

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2013**

<b>Present:</b>	Mrs E Large	Group A
	Mr M Dickson	Group A (Chair)
	Mrs K Leighton	Group B
	Rev D Newstead	Group B
	Mr R Neale	Group B
	Rev C Coverley	Group B
	Mr I McKenzie	Group B
	Mr R Evans	Group C (Vice Chair)
	Mr S Duggan	Group C
	Mrs C Hibbard	Group C
	Mrs M Landor	Group C
	Councillor W Clements	Group D
	Councillor W Smith	Group D
	Councillor P Kearney	Group D
	Councillor B Mooney	Group D

**In Attendance:**

Mrs D Smith – Principal Manager – Wirral Local Authority  
Mrs J McMorran – Clerk – Wirral Local Authority

**Mr Martin Dickson in the Chair**

**1. WELCOME AND**

Mrs McMorran formally welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the first item on the agenda – the Election of a Wirral SACRE Chair for the year 2013/14.

**2. ELECTION OF POSTS**

Mr Martin Dickson was proposed by Councillor Clements and seconded by Mrs Large. By a unanimous show of hands Mr Dickson was duly elected to the post of Vice Chair.

Mr Neale nominated Mr Richard Evans for the post of Vice Chair and this was seconded by Reverend Coverley. By a unanimous show of hands Mr Evans was duly elected to the post of Vice Chair.

**3. SACRE Business Matters**

**Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs Lewtas, Mr Cohen, Councillor T Smith, Mr K Tsering, and Mr B Pritchard.

#### 4. Minutes of the last meeting held on 17 October 2012

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

#### 5. Matters Arising

It was noted that Mr Pritchard has been in contact regarding his election to Wirral SACRE as an observer. Mr Pritchard had sent his apologies and was unable to attend the meeting.

##### i) Item 5a) Action Plan Update

There is a requirement to set up a working group to look further at the Action Plan to update the 3 objectives. Volunteers were sought and a date for a meeting required.

##### ii) Item 5 b) 2012 Annual Report Review

A Working Group was needed to discuss this. There is no formal date to submit to NASACRE.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to identify dates in the near future for both item 5a and 5b.

#### 6. Agreed Syllabus Conference Update

Mrs Smith discussed the current position regarding the Agreed Syllabus Conference. There had been some delays but the syllabus was now almost ready for publication. Mrs Smith and Mrs McMorrان will meet to carry out the final edit before distributing it to SACRE members for comment/approval, prior to going out to schools. It was noted that some money was available to support the refreshment of the primary schemes of work. This would be devolved to the participating schools to fund supply for Working Group members. Discussion took place regarding the proposed reforms of GCSEs and the Ebacc changes. It was felt that RE was not on a level playing field.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the draft revised letter from the Chair of SACRE should come from Mr Dickson as Chair for 2013/14. Mrs Smith and Mrs McMorrان would work on the final version of the syllabus. It was also hoped to circulate the Agreed Syllabus electronically to SACRE members prior to the next meeting.

#### 7. Community Cohesion

Mr Neale explained that he had raised this subject as Ofsted no longer specifically include this in reports. Mr Duggan felt that although it was not graded to Ofsted criteria, it was something schools should contribute to and that SACRE should continue to take an interest in; irrespective of statutory duties. Discussion followed and it was resolved to review it annually.

**Proposal:** To include Community Cohesion on the agenda over a year and review this annually.

**Resolved:** The proposal was agreed.

#### 8. Holocaust Memorial Day - 2013

Wirral's National Commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day took place this year on 6 February 2013 at The Floral Pavillion. The speaker this year was a holocaust survivor Joanna Millan. Joanna was an engaging speaker who believed what she said with a passion. Thanks were expressed to Don Williamson who provided a key note speech about his family's experiences in the Holocaust and Marion Landor who helped organise the event the smooth running on the day. The large theatre was not available for the event this year so the numbers of Wirral students attending was reduced. The refurbishment will be completed in time for next year's event. Julia Hassall, Acting Director of Children's Services, Councillor Gerry Ellis, Right Honourable Mayor of Wirral and other members of the council and SACRE attended the event and were very impressed with the afternoon. Joanna expressed her pleasure at the organisation of the event and said how impressed she was with the student's questions.

It was brought to the attention of SACRE that some members had not received the email invitation to the Holocaust event. The Clerk apologised for this and assured members that the documents had been emailed in the usual manner using the standard contact list. The invitation letters had also been circulated twice prior to the event on 11 December 2012 and on 28 January 2013. Every effort will be made to ensure this will not happen again. The Clerk suggested that if a SACRE member is expecting correspondence and does not receive it, then they should contact her and she will remedy the situation.

**Resolved:** Thanks were expressed to all those who had helped to make the event so successful. It was resolved that the Chair would write to Joanna Millan to thank her for speaking at the event and to Joanne Johnson (Deirdre Smith's secretary) to thank her for the massive role she had in organising the event.

#### 9. News from Schools

Alan Brine HMI for RE was to speak at South Wirral High School on 13 February 2013. All Heads of Secondary RE had been invited.

**10. Items of Information/Correspondence:**

- a) NASACRE Newsletter. Mr Neale expressed that the information was very useful. The newsletter would be circulated via email (in order to save money). Mrs Smith explained that the SACRE budgets are small £3,400 for SACRE administration and £3,000 for the Five Yearly Review of the Agreed Syllabus for RE.
- b) NASACRE AGM – 23 May 2013. It is thought that this will take place in Birmingham.

**Proposed:** It was proposed that Martin Dickson and if possible Richard Evans would be funded by SACRE to attend this event. A HOB will need to be submitted by Mrs Smith to obtain the funding.

**11. Chief Executive's Message**

Mrs Smith explained that the Chief Executive of the Council Graham Burgess writes to all employees weekly to update them on developments. He had recently met with Church representatives from across Wirral to consider ways of working together in the future, and had established a quarterly meeting to ensure Wirral Council worked closely with all faith groups across Wirral. It was suggested that it might be interesting to invite Mr Burgess to a future SACRE meeting to highlight the work done.

**Proposed:** To invite Mr Burgess – Chief Executive of Wirral Council to a future SACRE Meeting.

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**12. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**Thursday 20 June 2013 @ 4.00 pm at St Andrew's School, Townfield Lane, Bebington, Wirral.**

**Agreed:** That this would be the arrangement for the next meeting.

**13. Any Other Business**

None.

Mr Dickson closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.