

East Sussex SACRE
Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2009
Committee Room County Hall

Present Councillor Trevor Webb (Chair), Susan Thompson (RE Advisor),
Rebecca Haynes (Clerk)
Bev Devaux, Connie Hughes, Lienna Gomm, Linda Appleby, Ros
Gillies, Dr Brenda Vance, Father David Smith, Councillor Richard
Stogdon, Rev Derek Bastide & Martin Lloyd

Also Attended Bill Gent for the presentation

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

Actions

Susan Thompson (ST) opened the meeting welcoming Bill Gent.

- I. Bill Gent (BG) explained that he had taught for fifteen years before working for 20 years as a Local Authority School Improvement Adviser. He edits REsource, the journal of the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and is an Associate Fellow in the Warwick University Institute of Education's Religions and Education Research Unit.

BG distributed a presentation to the group showing a route map in the background of collective worship in schools. He discussed with the group the background to collective worship in English schools, what current legislation requires, and the challenges and possibilities that schools are presented with.

The teachers within the group were asked to join the discussion with their own school and personal experiences of collective worship/assemblies including the rights of teachers and pupils to withdraw from collective worship.

BG discussed with the group a summary of the legislative requirements set out in the 1988 Education Act and the Ofsted framework references to RE and Collective Worship.

- II. BG showed the group a reviewing & monitoring collective worship questionnaire that had been produced by one Local Authority for use in Schools in their area and a questionnaire on observing assembly/collective worship: an example of an aide-memoir.
- III. BG finished his presentation with a Power Point Presentation showing the images of collective worship. A handout of this was distributed to the group.
- IV. The group closed the presentation with discussions of their personal and school experiences of the 2 closing thoughts.

1 BUSINESS MEETING

Councillor Webb opened the business meeting explaining that in the absence of Councillor Lock he would be Charing the meeting.

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Richard Saunders, Pat Lock, Jill Bell, Mike Rundle, John Court, Councillor Matthew Lock, Councillor Brian Gadd, Councillor Carolyn Heaps, Rebecca Stutters, Dr Brian Hick & Imam Sajid.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 JULY 2009 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

2.1. It was proposed that the East Sussex SACRE constitution should be amended to include a position of Vice Chair for a 4 year term who can be re elected. Proposed by Martin Lloyd seconded by Connie Hughes.

Action: ST to amend the East Sussex SACRE constitution.

ST

Decision: It was decided that a record should be kept to identify any members that had not attended 3 consecutive meeting or given apologies.

2.1.1 A training session had been scheduled for the end of the days meeting.

3.4 **Action: Councillor Webb and Councillor Stogdon to send a letter to Bill Goodwin (Project Director Academies)**

**Cllr Webb
Cllr
Stogdon**

6.1 To be discussed at item 3 on the meetings agenda

6.3 To be discussed at item 3 on the meetings agenda

7.1 It was stated that Councillor Lock was currently discussing this item with Councillor Ensor.

2.1 **IDENTIFY ANY OTHER BUSINESS ITEM**

There was none.

3 **SACRE BUDGET**

3.1 **Decision: The group decided to pay supply cover for 6 of the teaching members of the group; any underspend would be carried forward to future meetings. Secondary School Headteachers would not be eligible to receive supply cover costs.** This was proposed by Councillor Webb and seconded by Connie Hughes.

It was acknowledged that the Quaker group had kindly offered to cover the supply costs for their member if 7 or more qualifying teachers attended future meetings.

3.2 In order to reduce the cost of meeting venues the group discussed the possibilities of using schools as a venue, with students to present on RE at the beginning of the meeting.

The use of the Magnet Centre was discussed, using the non religious areas. It was stated that this would involve the use of outside caterers.

Action; ST to investigate the possibilities of using St Richards School & the Magnet Centre. ST

4 **ASC BUDGET**

4.1 It was stated that this item had been included for information only.

5 **DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

5.1 Monitoring of RE within schools is currently under discussion with the ASC. It was stated that at the present time the only monitoring facilities available to the East Sussex SACRE are; GCSE results, Diocese (Section 48) & Ofsted reports. It was noted that Ofsted do not routinely comment on RE and Collective Worship.

5.2 It was stated that the ASC had decided to request support from the Lead Member & Chief Officers to agree a long term support plan of school monitoring.

It was stated that East Sussex SACRE do not have a clear plan of what is discussed within schools in regard to Collective Worship.

It was stated that work investigating this would require additional days of employment of the SACRE Advisor

Action: ST & Councillor Lock to arrange a meeting with the Director of Children's Services to discuss the LAs position of strategic RE development. ST Cllr Lock

6 **NETWORK MEETINGS - REPORT & FUTURE PLANS**

6.1 The possibility of having 2 network meetings every other term consisting of 2 primary schools and 2 secondary schools; one in the East and West of the County was discussed. These would be hosted by the schools and the only cost to SACRE would be in the preparation and attendance time of the Advisor.

The group discussed the implications around attendance of teachers especially concerning the time management of small primary schools that are prioritising an already demanding meeting schedule.

It was suggested that schools may wish to use ½ day inset training days - fee paying to discuss current RE issues.

Action; ST & Connie Hughes (CH) to discuss this issue and report at the next meeting ST & CH

6.2 The group were informed that an Interfaith Group was currently being created in the Hastings and Bexhill area by a teacher at Bexhill High School. It was suggested that East Sussex SACRE could use this as a model.

It was stated that 15-21 November was Interfaith week and their website contained information for Collective Worship/Assemblies.

6.3 **RESOURCES**

ML Suggested that as the Primary Headteachers Conference would be a two day Conference in January 2010, SACRE may be able to display resources for the schools to review.

Action: Connie Hughes to liaise with ST on the possibility of attending the Conference. CH & ST

The available Internet resources on Czone were discussed within the group.

7 **SACRE AWARD (CRITERIA & LOGO)**

- 7.1 The group were referred to the SACRE Award Leaflet attachment to the meeting agenda. The group were asked to email ST any comments.

Action: Clerk to send the Award Leaflet to school early 2010 after approval confirmation. Clerk & ST

Action: CH to discuss with Annie Pile the possibility of placing leaflets in the Headteachers resources packs. CH

The group discussed the design a logo competition leaflet and the winning prize value.

Action: Clerk to make an amendment to the leaflet to read the winning prize is a £25 gift voucher of your choice. This to be sent out early 2010. Clerk

8 **MULTIFAITH EVENT 2010**

- 8.1 It was stated that the event had been booked early in the year with a twilight meeting 2 weeks previous to the event. There would be no more than 100 pupils per day.

It was stated that last year, East Sussex SACRE secured a grant of £5,500 to subsidise the event although this year the cost per child would be £43.

SACRE members were asked if they wished to support the event financially. The group discussed alternatives by changing the date and a cheaper alternative.

Decision: The group decided that the event should be postponed for a year. This was proposed by Rev Derek Bastide and seconded by Councillor Webb

9 **SACRE CONFERENCE 22 JUNE 2010**

- 9.1 The group were informed that the date had been set for June 22 2010 incorporating 5 workshops to be held at Uckfield Civic Centre.

10 **YOUTH SACRE**

- 10.1 It was stated that ST had received 2 responses. The group discussed that with the current demands on SACRE this item should be postponed.

Decision: To postpone action on the Youth SACRE

11 **REPORTS ON SCHOOL VISITS**

- 11.1 The report attached to the meetings agenda was noted.

12 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 12.1 The group were asked to decide if they wanted the Interfaith Forum to visit East Sussex SACRE as part of the meeting in the Autumn of 2010.

Action: Group to decide and report comments at the next meeting

Members

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 25 February 2010 Council Chamber Uckfield Civic Centre
- 17 June 2010 DPB Centre Eastbourne