

MEETING OF THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS SUB-GROUP

**CSSG MEETING ROOM 1, CHRIST CHURCH PRECINCT, COUNTY HALL,
PRESTON**

Wednesday 9 March 2011

MINUTES

PRESENT

**Jacquie Clarke
David Fann
Kelsang Pagpa
Peter Martin
Helen Sage
CC Albert Thornton
Colin Wills
Francis Williams**

REPRESENTING

**Primary Teachers
NAHT
Buddhism
ASCL (Chair)
Church of England
Lancashire County Council
Free Church Council
Observer**

Officers in Attendance

**Jill Anderson
Katrina Dale
Helen Harrison**

Jonathan Hewitt, Head of Quality and Continuous Improvement, Directorate of Children and Young People, attended the meeting to speak at Item 3.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Nasrullah Anwar, Andrew Brennand, Kathleen Cooper, Imam Owes Data, Lisa Fenton, Iffat Hussain, County Councillor K Iddon, County Councillor Peter Malpas, County Councillor Y Motala, Carrie Mercier, Christian Pountain, Alice Robinson, Harsha Shukla, Jas Singh, Yvonne Taylor

Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 2011 and matters arising

With regard to the minute 'Issues from SIPs and other monitoring activities' it was noted that the information received from Diocesan schools was currently being collated and would be sent out shortly to the relevant SACRE representatives from the Dioceses.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January be agreed as a true record.

Future support for SACRE

Members considered the two documents presented: i) Document drafted by NASACRE regarding statutory Local Authority Support for SACREs, annotated by Helen Harrison to reference to Lancashire SACRE, and ii) Discussion paper, presented by Jonathan Hewitt, Head of Quality and Continuous Improvement, Directorate of Children and Young People, regarding possible future provision of specialist RE support for the SACRE.

In opening the discussion, Jonathan explained that the role of the Authority was changing in the way it linked schools to the curriculum and that any development work in schools and implementation of the curriculum was decided upon by the schools themselves. Most curriculum support would be offered to schools, not provided. This would have implications for further support materials that may have to be marketed depending on demand from schools. However, regarding the legal status of RE the view of central government was to keep the status quo, ie local determination.

The Authority endorsed the high quality of work being carried out and now proposed to review the specialist support for the SACRE and ASC.

The statutory element (set down in the NASACRE document) was to be used as a starting point when planning for future SACRE support.

Jonathan stated that the Authority, with regard to the SACRE (annually):

- Fully recognised the importance of the specialist and would want to employ someone with RE specialism
- Recognised the need for a lead officer from the Directorate for Children and Young People besides the RE specialist, so that issues could be fed back to the Authority as appropriate.
- Accepted the provision in terms of functions but that the SACRE Development Plan ought to be built into the SACRE Annual Report – to be carried out by the RE specialist.

and that the Authority, with regard to the ASC (five year cycle):

- Accepted that support should be available around the five year cycle of the review of the syllabus
- Could offer/make available support to schools in implementing the syllabus - not providing it as a matter of course
- Would continue to support the Youth SACRE and Youth Conference for the year 2011/12 given their valuable input into the new syllabus and as a means of celebrating their work

The tasks of the RE specialist, as drawn up by the Authority, were listed at Appendix 'A' to the report and included work regarding schools requesting a determination in

relation to collective worship, which had not been included in the NASACRE document.

Members were encouraged when they learnt of the level of support which the Authority expected to provide. A query was raised regarding how soon this support would be available since the RE Consultant post was to be disestablished after March 2011. Members noted that the Authority would now be considering how best to employ a specialist but that in an interim period, the services of the ASTs might be called upon. There would, however, be an officer of the Authority in attendance at the next SACRE scheduled for 6 June 2011.

Discussion focussed on the following areas:

- SACRE's monitoring role
Since Lancashire had an outstanding relationship with its schools, monitoring could be done as part of that relationship. This needed further consideration. For example, Helen was taking this Issue to LASSH on March 18th. Support could be offered to schools but it would be up to individual schools to ask for it.
- Network groups
In future, these could be marketed, and a charge made in the same way as for other subjects. A marketed RE programme, however, was not capable of subsidising a full time RE consultant.
- The SACRE budget
A query was raised regarding whether supply cover would be available for primary and secondary teachers to attend meetings – it was not yet known whether this would be the case.

The Authority would continue to fund the support provided by Heather Warburton's office and some areas relating to NASACRE, for example membership fee and travel to conferences so that the professional development of the RE specialist could continue.

The Authority had not yet provided specific details regarding the budget as it had first needed to take into account what the SACRE felt it needed.

- Linking RE with other subjects
The Authority felt that RE should have closer links with related curriculum areas, for example, Pupils Personal Development and wellbeing and SMSC.
- Concern that the SACRE newsletter might be discontinued

When the management arrangements for the SACRE had been finalised, SACRE members agreed that the officer from the Authority attend meetings in order to feed issues back to the Authority and for its part, the SACRE would inform the Authority, whether or not the new arrangements were working.

Resolved: That Jonathan Hewitt be thanked for presenting the Authority's views on future provision of specialist support for the SACRE.

SACRE Self Evaluation Form, (SEF), Updated 18 January 2011

Members considered the SACRE SEF which had been updated at the last meeting of the QSS on 18 January 2011. Members noted that:

- With standards in RE falling nationally, it should now be a priority to find further ways of monitoring standards in RE in non Aided Lancashire schools in order to ascertain areas needing support
- In order to manage the partnership of the SACRE with the Authority, the Chairman would now write to the Authority asking for the timeframe which would see the implementation of the new management structure.
- That the locally agreed syllabus would be considered for adoption by the Authority at the Decision Making Session of the Cabinet Member for Children and Schools on 10 March 2011. The syllabus would then be launched on 25 March 2011 in conjunction with holding the Annual Youth Conference, at the Gujarat Hindu Society, South Meadow Lane, Preston. It was planned that it would be available in Lancashire schools that use the syllabus from mid May. It was also intended that some support materials would be added during the life of this syllabus to respond to need and changes of government policy.
- That £2000 had been set aside for Collective Worship and that the organisation, RE Today, would update the CD 'Mirrors and Doors' with exemplification.
- That SACRE would continue to find ways to contribute to the social and racial harmony agenda.

Resolved: That the updated SACRE Self Evaluation Form be noted.

SACRE Development Plan

Due to time constraints, members considered the SACRE Development Plan briefly, noting areas for update, and commenting as follows:

- Priority 2: 'Management of the Lancashire SACRE and Partnership with the Authority and other Key Stakeholders – Authority, Young People and Parents'. It was agreed that making effective links with parents to support RE provision was a local and national issue. Previously Clare Lomax of Fearn's High school had provided information regarding their success in this area and information had been disseminated via the RE networks. It was suggested

that parents could be encouraged to accompany students on school visits to allow them to encounter and consider RE and also that they could contribute to RE lessons. This was put forward as a possible future item for consideration by the Quality and Standards Sub-group.

- Priority 3: 'The Effectiveness of the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for RE.' It was suggested that members think creatively about ways of offering training to schools.
- Priority 5: 'Contribution of SACRE to the Social and Racial Harmony Agenda.' The comment was made that the DIFA web site needed further development to facilitate better contact between faith groups and schools and that a greater number of contacts for inclusion on the site was needed.

The suggestion was made to invite the Minister for Schools to a future SACRE meeting to demonstrate the work of SACRE and to raise the question of how RE would be supported in the curriculum since it was not included in the proposals for the proposed English Baccalaureate. The QSS would ask the SACRE to consider this suggestion at its next meeting on 6 June.

Resolved: That:

- i) Areas for update of the SACRE development plan be noted and form part of a revision of the current three year SACRE Development Plan.
- ii) There be an item regarding parent's involvement with the SACRE on a future agenda of the QSS
- iii) The QSS ask the SACRE to consider inviting the Minister for Schools to a future meeting of the SACRE

Date of the Next Meeting

A date would be set in liaison with the Chairman before the next meeting of the SACRE on 6 June 2011. Members would be notified of the date set in due course.

As this was the last time Helen Harrison would attend the SACRE/QSS in her capacity as Lancashire Consultant for RE and Collective Worship, members joined with the Chairman in thanking Helen for all the work she had done over the years which had been of the very highest quality.

March 2011

County Hall, Preston