

**1ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE) - 14/02/13**

**ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)
THURSDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 2013**

Present:- Gail Atkin (in the Chair) (B).

Group A: - Gopa Raha, Saghir Alam, Nicki Goodwin, Charlie Wells, Gavin Gray and Ian Jones.

Group B: - (Gail Atkin).

Group C: - Dave Homer.

Group D: - Councillor Christine Beaumont

Also in attendance were: - Hannah Etheridge (Clerk).

Apologies for absence had been received from: - Ralph Dyson (A), Glenis Harrison (B), Vanessa Gregory (Curriculum Consultant) and Zaidah Ahmed (Schools' Community Cohesion Officer).

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest to record.

10. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1ST OCTOBER, 2012.

The minutes of the previous meeting were considered.

Under matters arising in relation to Minute number 3(6) (Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June, 2012), it was noted that there were no school representatives on the agenda of this meeting but that representation from Aston Academy and Broom Valley Community Primary School would be invited to the next meeting of the Rotherham SACRE to be held on 1st July, 2013.

Agreed: - That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record for signature by the Chairperson.

11. COMMUNICATIONS.

Under this item, the following resources / opportunities were noted by the Rotherham SACRE: -

- Religious Professional Development Event, King Edward's High School for Girls, to include an RE:Online Roadshow;
- Sikh Education Service, which worked with Schools, Gurdwaras and SACREs to provide school visits, workshops and assemblies

across the UK;

- School Admission Appeal Panelists – the independent appeals service was seeking to recruit panel members to sit on a three-person panel that determined school admission appeals.

Resolved: - That the information shared be noted.

12. SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL / COMMUNITY COHESION UPDATE.

Resolved: - (1) That, in the absence of the Schools' Community Cohesion Officer, a brief update be circulated with the minutes of this meeting in relation to the work on community cohesion and schools.

(2) That the Schools' Community Cohesion Officer be invited to the next meeting of the Rotherham SACRE, due to be held on 1st July, 2013.

SMSC: -

- SMSC Inset day for all Wingfield staff in Feb 2013.
- Training planned for LA schools at RPDC in May 2013.

Community Cohesion: -

- 6 Mosque visits arranged since Oct for Rotherham schools – primary and secondary.
- Training delivered on Equality Act 2010 - Guidance sent to all schools to implement the policies.
- International links project – linking schools to global schools.
- Rotherham International Global Awards project – 8 schools signed up for this award.
- Supporting schools with RE curriculum, visits, assemblies.
- School linking project – linking faith schools to diverse community schools.
- Model United Nations project – 4 Rotherham schools took part in a United Nations debate on Syria.

13. REWARDS.

Further to Minute number 6 (Curriculum Consultant Report) of the previous meeting of the Rotherham SACRE, held on 1st October, 2012, where the introduction of REwards and the nomination process had been noted, consideration was now given to nominations received and the celebration process for recipients of the awards.

It was noted that there had been one application for the Autumn term REward and three applications for the Spring Term REward.

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The Rotherham SACRE considered the nominations received alongside the agreed criteria that existed for each category of nomination (Students, Teachers, Teams and Communities).

The Rotherham SACRE also considered how the recipients of the awards could be presented with their award and celebrate with the Rotherham SACRE.

The following suggestions were supported: -

- The recipient of a REward should be invited to attend a SACRE meeting, so that SACRE could learn about his/her/their areas of good practice that had led to the nomination and award, and so that the recipient could learn about the work of this committee;
- Whilst attending the meeting, the REward recipient/s could receive their award;
- If recipient/s were unable to attend a SACRE meeting, a delegation of SACRE could visit them at their place of work;
- A REwards evening should be arranged (provisionally 11th July, 2013) so that all of the winners could be presented with their awards. The celebratory evening should include elements of performance and the ability to showcase the good practice being recognised.

Agreed: - (1) That the nominations be approved.

(2) That a further notification be sent to all Rotherham Schools to inform them on REwards and the different categories and criteria that existed, and inviting further nominations.

(3) That a working group be established to plan the end of term celebration event.

(4) That the Hindu representative explore the available options to arranging a singing/dance performance at the celebration event.

(5) That, due to the short-time scales involved, future nominations be considered by the full Rotherham SACRE group via email, rather than waiting to the full meeting.

14. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP.

Consideration was given to the draft/suggested policy document for Rotherham's schools and teachers in relation to the responsibilities around Collective Worship that had been circulated to the Rotherham SACRE. The Committee were asked for their opinion of the suggested policy's content, which focussed on the role of Collective Worship around the investigation of prayer; use of Collective Worship for thought stimulation and reflection; and inclusion of .

The issues covered in the document included: -

- Overview of the legislature surrounding Collective Worship requirement;
- Suggested guiding principles surrounding Collective Worship;
- Suggested structure for, and criteria for analysing success, of Collective Worship activities;
- Potential 'stumbling blocks' to conducting successful Collective Worship;
- Potential issues meaning Collective Worship 'goes wrong';
- Resources available through the internet;
- Ofsted's judgement grades for Collective Worship.

Discussion ensued on the document presented. The following amendments were requested by the Rotherham SACRE before it was distributed to Schools: -

- Under the 'Where it can go wrong!' section, that the bullet point be amended to 'can be obvious that Collective Worship was not normal practice';
- That the following bullet point be added to the list 'Where it can go wrong!', 'Can be dogmatic and 'preachy', but still needs to be thought provoking'.

Members of the Rotherham SACRE had been asked to bring items, examples and suggestions for Collective Worship materials. The Committee examined the information circulated that included teachings and religious images from the Buddhist faith. Also included were pictures of the Tenzing Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama and Aung San Suu Kyi, Buddhist believers and inspirational figures.

The Chair of the Rotherham SACRE thanked Dave Homer for his efforts to collate the information and discussions on Collective Worship into one policy document.

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

(2) That a meeting of the Rotherham SACRE's Collective Worship Sub Group take place on 4th March, 2013.

(3) That a further report in relation to Collective Worship be presented to the next meeting of the Rotherham SACRE, due to be held on 1st July, 2013.

15. PLACES OF WORSHIP TRAINING.

An update was provided by those members of the Rotherham SACRE who attended the training event. The event was facilitated by Lat Blaycock, National SACRE, and well attended by trainee teachers, current

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teachers and retired teachers. Visits were undertaken to three places of worship, and covered how the best could be achieved from school visits / education visits to places of worship.

The Rotherham SACRE heard the reports of Dave Homer, Charlie Wells and Janet Wells about their visits to a Gurdwara, a Synagogue and a Buddhist Centre.

The following includes their reflections on the main outcomes of the visits, from the perspective of the SACRE: -

- Importance of tapping in to the genuine desire of believers to explain and share their faith's teaching with others;
- Development of a list of 'dos' and 'don'ts' when visiting places of worship;
- Importance of visitors keeping the objectives of their visit at the forefront of their minds;
- Role of teachers and other school staff in leading a visit to a place of worship;
- Importance of building a rapport with the host faith and representatives of the place of worship.

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

(2) That the visitor's reports from the training day be included in the Rotherham SACRE's annual report for 2012/13.

16. ASSOCIATION OF RE INSPECTORS AND CONSULTANTS - TRAINING REPORT.

The attendees of the Rotherham SACRE noted the report of the Vice-Chairperson that provided an update on the Association of RE inspectors and consultants (Arieac), which took place on 18th October, 2012. Attendance included teaching professionals, SACRE representatives and independent consultants.

The day was divided into three sessions: -

1. Enquiry Based Learning;
2. R.E. realising the potential;
3. Use of interactive learning in a practical setting (Year Nine lesson).

The Vice-Chairperson confirmed her belief that attendance at conferences was important for the learning and development of the Rotherham SACRE.

Resolved: - That the information shared be noted.

17. GCSE AND AS/A2 RESULTS, 2012.

Resolved: - That, in the absence of the Curriculum Consultant, the item be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Rotherham SACRE on 1st July, 2013.

18. ROTHERHAM SACRE ANNUAL REPORT.

The draft annual report of the Rotherham SACRE was noted. The following items were requested to be included in the document: -

- Include information from the places of worship training day;
- Annual report to include a Community Cohesion update;
- Progress against the action plan.

Agreed: - That the draft annual action plan and additional information be noted.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Nothing was raised under this item.

20. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

Agreed: - (1) That the next meeting of the Rotherham SACRE take place on Monday 1st July, 2013, to start at 4.30 pm in the Rotherham Town Hall.

(2) That a provisional date of the following meeting be Thursday 10th October, 2013, to start at 4.30 pm in the Rotherham Town Hall.