

**1ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE) - 02/02/16**

**ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)
TUESDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY, 2016**

Present:-

Group A – other Christian denominations and other faiths

Mrs N. Goodwin (Pentecostal) (in the Chair), Mr. I. Jones (Evangelical Christian), Mrs. G. Raha and Mrs. T. Williams (Baha'i).

Group 2 – the Church of England

Mrs. H. Lambert (Diocese of Sheffield)

Group 3 – Teachers' Professional Associations

no-one present.

Group 4 – the Local Authority.

Councillor G. Watson.

Also in attendance were Mrs. Z. Ahmed (RMBC) and Mrs. V. Gregory (Wingfield Academy).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. R. Dyson (Catholic Church), Mr. C. Wells (Methodist Church) and from Councillor E. Rose.

54. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.

The Chair, Nicki Goodwin, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. A welcome was afforded to the visitors : Rebecca Turnbull (Newman School) and to the PAIS representatives, Emmanuel (Manny) Dexter, Lauryn Reiff, Kaja Hermann, Hilary Selby and Richard ...?

55. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 13TH OCTOBER, 2015

Agreed:- (1) That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th October, 2015 be approved as a correct record.

(2) That the following matters arising be noted:-

(a) Minute No. 46 – Minutes of the 16 June 2015 meeting – although Naomi Robinson (PAIS, South Yorkshire), had been co-opted to the Rotherham SACRE, her very recent change of employment had led to her unexpected resignation and a replacement member would be sought.

(b) Minute No. 49 – Annual Report – preparation of the SACRE Annual Report for the 2014/2015 academic year is to be discussed at an agenda planning meeting to be held on Tuesday, 16th February, 2016; Nicki Goodwin and Vanessa Gregory were expected to attend that meeting, as well as, possibly, the joint Vice-Chairs of SACRE and any other interested members.

(c) Minute No. 50 – Student Conference – arrangements were now being made for the forthcoming South Yorkshire Religious Education Conference to be held on Friday, 4th March, 2016, at the Hub Christian Community premises, Canklow Road, Rotherham. This event would be for both primary and secondary schools and all members of SACRE would be invited to attend.

56. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were discussed:-

(1) SACRE Members welcomed Mrs. Hannah Lambert (Diocese of Sheffield) to her first meeting. It was noted that one other vacancy still remained for a Church of England representative.

(2) Africa's Gift – Bringing Africa to School – SACRE members received a report from the registered charity known as 'Africa's Gift', which explained the educational and development work being undertaken by this charity in communities in several African countries. The charity's founder, Mr. Ken Dunn, was a former geography teacher who had previously worked in schools in South Yorkshire. The submitted report included information about the services which the charity was offering to schools in this country, including one-off 'Africa days' and also lengthier programmes of work, with topics relevant to the Religious Education syllabus and teaching.

(3) SACRE members learned that Vanessa Gregory would soon be absent on maternity leave and everyone wished Vanessa and her family the very best for the future.

Agreed:- That the information be noted.

57. NEWMAN SCHOOL PRESENTATION

The SACRE meeting welcomed Rebecca Turnbull from Newman School, who gave a presentation about the place of learning of spirituality at that School. Mrs. Turnbull stated that she had prepared a presentation as part of her studies for a qualification in senior leadership. The presentation and subsequent discussion highlighted the following issues:-

: Newman School caters for pupils aged 5 to 19 years, who have a disability; a number of pupils have complex needs and some to have to

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rely upon non-verbal communication; the importance of pupils' sensory development was discussed;

: the School is endeavouring to raise the spiritual development of the children and young people who are pupils there; this work includes raising the profile of spirituality and increasing its relevance to the work and life of the school, its pupils and staff;

: a definition of spirituality as part of human life and development; it was important that people should be comfortable, rather than anxious, to talk about spirituality;

: various photographs of school life were displayed, including one of a young wheelchair-bound pupil who had gained immense pleasure from the tranquillity of a fishing trip;

: the spirituality work included training for staff, INSET training days and the provision of teaching resources (the professional requirement to deliver SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) development is an integral part of this process);

: spiritual development includes an individual's beliefs, the use of imagination, reflecting on one's experiences and having a sense of enjoyment;

: the organisation of a 'taster day', showing the benefits of spirituality allied to creativity;

: the better understanding of spirituality will enhance school lesson planning and the wider work within school, such as building action plans, relationships within school, as well as the place of the School in both its local community and in the global community;

: spirituality has also enhanced the School's daily assemblies, with time for reflection, thought and prayer;

: various key actions to develop the theme of spirituality during the forthcoming year will include – sharing the theme of spirituality with parents and carers, further embed spirituality into school planning, increase family involvement (eg: an Eid celebration will take place during July 2016), increased access to places of worship across school and the use of religious leaders and speakers.

The SACRE meeting thanked Rebecca Turnbull for her very interesting presentation and it was agreed that copies be distributed to SACRE members by electronic mail.

58. PAIS TEAM

The SACRE meeting welcomed Emmanuel (Manny) Dexter, Lauryn Reiff,

Kaja Hermann, Hilary Selby and Richard ...?, representatives of the PAIS organisation, who collectively gave a presentation about the work of PAIS in communities in Rotherham and in both primary and secondary schools. PAIS offers free apprenticeships in Youth, Church, Business and Organisational Leadership. The presentation and subsequent discussion highlighted the following issues:-

: the PAIS representatives here today are young people from different countries (America, England and Germany) and who have different backgrounds; they all endeavour to be role models to the schools' pupils and have to provide the required Disclosure and Barring Service checks before working with children and young people;

: PAIS has a primary method of mission to go with people and empower them in their own communities;

: PAIS is a Christian mission organisation serving teachers and pupils in schools, providing mentoring in Religious Education and participating in school assemblies; the support and encouragement of schools was important;

: the work of PAIS currently being undertaken within the Winterhill School and at the Wingfield School was discussed; there has been much project work, including sessions about anti-bullying and discussion of topics such as moral decisions (eg: on infertility and on capital punishment); the PAIS representatives' own training includes teaching methods which utilise music and theatre;

: there are various extra-curricular, after-school activities taking place, as well as evening and weekend youth work; PAIS sought to connect with school life and to engage students with the role of the Church; students are encouraged to learn about cultural diversity, self-esteem and team work;

: PAIS is developing a presence throughout the world (eg: United States of America, Canada, Brazil and other parts of South America, England, Ireland, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, India, Pakistan and, very recently, in Australia);

: local Church venues in the Rotherham area, for the PAIS organisation, are:-

the Hub Christian Community premises, Canklow Road, Canklow;
the Liberty Pentecostal Church, Station Road/Victoria Street, Masbrough;
the Hope Church, Grove Road, Rotherham;

: the organisation of Culture Clubs for young people has been very successful; held on a weekly basis, these popular events attract as many as 40 to 50 youngsters at each session and provide an enhanced learning opportunity;

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: community work has included an event held on Saturday 30th January, 2016, within the Rotherham town centre; entitled “Because You’re Loved,” this work combined friendship and service to the community, enabling the young people who were participating to see their own purpose within the community;

: the work in schools has dealt with some of the tensions between students from different community backgrounds;

: schools do not have to pay for the PAIS services;

: the PAIS team will be participating in an event on Wednesday evening, 9th March, 2016 and SACRE members may wish to attend and observe their work.

: the electronic mail address for PAIS is Rotherham@PAISmovement.com

The PAIS representatives would be working in Rotherham for one year only and it was suggested that one or more of the team may wish to attend future SACRE meetings during that period of time.

The PAIS representatives were thanked for their interesting presentation and for the work they were undertaking in Rotherham.

59. COMMUNITY COHESION UPDATE

The meeting welcomed Mrs. Zaidah Ahmed (RMBC Children and Young People’s Services) who explained her very recent career change from Schools’ Co-ordinator to become the Borough Council’s Corporate Equalities Officer. Mrs. Ahmed reported on the various community cohesion activities which had taken place during the months from September to December 2015, as follows:-

- SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) development – training courses provided at the Rockingham Professional Development Centre, Wingfield. These courses emphasised the Government requirement, via the Department for Education, for the promotion of British values in schools. These values, as defined by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) were : democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty; and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

- similar training courses provided in respect of the ‘Prevent Duty’, which is the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 on specified authorities (including local authorities), in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Other sessions had also been provided for individual schools and the work involved the development of an ‘audit tool’ to facilitate the

monitoring of progress.

- the Model United Nations event had taken place successfully at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Monday 23rd November, 2015, with participation by Year 9 secondary school pupils. The event had concentrated upon consideration of possible solutions to the Syrian refugee crisis. It was hoped that more secondary schools would be able to participate in future years' events.

- arrangements for the Borough Council's School Improvement Service have altered so that the Service has become a traded organisation, with fees payable by schools for the various aspects of the Service.

- Holocaust Memorial Day – a very moving, public event had been held outside the Rotherham Minster on Wednesday, 27th January, 2016, including the participation of pupils from the Oakwood High School and from the St. Ann's Junior and Infant School.

The SACRE meeting also noted that the renowned 'Anne Frank and You' exhibition will be available to view at the Gallery within the Borough Council's Riverside House building, from Wednesday 17th February, 2016 until Wednesday, 30th March, 2016. Seventy "young ambassadors" from schools across Rotherham were being trained to carry out tours of the exhibition and tell people the background of Anne Frank's story. There will also be several workshops on the themes of discrimination, prejudice and identity.

The SACRE meeting thanked Zaidah Ahmed for her informative report and wished her well in her new role with the Borough Council.

60. SYLLABUS UPDATE

Members of SACRE were provided with copies of draft 2A of the Rotherham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, 2016. Any comments which members may have on this draft syllabus should be sent to Vanessa Gregory by the deadline of Tuesday 1st March, 2016. It was noted that there were still various amendments to be made to the draft syllabus.

Agreed:- (1) That the contents of the draft syllabus for Religious Education 2016, as now submitted, be noted and the final document be reported to a future meeting of SACRE.

(2) That members of SACRE inform Vanessa Gregory of any comments they may have on the draft syllabus.

61. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Discussion took place on the arrangements for the next meeting of SACRE, which was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 21st June, 2016

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and would be expected to include the REwards ceremony. However, there was some doubt that the ceremony would take place in view of the time required for preparation, arranging the venue and issuing invitations, as well as the budget considerations. It was agreed that every endeavour would be made to hold both the ceremony and the meeting on 21st June, 2016, especially given the expectation of schools, although it was accepted that the ceremony event may have to be a more modest one than in previous years.