

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

**ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)
THURSDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY, 2014**

Present:- Nicki Goodwin (A; the Hub Christian Community) (in the Chair).

Group A – Tricia Williams (Baha'i), Ian Jones (Rotherham Evangelical Church), Mariam Shah (Islam), Roy Dyson (Hallam Diocese) and Charlie Wells (Methodist Church).

Group B – Glenys Harrison (Church of England) and Gail Atkin (Sheffield Diocese).

Group C – Caroline Webster (Teaching Profession).

Group D – Councillors Terry Sharman and Chris Beaumont (Rotherham Council).

Also in attendance were: - Zaidah Ahmed, Vanessa Gregory and Hannah Etheridge.

Apologies for absence had been received from: - D. Homer (A), G. Raha (A), Tony Griffin (A), Saghir Alam (A) and G, Gray (A).

**42. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING
HELD ON 10TH OCTOBER, 2013.**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education held on 10th October, 2013.

The following amendments were requested: -

- That G. Gray's apologies be amended to show that he now represents 'The Hub Christian Community';
- That item 35 (Representation) be amended to show that D. Homer now represents group A;
- That the following amendments be made to item 40 (Update on the RE Team): -
 - 'A package that a school would opt-in over a school year';
 - 'Fund-raising activities – a recent fund-raising event by Wingfield Academy had raised £200 for 'Comfort Ministry'.

Discussion ensued on the changed date for the June meeting, now taking place Monday 16th June, to start at 4.00 p.m. in the New York Stadium, to be followed by the 2013-2014 REwards ceremony.

Discussion also ensued on the use of acronyms across the industry.

Resolved: - (1) That the minutes from the previous meeting held on 10th October, subject to the above amendments being made, be agreed as an accurate record.

(2) That a glossary of acronyms, and their definitions, be included in the analysis of next year's examination results for Rotherham SACRE.

43. COMMUNITY COHESION.

Nicki Goodwin, Chairperson of the Rotherham SACRE, welcomed Zaidah Ahmed MBE, Schools' Community Cohesion Officer (Community Engagement, Housing and Neighbourhood Services, Neighbourhood and Adult Services Directorate) to the meeting. Zaidah was congratulated on being awarded the MBE in recognition of her work.

Zaidah had prepared a presentation for the SACRE on community cohesion and engagement work that had taken place since the last update provided in the summer, 2013.

Work with schools: -

- Requests had continued from schools and Zaidah was co-ordinating visits and festivals work;
- A big community cohesion day at Saint Pius X Catholic High School had taken place; the event had been very well received and feedback had been positive;
- International food and multicultural evenings had taken place. One held at Brinsworth Comprehensive Academy had 250 children in attendance;
- Not many SMSC requests had been received from schools, however, projects that were taking place met Ofsted's SMSC requirements;
- Chinese New Year – resources provided for schools to teach and celebrate this event;
- Children's Centres and Nurseries had been provided with Eid resources. Zaidah had worked with Mariam Shah on creating these;
- Barratt Integration Group were providing support to schools on running Diwali events. The organisation had access to funding and was able to provide the training at no charge to schools.

Projects: -

- School Linking Project – operating under the banner 'One World One Community'. The current theme was related to Rotherham's many local community languages – some school communities spoke at least 30 languages. Four languages had been chosen and the faith, culture, dance and drama influences related to these languages would be showcased at the 2014 Children's Festival. SACRE members would be invited to the final event;
- One Learning Community area had reported a growing number of issues around community cohesion and racism. A 'One School

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One Community' project had been initiated to break-down barriers under one common/shared banner. The project had been launched by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion;

- The Model United Nations focus this year was on the crisis in Afghanistan. As with the previous year, practice events would take place before the final debate. Students were assigned a country to represent and argue their case. Delegates were asked whether the country they were representing was an ally of Afghanistan and debate and a resolution concluded the event;
- The Roma Integration Project had been created to induct Rotherham's new and emerging communities on issues relating to British law, health, education, culture and background;
- The Rotherham International Global Award was continuing and schools who had gained this award held it for 4 years.

Reporting: -

- Reporting of racist incidents had increased. That was being viewed in the overall context of society, but it could also be that people were reporting incidents more than they had. Work had been done on promoting reporting and enabling third party reporting centres.

Zaidah also explained the additional aspect to her role that involved contributing to the Deprived Neighbourhood programme in the role of Co-ordinator for the Central Area.

Discussion ensued and the following points were made: -

- Were all age-groups and phases covered in the Service's plans? What about if schools did not have diverse ethnic make-up, were they still eligible to receive support from the Service?
 - Yes, some of Rotherham's outlying/rural communities that did not tend to have diverse communities were able to access the Service. All phases were included in the Service Plan.

Zaidah invited members of the SACRE to contact her (zaidah.ahmed@rotherham.gov.uk) if they wanted further information on community cohesion in Rotherham or to arrange events with the partner organisations that she had links to.

Resolved: - That the information shared be noted.

44. DETERMINATIONS.

Three applications for Determinations had been received from Rotherham Schools.

Discussion was undertaken on how the Rotherham SACRE should follow up the applications for Determination.

It was agreed that a working-group of the SACRE would visit the schools and observe a Collective Worship activity. These visits would take place before the next meeting of the SACRE, so that the information gathered could be discussed at the full meeting.

G. Atkin, R. Dyson, C. Wells and T. Williams expressed an interest in being on the working-group.

Resolved: - (1) That a working-group of the Rotherham SACRE attend a Collective Worship activity of each of the three schools that had submitted an application for a Determination.

(2) That the information gathered by the working-group be fed-back to the next full meeting of the SACRE due to be held on 16th June, 2014.

45. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (FINAL VERSION SENT TO PRINT)/COLLECTIVE WORSHIP LAUNCH.

Vanessa Gregory, RE Curriculum Consultant, updated the SACRE on the progress of the Collective Worship document. Vanessa asked the members of the SACRE for their views on how the document could be launched.

Discussion was undertaken on the type of event that could be used to disseminate the document to all stakeholders and whether the event could include an example of Collective Worship. It was agreed that a slot should be sought on the Joint Headteachers' meeting where copies of the document could be handed out. The SACRE did not support that an act of Collective Worship should be included as part of the launch.

V. Gregory, D. Homer and G. Atkin had all expressed an interest in leading on this work.

The Collective Worship document included a Religious Festivals' calendar for schools' reference. T. Williams pointed out some inconsistencies relating to the religious festival dates for the Zoroastrian and Baha'i faiths were included on the 2013-2014 calendar. Some key religious festivals were missing, and some dates were incorrect.

Resolved: - (1) That the Collective Worship document be approved to be circulated to all Headteachers and a working-group of the SACRE organise this.

(2) That consideration be given to the Religious Festivals' calendar to ensure that future versions provided consistent dates. The new version of the calendar would be provided to all schools when it was available in January, 2015.

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46. UPDATES ON REWARDS APPLICATIONS.

Hannah Etheridge, Clerk to the Rotherham SACRE, reported that three nominations had been received for the 2013/2014 REwards.

The nominations were discussed: -

- **Herringthorpe Junior School** – this nomination related to all four of the categories for the Family Learning activities where parents and children of many nationalities worked and learned alongside one another. In addition, inclusive religious festivals were celebrated. This demonstrated the community's commitment to the promotion of religious tolerance;
- **Newman School** – a nomination had been received under the Team category relating to the activities that had been undertaken by Key Stage 3L who had learnt about Christianity in Rotherham, Harvest Festival, charity and local Food Banks. Students had worked with partners in the community, had collected and delivered food to people and all involved knew about the existence of Food Banks;
- **The RE Team** – a nomination had been received under the Team category for their 'I'll tell you why I do this' Piers Morgan style presentations, which they delivered to Secondary Schools across Rotherham.

The Rotherham SACRE were in support of all of the nominations. As the full meeting would not meet until the REwards ceremony, it was agreed that N. Goodwin and V. Gregory could consider any future REwards nominations for the 2013-2014 school year.

The REward winners from the previous year had really appreciated being nominated and attending the awards ceremony. It was also noted that previous winners could be nominated in following years if they continued/expanded their exemplary practice.

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

(2) That the three nominations, as submitted, be approved as REwards winners for 2013-2014.

(3) That further REward nominations for 2013-2014 be considered and confirmed by a working-group prior to the next meeting to be held on 16th June, 2014.

47. 'WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR?'

Mariam Shah spoke about the 'Who is your neighbour?' project that she was currently working with. The project was led by the Methodist Church and aimed to create safe spaces for people to come together and talk

about the things affecting them.

The project aimed to challenge Far Right extremism, acknowledge changing communities, provide messages to counter Islamophobia and bring groups of people together who had never met before. These activities had the aim of countering the negative stereotypes. Participants who had been involved had confirmed that the project had challenged their misconceptions and they had taken positive messages back to their communities.

The group was working in some schools.

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

(2) That the 'Who is your neighbour?' project group be invited to a future meeting of the SACRE to talk more about the project.

(3) That consideration be given to nominating this group for an REward.

48. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -

Resolved: - (1) That the next meeting of the Rotherham SACRE take place on Monday 16th June, 2014, to start at 4.00 p.m. in the New York Stadium, and followed by the REwards presentation ceremony.

(2) That the following meeting take place on Monday 6th October, 2014, to start at 4.00 p.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.