

**1ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE) - 16/06/14**

**ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)
MONDAY, 16TH JUNE, 2014**

Present:- Gail Atkin (B - Sheffield Diocese) (in the Chair);

Group A

Tricia Williams-Brown (Baha'i), Mariam Shah (Islam), Gopa Raha (Hindu), Tony Griffin (Humanist), David Homer (Buddhism) and Charlie Wells (Methodist Church);

Group B

No representatives present

Group C

Caroline Webster (Teaching Profession)

Group D

Rotherham Borough Councillors Christine Beaumont, Denise Lelliott and Terry Sharman.

Also in attendance were Zaidah Ahmed and Vanessa Gregory.

Nicki Goodwin joined the meeting for the presentation of the REwards (referred to at item 9 below)

Apologies for absence were received from Glenys Harrison (B), Roy Dyson (A), Ian Jones (A), Saghir Alam (A) and Councillor David Roche (D).

1. MRS. GAIL ATKIN - RETIREMENT

Mrs. Atkin informed the meeting of her retirement from the Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education.

Members of the SACRE placed on record their appreciation of Mrs. Atkin's outstanding and lengthy service, both to this organisation and to education in the Rotherham Borough area and wished her a long and happy retirement.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 13TH FEBRUARY, 2014

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education held on 13th February, 2014.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 13th February, 2014, be agreed as a correct record.

3. WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR? PROJECT

The Rotherham SACRE welcomed Regina Drabble, Development Worker for the “Who Is Your Neighbour?” project, who described the function and purpose of this project which began in January 2010 and operates in all four of the local authority areas of South Yorkshire.

The project works to help communities live more successfully with difference and be more resilient in dealing with divisions created by those who see a difference as a threat. Using ‘divisive narratives’, the stories which cause damage in communities by scapegoating or blaming particular groups of people, this project:-

(i) holds safe space conversations about difficult things where people are able to be honest and say things that “you are not allowed to say”; conversations in which there is also space for reflection and challenge. These conversations can help people rethink their own opinions and be more open to the beliefs and opinions of others. They can provide a solid foundation on which to build relationships with people who are different and have different beliefs and values; and

(ii) is also interested in how people can put forward ‘alternative narratives’, stories about difficult issues that don’t scapegoat or target particular groups but which do recognise that the reality can be complicated.

The project has an administrative base in Sheffield and its Management Committee members are active in community and faith groups in different areas of South Yorkshire. The group of safe space dialogue facilitators are all experienced and skilled in facilitating difficult conversations. The project relies on receiving invitations to help with communities and has worked with churches, schools and with women-only groups.

The “Who Is Your Neighbour?” project receives funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and from the Tudor Trust and is funded for a further two years. The project may apply for a REward grant in the future.

The Rotherham SACRE thanked Regina Drabble for her very informative report.

4. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND DETERMINATION UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 44 of the meeting of the Rotherham SACRE held on 13th February, 2014, the following members reported on the Determinations in respect of the Collective Worship at the primary schools listed below:-

(1) Broom Valley Community Primary School – April 2014 (Gail Atkin)

The Head Teacher had presented the Assembly, which had drawn on a

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range of faiths as well as utilising varied bible studies.

(2) Thornhill Primary School – June 2014 (Tricia Williams-Brown)

An impressive folder of information had been prepared in advance of the assessment. A whole school assembly had taken place, which was not overtly religious and had been led by the Deputy Head Teacher as the Head Teacher had accompanied a number of pupils on an out-of-school visit. Although there were some nerves apparent amongst pupils, the theme had been about values and pride in achievements. The future emphasis would be upon the development of social and moral values.

(3) St. Ann's Junior and Infant School – June 2014 (Charlie Wells)

The pupils had been extremely respectful in this primary school which has a fluctuating, sometimes transient pupil population. There are a variety of faiths represented amongst the whole school population. There had been a large attendance at the School Assembly. The theme had been "rights, respecting, school" based on the United Nations charter rights of the child. Every child who wished to speak during the Assembly had been given the opportunity and the theme of the Assembly had been continued in individual classrooms.

The Rotherham SACRE agreed that, at the beginning of the 2014/2015 academic year, all schools should be invited to apply for a Determination. The involvement of pupils and the expression of the 'students voices' was considered to be an essential aspect of the process.

Resolved:- That the applications for Determination from the requirement that Collective Worship be 'mainly, broadly Christian' in character, in respect of all three of the above primary schools, be approved.

5. NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENT TO THE ROLE OF CHAIR OF THE ROTHERHAM SACRE FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

Resolved:- That Nicki Goodwin be appointed as Chair of the Rotherham Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education for the academic year 2014/2015.

6. NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENT TO THE ROLE OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE ROTHERHAM SACRE FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

Resolved:- That Caroline Webster be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Rotherham Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education for the academic year 2014/2015.

7. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ROTHERHAM SACRE

It was noted that Mrs. Lynne Shaw will shortly take up a new appointment

as the Minister in charge of The Salvation Army in Maltby. Mrs. Shaw had previously been a Primary School teacher with responsibility for the RE curriculum.

Resolved:- That Mrs. Shaw be appointed to the Rotherham SACRE as a Group A representative.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Resolved:- (1) That the next meeting of the Rotherham SACRE be held at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Monday, 6th October, 2014, commencing at 4.00 p.m.

(2) That future meetings take place on:-

Monday 9th February, 2015 (subject to confirmation)
Monday, 15th June, 2015.

9. FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the following items be the subject of consideration at future meetings of the Rotherham SACRE:-

(i) Community Cohesion update – at the next meeting to be held on Monday, 6th October, 2014 and at alternate meetings subsequently;

(ii) GCSE/A2 performance and glossary of terms– at the next meeting to be held on Monday, 6th October, 2014.

(iii) Hilltop School (REward winners 2012/13) – to be invited to the next meeting to be held on Monday, 6th October, 2014.

10. REWARDS 2013/2014

After the closure of the Rotherham SACRE meeting, attendees were joined by a large attendance of the winners (and some of their relatives and colleagues) of the 2013/2014 REwards categories.

The award winners and the people/organisations who had nominated them had been invited to meet with the Rotherham SACRE and celebrate their examples of good practice and innovation in teaching Religious Education.

The ten REwards were awarded by Gail Atkin, Chair of the Rotherham SACRE, Nicki Goodwin, the Vice-Chair and by Vanessa Gregory, RE Curriculum Consultant.

The 2013/2014 winners were:-

(1) Anilah Ahmed (A2 student) – outstanding achievement in Religious

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Education study at A Level;

(2) Grace Keenan (A2 student) – outstanding achievement in Religious Education study at A Level;

(3) Newman School – in the Team category, relating to activities undertaken by Key Stage 3 pupils, learning about Christianity in Rotherham, the Harvest Festival, charity and local food banks;

(4) the RE Team – in the Team category, relating to their “I’ll tell you why I do this”, Piers Morgan-style presentations to secondary schools throughout the Rotherham Borough area;

(5) The Pais Project team – a nationwide Christian initiative, who have worked at the Wingfield Academy during the 2013/14 school year, organising a ‘Culture Club’ for pupils to explore other cultural backgrounds;

(6) Annette Morris, RE Teacher, Aston Academy – outstanding long-term service to the Aston Academy;

(7) Herringthorpe Junior School – all four categories for the Family Learning activities where parents and children of many nationalities worked and learned alongside one another; also, there were inclusive religious festivals promoting religious tolerance;

OTHERS ????