

Meeting of the Quality and Standards Sub-group

CSSG Meeting Room 1, Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Preston

Tuesday 13 September 2011

Minutes

Present

Mr P Martin
Mrs K Cooper
CC P Malpas
CC Y Motala
Mrs A Tidswell

Mr F Williams

Representing

ASCL (Chair)
LASGB
Lancashire County Council
Lancashire County Council
Free Churches Group (Methodist Church)
Lancashire County Council

Helen Harrison

RE Consultant

Officers in Attendance

Jonathan Hewitt
Josh Mynott
Katrina Dale

Before the start of the meeting the Chair welcomed Mrs Anita Tidswell, recently appointed to the Free Churches Group representing the Methodist Church on the SACRE and Mr F Williams, recently appointed to the group representing Lancashire County Council, on the SACRE.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Brennand, Dr M Craig, Ms J Clarke, Ms I Hussain, Ms C Mercier, Mrs J Sawyer, Mrs H Sage, Mrs H Shukla and CC A Thornton.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 May 2011 and matters arising

With regard to the minute relating to the 'Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 March', members were informed that next year's SACRE budget (2012/13) would be known only after the County Council had set its own budget. The engagement of the RE Consultant for 29 days per year was the main budgetary consideration.

Members again welcomed the support that the Authority would continue to provide for the Youth SACRE and Youth Conference for 2011/12.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2011 be agreed as a true record.

Lancashire SACRE Development Plan 2011- 2013

Members considered in detail the draft Development Plan 2011 – 13 which had recently been updated to take into account the comments made by members at the SACRE meeting of 7 June 2011 and the work carried out at the officers' meeting of 1 July 2011 in conjunction with the Chair.

The Lancashire SACRE Development Plan had first been based on the Self Evaluation Tool devised by the former Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. The 'Costing Column' would now be removed as costs were borne by the Authority. Comments on the five Priorities of the Development Plan were made as follows:

Priority 1: Standards and Quality of Provision of RE

- 1a) Jonathan Hewitt's role as Officer to the SACRE would now support the strategic role of the Authority. Paul Dyson-Knight would continue to analyse the data from schools and provide national comparisons. This analysis had already helped to identify issues and resulted in the Able Gifted and Talented programme.
- 1b) In order to help raise the profile of the SACRE, Mrs Kathleen Cooper suggested that, as the representative of the LASGB on the SACRE, she provide information on the SACRE to be circulated to all LASGB members. It was also suggested that all SACRE members try to publicise the SACRE and that there were materials on the RE website available to download together with display kits for small exhibitions in places such as libraries.

Priority 2: Management of Lancashire SACRE and Partnership with the LA and other Key Stakeholders

- 2b) Development of the Youth Voice related to the Youth SACRE and the Annual Youth Conference which had previously been linked and would be again for the current year.
- 2c) It was suggested that issues relating to developing links with parents be taken to the Youth SACRE with a request for their help and that different models of links with parents be given consideration.

Priority 3: The Effectiveness of the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for RE

- 3c) It was envisaged that a system would be created which would enable schools to put themselves forward as examples of good practice. This would

also fit in more widely with the Authority's approach, not being limited to just RE, in the sharing of effective learning throughout the County.

Priority 4: Collective Worship

- 4a) The resources on the Collective Worship CD 'Mirrors and Doors' were being updated by RE Today Services and would be disseminated to Lancashire schools by Easter 2012. It was suggested that if church schools expressed an interest in obtaining the CD then a charge would be made. Support materials for CW were already available and feedback from schools had been positive.

Priority 5: Contribution of SACRE to the Social and Racial Harmony Agenda

- Membership of the faith groups on the SACRE was discussed, and the value that they could bring in ensuring that the different faiths within the County were represented was highlighted. An audit of SACRE membership would be undertaken annually by the Chair and the Officer to the SACRE.
- Lancashire's Learning Excellence Team would offer marketed services training for schools connecting RE/CW to Community Cohesion and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development.

Resolved: That the draft SACRE Development Plan 2011 -13 be updated and put before the SACRE at its meeting of 26 September 2011 for approval.

SACRE Annual Report 2010/11

Members noted that the Annual Report 2010/11 would be produced as an on-line document only. (Members were informed that Hayley Wiggins of the Quality & Continuous Improvement team now provided support for the SACRE web site).

A first and rough draft version was available for members to view in the members' password protected area of the web site and the RE Consultant welcomed any comments made on it by members. The Annual Report followed the same pattern as the Development Plan. Statistics provided by Paul Dyson-Knight would be added in due course.

A query was raised regarding the current number of teacher training places for RE specialists in universities and teacher training colleges. Members were advised that officers would seek to establish this figure and report back.

Youth Voice

The Authority's strong commitment to the work this year of the Youth SACRE and Youth conference was noted. The RE Consultant had contacted schools to find out if there was still interest for a Youth SACRE and had so far received 12 responses. A meeting had been planned for the 26 September 2011 for interested schools to discuss the practical issues in going forward with the Youth SACRE.

It was suggested that the SACRE agenda for the meeting of 28 November 2011 include an item relating to the Youth SACRE when the outcome of the meeting of 26 September would be known.

Draft Calendar of Meetings

Resolved: That the following schedule of meetings for the Quality and Standards Sub-group be put before the SACRE for approval :

Tuesday 8 November 2011	10am
Tuesday 17 January 2012	10am
Thursday 17 May 2012	10am

Review of Meeting Formats

The present format of SACRE meetings was based on the recommendations of the QSS at its meeting of 24 April 2008 and it was suggested that a refresh of this format might now be undertaken. The group agreed that the current format be considered by the SACRE at its meeting of 26 September 2011. Members felt that, if possible, meetings could be held at faith venues and schools.

Resolved: That the SACRE be asked to consider the format of SACRE meetings at its meeting of 26 September 2011.

Any Other Business

The Chair brought an e petition which had been received from the Chair of AREIAC regarding RE and the E Bacc to members' attention. This would be included for information in the SACRE agenda of 26 September 2011.

Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the date of the next meeting of the Quality and Standards Sub-group was Tuesday 8 November 2011 but that this date was subject to approval by the SACRE at its meeting of 26 September 2011.

September 2011, County Hall, Preston