

**1ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(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.