That this information be noted.

37. SOUTH YORKSHIRE RE HUB WEBSITE.

Vanessa Gregory, RE Curriculum Consultant, described a new website that had been created: - www.rotherham.gov.uk/re .

£2.5k of funding had been received from the Saint Gabriel's Trust to create a South Yorkshire Hub. A further £600 funding bid had been submitted; the outcome would be known in July.

The website would be a central resource for all information related to RE in Rotherham. The hosting charge for the other local authorities involved would be £2k each. This may have caused the other local authorities to back out.

Currently the headings on the website were: -

- Training;
- Syllabus;
- REwards – including online application;
- SACRE – links to agendas and minutes;
- Exam results;
- Visits to places of worship;
- Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) and British Values;
- Photographs.

Nicki Goodwin thanked Vanessa for her efforts on making the website happen.

38. SOUTH YORKSHIRE RE CONFERENCE.

A South Yorkshire RE Conference had been arranged for 4th March, 2016. It would take place in The Hub Christian Community. The event would be led by Lat Blaylock and funded through Saint Gabriel funding.

Charlie Wells and a representative from PAIS expressed interest in representing the Rotherham SACRE at the event.

Previous events had received 100% good or outstanding feedback.

It was hoped that attendees would take away inspiration and links from the conference.

Agreed: - That the information shared be noted.

39. STUDENT CONFERENCE.

A Student Conference was planned for Friday 13th November. Previous events had been difficult to get buy-in early in the school year. Brinsworth Comprehensive School had expressed an interest in attending the event. Each school in attendance would have eight student places in either Year Five or Year Eight. The Rawmarsh Community Education Connection, PAIS and the community division of Rotherham United would be asked to promote the event.

Agreed: - That the information shared be noted.

40. COMMUNITY COHESION UPDATE.

Zaidah Ahmed, Schools' Community Cohesion Officer, updated the Rotherham SACRE on her recent work.

- **SMSC – Ofsted: -**

- Ofsted were placing a lot of emphasis on fundamental British values;
- Curriculum support was being provided through a toolkit of good practice that had been developed;
- Training days had been provided for Early Years and sessions for Childminders and Governors would follow in September, 2015;
- Two continuing professional development days would be provided to local authority maintained schools for staff training;
- The Willows School had held a cultural day when the whole school had been taken off timetable to undertake workshops.

- **Work with EU Migrant communities: -**

- Family Induction Days had continued;
- The Local Authority's funding to provide this work had ended. A bid had been made to the fire service for future funding.

- **Rotherham Model United Nations Conference: -**

- This was in the early stages of being organised;
- There was a desire for more schools to be involved.

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- **PREVENT agenda: -**

- Working with South Yorkshire Police;
- Communications were being sent to schools to inform them about PREVENT work;
- Wrap 3 free training was being provided in three schools on the basis of 'training the trainer' so that they could roll it out to others in their network.

Discussion on the issues Zaidah raised followed. One member had never heard of a lot of the initiatives that were shared. Could it be that any cases of low take up were due not to disinterest but to lack of awareness? SACRE members agreed that they would like to receive information about the events programme and that it would be useful via the new website.

Agreed: - That the information shared be noted.

41. AGREED SYLLABUS.

Rotherham's RE Agreed Syllabus was due to be refreshed.

In preparation for the previous syllabus refresh, Vanessa Gregory had sent a survey out to schools asking for feedback on syllabus in use at that time. The response rate was 15%.

The existing syllabus had been produced by: -

- A working party had been convened and all phases of schools had been represented, along with SACRE members;
- The Rawmarsh CLC had provided the reprographics for the finished product;
- There had been a pupil competition for the design of the logo;
- The completed syllabus had been launched at an event, which had included a string quartet. Copies of the syllabus had been handed out at the event and extra copies were available for a charge of £35.

Vanessa had spoken through the content of the syllabus with Lat Blaylock and it was thought that it required a refresh, rather than a major overhaul.

Organisation of the refresh would begin at the October, 2015, SACRE meeting.

Agreed: - (1) That the information shared be noted.

(2) That the spare copies of the existing Agreed Syllabus be sent out to SACRE members in advance of work on the refreshed Syllabus commencing.

42. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS - 2015/2016 SCHOOL YEAR.

Agreed: - That the Rotherham SACRE meet on the following dates in the 2015/2016 year, starting at 4.00 p.m.: -

- Tuesday 13th October, 2015;
- Tuesday 2nd February, 2016;
- Tuesday 21st June, 2016.

43. CONGRATULATING THE WINNERS OF THE 2014/2015 REWARDS.

44. ... AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

The following individuals and organisations were winners of REwards for the 2014/2015 School Year in recognition of good and outstanding practice in RE: -

Students: -

- Georgia Stockwell;
- Georgia Evans;
- Nicole Marshall;
- Sara Hopkin;
- Attiqah Imran.

Teachers: -

- Iram Nazir;
- Elaine Wallhead;
- Louise Smelt;
- Salma Yasseen.

Teams: -

- Thorpe Hesley Primary School;
- The Willows School – Diversity Day;
- PAIS Team;
- Barbara Cushing, Margaret Caunt and Tracey Winfrow of Open the Book;
- Thornhill Primary School;
- Brinsworth MUN;
- Saint Pius MUN;
- Wingfield MUN.

Communities: -

- Terry Sharman;
- Gail Atkin

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- Thornhill Primary School.

**Rotherham Standing Advisory Council
for Religious Education (RSACRE)**

Annual Report 2013/2014

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Nicki Goodwin: - chair's forward message	
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5. Collective Worship and Determinations	
6. Community Cohesion update	
7. Speakers and presentations during 2013/2014	
8. REwards for 2013/2014 school year	
9. Training and development opportunities	
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Chair's Forward: Sept 2013 – July 2014

We have continued to take our calling to serve on RSACRE very seriously with a special emphasis this last year on developing both our Annual Conference and REwards Ceremony.

I was delighted to be elected as Chair for RSACRE and was extremely grateful to Gail Atkin, who having served as Chair, was willing to remain as vice chair and continue working alongside myself and Vanessa Gregory, Local Authority RE Advisor in leading RSACRE

Vanessa has continued to ably lead the team of members of RSACRE, inspiring us all to be effective and encouraging us to use our strengths and individual knowledge to best serve the group as a whole. She has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure things happen and events are organised.

To enable us to remain connected into the bigger national picture we once again invited Lat Blaylock (RE Today) to come and lead our annual conference.

This year's topic: Investigations, Creativity and Spiritual Development – was aimed at teachers of RE in primary and secondary schools, with an emphasis on spiritual and moral development and attitudes of tolerance and respect in the context of British Values. The conference was planned to give busy teachers lots of ready-to-use activities in making RE more focused on the values that pupils develop and ideas that they have.

In June we held our second REwards ceremony. Nominations were received in three of the four categories: - students, teachers and teams. Four students were nominated, along with one teacher and five teams. It was a tremendous celebration of good practise in RE across Rotherham.

RSACRE continues to work in partnership with Zaidah Ahmed MBE, our Schools' Community Cohesion Officer. Zaidah during a presentation at our February RSACRE meeting outlined her work with schools co-ordinating visits and festivals work, and community cohesion events. The School Linking Project was continuing with the theme 'One World One Community'. The Model United Nations was taking the crisis in Afghanistan as its focus and debate topic. The Roma Integration Project had been initiated to induct members of Rotherham's new and emerging communities in British law, health, education, culture and background. Zaidah informed RSCARE Members that the reporting of racist incidents had increased.

Mariam Shah, RSACRE representative and Regina Drabble, Development Worker talked of their work with “Who is our neighbour” at our February and June meetings. This project, led by the Methodist Church, aimed to create safe spaces for people to come together to talk about the things that were impacting on them. These issues included far right extremism, new and emerging communities, countering Islamophobia and getting groups together.

Having established a working party RSACRE members have continued to work on our Collective Worship Document due for release in September 2014. The RE Team continues to contribute greatly to the quality of Collective Worship experienced by our Rotherham Schools and has been able to contribute to the discussion around our Collective Worship document.

RSACRE continues to have a vital role within the LA and are actively seeking representation from the various religions and groups who are eligible to serve. It is our hope that we can build on the enthusiasm of the existing members in encouraging others to give of their time and experience.

Nicki Goodwin

1. Local Authority Support for RSACRE

The Local Authority has continued to provide annual support to RSACRE through secondment of a curriculum consultant (based full-time in a secondary school) and a Clerk to the RSACRE, including administrative support.

2. GCSE and A-level results: -

Numbers of students in Rotherham who have completed the GCSE and AS/A2 Religious Education and Religious Studies courses.

2012 – 1,223 students entered for the full-course GCSE – 71.5% A*-C / A*- G = 98%.

2012 – 641 students entered for the short-course – 29% A*-C / A*-G = 90.3%.

2012 – 33 students entered for the AS level – 15.2% A or B grades, 72.7% got A-E grades.

2012 – 59 students entered for the A2 level – 45.8% got A* - B, 100% for A* - E.

2013 – 1,134 students entered for the full-course GCSE – 71% A*-C / A*- G = 99.4%.

2013 – 399 students entered for the short-course – 25.3% A*-C / A*-G = 88.5%.

2013 – 24 students entered for the AS level – 20.8% A or B grades, 70.8% got A-E grades.

2013 – 77 students entered for the A2 level – 41.6% got A* - B, 100% for A* - E.

2014 – 1,175 students entered for the full-course GCSE – 63.5% A*-C / A*- G = 98%.

2014 – 15 students entered for the AS level – 46.7% A or B grades, 73.3% got A-E grades.

2014 – 62 students entered for the A2 level - 48.4% got A* - B, 100% for A* - E.

COMPARISON TO NATIONAL???

Further detailed validated statistics for GCSE can be found via the Department for Education website link: -

www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/

OFSTED/COLLEGES LINKS??

3. RSACRE meetings 2013/2014

The RSACRE meetings are chaired by Nicki Goodwin of Group A (Other Christian Denominations and other faiths). The role of vice-chair is filled by Gail Atkin, of Group B (the Church of England).

Three meetings were held in the school year on 10th October, 13th February and 16th June. They took place at Wingfield Business and Enterprise College, the Rotherham Town Hall and the New York Stadium respectively.

We were delighted to welcome several new members during 2013/2014, Roy Dyson (Group A – Catholic), T. Williams (A - Baha'i), T. Griffin (A - Humanist), L. Shaw (A - Salvation Army).

The agendas included standing items REwards, Collective Worship, Determinations, Training Opportunities, GCSE/A Level results and school and visiting speaker presentations.

The agenda and minutes from the RSACRE meetings held during 2013/2014 is below: -

<http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Cid=437&Year=0>

4. Collective Worship and Determinations: -

Collective Worship and Determinations were discussed at each of the three RSACRE meetings held during 2013/2014.

Three Determinations were granted at the 16th June, 2014, meeting. This followed the Schools applying to renew their existing Determination from following a Collective Worship pattern that was 'mainly, broadly' Christian. A working party of RSACRE members attended assemblies at the Schools who had applied to quality assure the collective worship that was taking place.

The three schools that were granted a Determination were: -

- Broom Valley Community Primary School;
- Thornhill Primary School;
- Saint Ann's Junior and Infant School.

The Determinations would last for a period of three school years.

5. Community Cohesion update: -

Zaidah Ahmed MBE, Schools' Community Cohesion Officer, continued to attend the RSACRE meetings. An outline of the updates she presented to the meeting during 2013/2014 is shown at section 7.

6. Speakers and presentations: -

6.1 Community Cohesion - given at 13th February, 2014, meeting by Zaidah Ahmed MBE, Schools' Community Cohesion Officer. Zaidah outlined her work with schools co-ordinating visits and festivals work and community cohesion events. The School Linking Project was continuing with the theme 'One World One Community'. The Model United Nations was taking the crisis in Afghanistan as its focus and debate topic. The Roma Integration Project had been initiated to induct members of Rotherham's new and emerging communities in British law, health, education, culture and background. Reporting of racist incidents had increased;

6.2 'Who is my Neighbour' – given at 13th February and 16th June 2014, meeting by Mariam Shah, RSACRE representative and Regina Drabble, Development Worker. This project was led by the Methodist Church and aimed to create safe spaces for people to come together to talk about the things that were impacting on them. These issues included far right extremism, new and emerging communities, countering Islamophobia and getting groups together;

6.3 The RE Team – given at 10th October, 2013, meeting. This update covered the focus of the RE Team, their growing scope, including the setting up of a base at Mexborough. The package that was available to schools to buy-in. The RE Team had raised £200 with Wingfield Academy for 'Comfort Ministry' and was working with Rawmarsh Readers to facilitate reading partnerships between men and boys to increase reading ages in the Learning Community.

7. REwards for 2013/2014 school year

Nominations were received in three of the four categories: - students, teachers and teams. Four students were nominated, one teacher and five teams nominated.

The RSCARE would like to record their congratulations to: -

- Anilah Ahmed;
- Grace Keenan;

- Newman School;
- the RE Team;
- The PAIS Project;
- Annette Morris;
- Herringthorpe Junior School.

8. Training and development opportunities: -

29th January, 2014 – Investigations, Creativity and Spiritual Development – This conference day was aimed at teachers of RE in primary and secondary schools, with an emphasis on spiritual and moral development and attitudes of tolerance and respect in the context of British Values. The conference was planned to give busy teachers lots of ready-to-use activities in making RE more focused on the values that pupils develop and ideas that they have.

9. Publications by the RSACRE during 2013/2014 and significant reference documents

The Local Agreed Syllabus (due for revision 2015/2016);

Drat Collective Worship (due for publication 2014/2015);

RSACRE constitution and terms of reference.

Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education – Development Plan 2015-2016

Objective (bold text = main objective, plain text = sub-objectives)	Action	Responsibility	Costing	Success	Completed /On-going/ RAG status
To monitor RE provision across primary and secondary phases	Invite one primary and one secondary representative to attend each SACRE meeting.				
	Analyse GCSE and A Level results each year.	Curriculum Consultant			
	Engagement with Academy Schools and HE providers.				
Organisation of training sessions and conferences – provision of CPD activities					
The development of SACRE’s role and work: -					
To produce an annual report of the work of the RSACRE for submission to NASACRE	Draft report to be written and presented to SACRE in February, 2016 meeting	SACRE Chair/ Curriculum Consultant/ SACRE Clerk			
To develop the website					
Updating school contact database for RE Co-ordinators					

The development and publication of the Local Agreed Syllabus	Survey monkey and letter to all schools to canvass interest in working party for the Agreed Syllabus.				
	Arrange three Agreed Syllabus Conference planning meetings – Nov, Feb, June				
	Arrange an Agreed Syllabus Conference – July				
	Arrange an Agreed Syllabus launch – September				
Circulate by email to all schools the current religious festival calendar [AND OTHER POLICY DOCUMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS?]					

Standing item on each SACRE meeting