

**East Sussex SACRE**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2008**  
**Green Room Uckfield Civic Centre**

**Present** Jill Bell, Councillor Roy Martin, Councillor Trevor Webb, Richard Saunders, Connie Hughes, Lienna Gomm, Rebecca Stutters, Dr Brenda Vance, Councillor John Garvican, Councillor Richard Stogdon (Chair), Susan Thompson (RE Advisor), Rebecca Haynes (Clerk)

**Also Attended** Councillor David Elkin (Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness).  
Tom Newlands (Secondary PGCE Lecturer).

- I. Susan Thompson opened the meeting welcoming Tom Newlands, Secondary PGCE Lecturer at Brighton University who commenced his presentation about his work training RE students.

**II. Presentation by Tom Newlands**

Tom gave an insightful talk on the work carried out at Brighton University in the training of students for the Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE). Applications to RE PGCE courses in England for the academic year 2007/2008 reached a new high.

Tom explained all areas of the student's development from the:

- initial interview
- student selection
- student induction
- student support
- core reading
- teaching placements
- student presentations
- students in employment

- III. The group discussed and questions were put to Tom regarding the age range of people applying for the course. Tom stated that the age of students are between 21 – 48 years of age. With the average age of a Primary School RE teacher being 32 years old.

The group also discussed that the skills in teaching were the most valuable lesson as subject knowledge can be gained as subjects change but that teaching skills are required to be able to teach effectively therefore having a positive effect on their students, and how teaching is a continuous learning experience.

Tom explained how half of the students from the last academic year had found permanent jobs by the end of the course.

- IV. Councillor Stogdon thanked Tom for his comprehensive and informative presentation.

**Business Agenda**

- 1 Councillor Richard Stogdon extended a warm welcome to Councillor David Elkin Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness and to Lienna Gomm the new representative for the Religious Society of Friends.  
Due to Councillor Garvican's ill health Councillor Richard Stogdon chaired the meeting.

## 1.1 **Apologies for absence:**

Councillor Matthew Lock, Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid, Rev Derek Bastide, Dr Taleb Durgahee, Bev Devaux, Martyn Relf, Martin Lloyd, Janet Ottley, Angela O'Hara, Kevin Fossey.

- 1.2 Janet Ottley has confirmed her wishes to resign as a member of SACRE as she is commencing Maternity Leave and unable to attend future meetings.

## 2. **Minutes of the last meeting (17 June 2008)**

The minutes were agreed.

### 2.1 **Matters Arising**

- 2.11 Susan Thompson was thanked for all her hard work, effort, commitment and her achievements so far in her role as SACRE advisor

- 2.12 The presentation from Sarah Harvey has been sent to Councillor Garvican. This will be available to members of SACRE.

**Action: The clerk to provide copies of this on request.**

**Clerk**

- 2.13 7.3 agreed that the next agenda would discuss the possibility of 'Twilight' meetings. This was to be discussed under membership issues on the current agenda but due to Martin Lloyd's availability it was decided that this item shall be deferred.

**Action: To include this item on the next agenda**

**Clerk**

### 2.2 **Identify any other business item**

None

## 3 **Rebecca Haynes Introduction**

- 3.1 Rebecca Haynes (RH) introduced herself to the committee in her role as Clerk to SACRE RH stated how pleased she was to meet the group and was happy to be contacted should the need arise.

- 3.2 RH asked the group if they would be happy to receive communication by email eliminating time consuming mailing, enabling efficient use of time for the benefit of SACRE. It was agreed that all correspondence would be conducted by email and RH would bring copies of the Agenda and all meeting papers to each meeting.

- 3.3 RH stated that the response to the member's update of information had been successful allowing the group to receive their copy of the agenda by electronic mail. It was asked that all members update the clerk with their details when necessary.

## 4 **Updates**

- 4.1 Susan Thompson (ST) updated the group on the recent Teachers Event. 13 teachers were present. 12 from Secondary Schools and 1 from Special schools.

This proved very positive and highlighted a desire for more support in networking web based and face to face events which is something ST has in progress.

- The network groups will follow on from training. 1 East & 1 West have been formed. There will be 2 meetings per term in terms 2, 3 & 4.
- These will focus on concepts, pedagogies & assessment respectively.
- ST has linked the groups to NATRE and it is hoped that a teacher will

'take the lead' with the support from the RE advisor in the future.

- ST is hoping to be able to work with the Foundation Subject Advisor in regard to the web-forum in the future.
- William Carter has been approached and it is hoped he will be able to assist with this.

4.2 ST updated the group regarding the Multi Faith Event. This event has been provisionally booked at Pilgrims Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009 enabling 10 students each from years 5 & 8 from 8 different schools to attend an interactive faith event with workshops Music, Dance & Calligraphy, covering the following religions;

- Jewish
- Hindu
- Sikh
- Muslim

SACRE are still seeking an additional £2000 to fund this event. All possible funding options are currently being explored.

4.3 ST gave an update on the SACRE Conference currently provisionally booked for the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at Deans Place Alfriston. The workshop will be titled cREativity let the imagination fly.

Lat Blaylock has been booked as the key note speaker to talk about creative RE, there will be 3 workshops on;

- Dance in RE
- ICT use in RE
- Creative art RE – Art and Poetry

All SACRE members are invited to attend.

## 5 SACRE Report for QCA

5.1 ST informed the group that QCA have not set a deadline for this years report. It has been difficult collating information for this as KS4 data is not yet available and SACRE do not have all the information required by QCA.

5.2 There are identified issues with representatives within East Sussex SACRE. ST has been working to fill the 4 vacancies within group A and the 4 vacancies within group C

**Action: ST & the Clerk to continue the work regarding the vacant positions** **ST Clerk**

5.3 ST handed the group 4 final questions from the SACRE report to QCA

- What good practice and distinctive features in your SACRE could be shared with RE community locally, regionally, nationally or internationally?
- How would you describe the sense of community that exists in the ethos of your SACRE? What events, celebrations or forms of communication best exemplify this?
- If the DCSF were to consider changing its advice on RE and collective worship, what comments would your SACRE have concerning the future of RE and the future of collective worship?
- Are there any other points about RE, collective worship or SMSCD (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development) that your SACRE would like to express to QCA (such as national innovations)?

The group broke into small groups to discuss these questions their responses were collected by ST at the end of the meeting.

## **6 Draft Faith Community Directory**

- 6.1 The directory will include the area of Brighton & Hove. ST is currently in the process of collating this information by contacting each faith community, checking their contact details and their confirmation to be included

## **7 Report from Joint SACRE Meeting**

- 7.1 The report attached to the agenda was acknowledged as read. The committee noted the report for information. There were no further comments.

## **8 Report form Inclusion Conference**

- 8.1 The report attached to the agenda was acknowledged as read. The committee noted the report for information. There were no further comments.

## **9 Information on Free resources for Schools**

- 9.1 ST updated the group on the generous gifts of resources which are at the Magnet:

- Christian resource REQuest CD Rom,
- Jewish Way of Life CD Rom
- Comprehensive artefact box from the British Council from Muslims.

Copies of Religion & Science in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom whose production and distribution has been made possible by the Hockerill Educational Foundation were also circulated. These copies have been asked to circulate to all members once read.

As part of evidence of the SACRE's work, a copy of the publication Charlotte Gravestock (previous Advisor to SACRE) contributed to, is available to any member to read on request.

## **10 What is the roles of RE in assisting areas of social deprivation?**

- 10.1 In the light of Pat Locke's absence it was decided to defer this item to the next meeting.

**Action: To add this item to the next agenda.**

**Clerk**

## **11 Forward Planning including Agreed Syllabus Conference**

- 11.1 ST informed the group that funding had been approved for ASC by Matt Dunkley (Director of Children's Services). Much of the development plan is in place or has been planned.

- 11.2 Youth SACRE: ST has been researching;

- Youth Forum to help with the work of SACRE in the future.
- Pupil Voice this would enable students to help SACRE to monitor what is happening in schools and say what they would like and would benefit from.

Funding would need to be allocated for this purpose. ST will continue her research into this, including her communication with Lancashire SACRE where this idea is reported to be working well.

- 11.3 The RE monitoring and support to schools had a huge response. With 6 spaces available for assistance from SACRE 71 schools have registered their interest. ST is currently working with the LEA to facilitate this. The group discussed this positive response, with the possibility of having a fee paying service for Susan to offer support to all of the schools expressing an interest.

- 11.4 ST presented her report from the NASACRE meeting on 13.10.08 held at Lewisham regarding training SACRE members.

The purpose of the training is to promote community cohesion and build the capacity of SACRE's. The government recognises the unique role of SACRE in a shared common purpose of educating children in the local authority.

Training for the South East, starting with group A will commence next year and will consist of 30 delegates for 3 days.

Day 1 will consist of Religious Education:

- What is it?
- What does it look like in the classroom/schools?
- What is SACRE's responsibility

Day 2 will consist of Field work:

- Visits to school to watch Re in the classroom
- Debrief by the teacher and the RE advisor
- Attend a different SACRE meeting as an advisor

Day 3 will consist of Collective workshop:

- What is it?
- What does it look like in the classroom/school?
- History of collective workshop, SCMC development, place of prayer & discussions on how this may differ from faith community experience
- What is SACRE's responsibility?

Training would also include pairing the new recruit with an experienced committee member from group A for assistance & discussions about what it means to be an effective faith community member on SACRE, how best to represent their faith in SACRE and how they can represent SACRE in the faith community, once training had been completed.

Important to the recruitment process is:

- Understanding local faith diversity
- Finding an appropriate representation and faith communities
- Contacting the right people, in tandem with
- Building trust and co operation between SACRE and faith communities.

Questions to consider for this are:

- What constitutes 'right belief' (considering denominational differences)?
- Who is 'mainstream'?
- How do we know?
- What is init for the faith representative?
- What are they committing to?

In some SACRE areas a member of group A meets with a sub group consisting of representatives from different denominations to discuss denominational differences. This ensures that the SACRE member is in a position to express a variety of denominational views within the faith at SACRE meetings.

## 12 Any other Business

- 12.1 Councillors expressed a wish that the meeting dates for SACRE to be included in their diaries automatically.

**Action: The clerk will look in to this and report back at the next meeting** Clerk

- 12.2 The councillors requested that the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June to be rescheduled for a date in July. Dates during the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> July were discussed. The

venue was also discussed due to the parking restrictions at St Mary's in Eastbourne. The date and venue to be confirmed at the next meeting.

**Action: Clerk to look at alternative dates and venue to report at the next meeting. To add this item to the next agenda**

**Clerk**

### **13 Dates of Future Meetings**

13.1 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009 Council Chamber County Hall Lewes

RH 29.10.2008