

East Sussex SACRE
Notes from discussions held on Thursday 25 February 2010
Council Chamber Uckfield Civic Centre



- Present** Councillor Matthew Lock, Connie Hughes, Dr Brenda Vance & Susan Thompson.
- Also Attended** Rebecca Haynes (Clerk), Bill Moore for the presentation and George Jelliss (Humanist Observer) attended for the presentation only.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

Actions

Susan Thompson (ST) welcomed Bill Moore to the East Sussex SACRE

- I. Bill Moore (BM) explained to the group that he was invited in his role as the Chair of NASACRE to talk about RE and the Agreed Syllabus.

BM distributed handouts to the group of the presentation and the Buckinghamshire County Council Statement on RE & Collective Worship.

Clerk to circulate copies of the handouts to all members with the notes from the afternoon. RH

- II. BM talked about;

- What is a SACRE?
- About SACREs
- The composition of SACREs
- The Locally Agreed Syllabus
- Religion in Education and the importance of RE
- The law
- The right of withdrawal
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

- III. BM stated that by law Humanists were not allowed to be included in committee A, although some SACREs do have a Pagan representative where there is a significant number of residents within the community and it is deemed appropriate. It was said that some SACREs will also have Humanists on their SACRE committee as they were teachers and a representative of group C. That all SACREs work to promote good quality RE & Collective Worship.

BM explained to the group that there is currently a debate concerning the Locally Agreed Syllabus (AS) and whether it should remain local or for all Local Authorities to use a National Agreed Syllabus.

BM stated that the guidance was clear on the responsibilities of Academies and Trust Schools; where an Academy does not have a religious ethos, they would be expected to follow the Agreed Syllabus.

It was discussed that all SACREs were instrumental in ensuring quality for all pupils in RE and Collective Worship and how SACREs were able to monitor this in schools to ensure that they were following the statutory document and the AS.

It was said that RE has constantly responded to change to reflect the fact that whilst the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian; RE within schools take into account the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

- IV. BM spoke how RE went beyond the 3 Aims;
- Knowledge of Faith
 - Belief
 - Impact

With students having an understanding of identity of belonging and self learning.

There is no statutory responsibility for students at the end of KS3 to have learnt a range of religions although they must have covered the 3 aims. SACREs should have a supporting role with the support for RE and learning outside the classroom.

If schools have not taught RE in Year 11 then they should have had intensive RE

teaching in Year 10.

The group discussed the non-statutory programme of learning and what subjects the AS should advise for different Key Stages.

- V. It was said that guidance states that pupils can withdraw themselves from RE from 18 years old, although if a parent withdraws their child from RE, the school would not be responsible to provide additional staff to supervise the student or for their provision during this time. Parents would need to set additional work for their child in keeping with world views; they would not be able to study an additional subject.
- VI. BM summarised RE and discussed Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development;
- How spirituality was not synonymous with religion
 - What it means to each person as opposed to others
 - Looking at moral development within the relationship with yourself
 - How Social development was about relations in regard to the world that we live in and others around us.
- VII. BM concluded his presentation with activity sheets asking;
- What do we want pupils to get from their experience of RE?
 - What does good quality RE look like?

Councillor Lock thanked BM for his presentation, acknowledging the preparation & time that was undertaken for attending the afternoon.

BUSINESS MEETING

Councillor Lock declared that the business meeting could not go ahead as there were not sufficient members present to continue, as stated in the constitution. The meeting could not have been previously cancelled as only 6 apologies had been received in advance of the meeting.

In the absence of a meeting the minutes would need to be agreed at the next meeting.

Cllr Lock was embarrassed by the lack of attendance for the arranged meeting and dictated a letter for the Clerk to be circulated to the members with the notes from the afternoon's discussions.

Clerk

The remaining members then held a discussion with the Clerk regarding upcoming administration duties for SACRE; the notes of which are detailed below;

Letter re Academies

This item is to be included in the next meetings agenda

Clerk

Venue use of St Richards School & The Magnet Centre

Susan Thompson (ST) said that St Richards do not have the capacity to host SACRE meetings although she had obtained the cost of using the Magnet Centre although there was an issue with parking, the need to provide refreshments and that it is a faith building. It was disused using St Michaels Hospice as an alternative using the 1st hour to view the resources at the magnet Centre then the business meeting at St Michaels with the possibility of moving the June meeting. ST asked the Clerk to cost using St Michaels.

Clerk to cost St Michaels

Clerk

Meeting with the Director of Children's Services re Strategic RE Development.

Cllr Lock said that after his meeting with Matt Dunkley the School Improvement Service (SIS) would be responding to him formally and asked ST to have a draft implementation plan available by September 2010 for the Headteacher representatives to promote within schools and Cllr Lock would email ST the response from the SIS

Cllr Lock
ST

Interfaith Forum Visit Members

This item is to be included the next meetings agenda

RH

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF RE IN ASSISTING AREAS OF SOCIAL DEPRIVATION

This item is to be included in the next meetings agenda

Clerk

RESPONSE FROM THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE & 2009 EXAM ANALYSIS

Cllr Lock said that unfortunately as the response did not fully respond to the questions raised it may be more appropriate to ask permission from Matt Dunkley if SACRE could write directly to schools asking them if they could;

- Provide and share with SACRE examples of good practice
- Possibly host a SACRE meeting to share their learning
- Writing a case study of their RE to be shared on Czone
- Share their reasoning for withdrawing pupils from GCSE RE
- Provide details of qualifications held by RE teachers for the development of SACRE in order to support the LA and schools with RE
- Identify any support they believe would assist in their delivery of high quality, effective & challenging RE

**Cllr Lock
ST
Clerk**

ST was asked to draft a letter for his approval in his name to be forwarded to the Clerk for permission before distributing to schools.

Cllr Lock suggested that both himself and ST could investigate the possibility of meeting with schools in the County to investigate if SACRE meetings could be held in them to share in their RE learning.

**Cllr Lock
ST**

SACRE REPORT FOR QCDA

A discussion was had regarding the questions for the report with a few examples shared. ST would circulate the report to the SACRE members by email asking for any additional comments for Cllr Lock to approve before submitting to QCDA.

ST

SACRE BUDGET

ST said that with the diligence of budgeting this year an additional AS working teacher party meeting had been approved for 30 March and it was suggested that an RE teachers resource book could be purchased for all maintained schools in East Sussex which would assist them with the delivery of the new AS.

ST would cost this to discuss with Connie Hughes and Cllr Lock

ST

CONSTITUTION/MEMBERSHIP

This item is to be included the next meetings agenda

Clerk

ASC

This item is to be included the next meetings agenda

Clerk

EQUALITIES & DIVERSITY: SHARING OF INFORMATION & INPUT

ST said that she was receiving support with this

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

Faith directory & Magnet Centre

These resources were now available on Czone

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 5 July County Hall Lewes