

Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education on Wednesday 21st September 2016 at Wirral Grammar School for Boys, Bebington.

Present:	Name redacted	Group A
	Name redacted	Group B
	Name redacted	Group C
	Councillor W Clements	Group D

In attendance:

Name redacted	
Mr Steven Baker	(later accepted as a Group B member)
Name redacted	(later accepted as a Group B member)
Name redacted	(Later accepted as a Group A member)
Name redacted	(Later accepted as a Group A member)

Guests:

1 Name redacted **welcomed** everyone and read out the **Apologies Received:** Councillor B Mooney
Name redacted

2 Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair.

Name redacted explained that since the previous meeting Name redacted had had to resign for personal reasons and Name redacted was appointed vice chairperson.

It was proposed that Name redacted be appointed Chair and Name redacted be appointed Vice-chair. These proposals were unanimously agreed.

3 Committee Membership

There followed a discussion expressing concern about the membership of the council, mentioning in particular the vacancies for people of other faiths.

Several people present indicated their willingness to join and were duly accepted – see above.

Mr S Baker is executive head teacher at Kilgarth and Gilbrook, Name redacted is a youth worker at St Andrew's C of E Bebington, Name redacted works for Wirral Youth for Christ and Name redacted is in the core team at the Jubilee Church in Wallasey.

Mr S Baker asked for an introduction to the members of the group and was given their names.

Via email Name redacted had indicated that he had contacted Name redacted to arrange for a replacement but he has not informed us of any response. Name redacted has also contacted the Bishop but has yet to receive a reply.

Councillor Clements was thanked for her support and asked to remind the other appointed councillors to attend.

4 Review of the minutes from the meeting on 18th May

Name redacted proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record and Name redacted seconded.

5 SACRE Annual Report and Action Plan 2014-17

Name redacted has resigned and the action plan is out of date, in so far as it has served its purpose. Name redacted had added the final column to the draft report and the committee were happy to adopt it and aim to finish the actions by next year. Mr S Baker proposed and Name redacted seconded.

The report had not previously been published as the committee were waiting for Mrs Julia Hassell to write the introduction and at the time Name redacted was on secondment to Africa. The committee agreed that there was little point in publishing the 2014 report at this late stage and suggested that the report be published as a 2014-2016 summary report after the meeting.

It was also proposed that a working party be set up to discuss the format of the 2017 report.

6 Updates

a. Youth SACRE

Name redacted explained that owing to budget freezes in schools it has been difficult if not impossible to get cover for staff out of school. She then asked YFC to attempt to recruit pairs of pupils 1 Christian and 1 not (i.e. another faith or no faith), she also suggested that they might in turn recruit their parents to sit on the committee.

Name redacted asked for a leaflet to be prepared explaining the aims of the youth SACRE. Name redacted agreed to write one.

As detailed in the Action Plan the boys at WGSB on the youth SACRE were all year 11 boys who had stepped back to concentrate on their GCSEs. Further recruitment drives will be held soon. Name redacted suggested using incentives, such as cake, to get more boys to attend.

b. Learn Teach Lead RE

As Name redacted was not present and it was her project Name redacted, summarised. Since retiring as head of RE teacher training at Hope University Name redacted has worked for spirit of Liverpool, Organised a Merseyside hub, which has recently provided the 3D Judaism CPD. Name redacted has successfully secured further resources for CPD.

It has been suggested that PGCE students be required to commit to join SACRE for the period of their training as a way of keeping SACRE at the forefront of RE teaching.

Name redacted said that people think that all SACRE does is arrange the Holocaust memorial day event.

Name redacted expressed a desire to arrange more speakers for RS lessons/assemblies in particular she was keen to approach Name redacted.

a. Holocaust Memorial Day 2017

Name redacted offered the group 3 dates in order of preference.

Weds 1st Feb 2017

Tues 31st Jan 2017

Mon 30th Jan 2017

Last year there had been too many empty seats owing to schools not sending as many pupils as they had said they would. 2 schools pulled out at the last minute and Name redacted was only allowed to bring 66 not 150. It was felt that the earlier schools could be made to commit the better and various other options for recruiting guests were discussed including; inviting the local rabbis; parents of the pupils who were doing the presentation and a wider range of schools. Mr S Baker said he appreciated the thought but was not sure his pupils could sit through 90 mins of presentations.

Name redacted said pupils could submit written questions to be answered by the survivors. Name redacted also queried whether there had been any negative feedback concerning the length of the memorial event, there had not. Name redacted asked if guests could be invited and it was agreed they could. Name redacted also said that last year following an article in the local press some home schooled pupils attended and a member of the public attended with permission from Ms S Talbot. Name redacted wondered if trainee teachers were required to arrange a school trip and if so perhaps they could be encouraged to make it to the HMD event.

It was hoped that Name redacted would be able to arrange a keynote event around the new GCSE RE specifications.

A desire to strengthen primary links.

Name redacted asked that congratulations be sent to Name redacted on getting the quality mark for her school.

Interfaith Site

b. Interfaith week

Name redacted recommended the website www.interfaithweek.org it was suggested that there be a link to this put on the Wirral SACRE website.

There followed a long discussion concerning the SACRE website, (NOT SURE if fits here or elsewhere) Lancashire's SACRE website was held up as an excellent example. Questions were asked as to who was responsible for the SACRE website and Name redacted explained that it is managed by Name redacted on behalf of Wirral Council. Name redacted (former Chairperson of SACRE) used to host the website on his personal server but once he resigned this was no longer feasible. Name redacted (ICT adviser until September 2015) sorted it out. Unfortunately there is no budget for the website.

Name redacted congratulated Mr Steven Baker on his speech last year at the Holocaust Commemoration event and mentioned that the material he sent about Srebrenica had been uploaded quite quickly.

8 News from schools and school updates

a. The Collective worship calendar

This is on the website but out of date versions need to be removed. Cllr Wendy Clements asked to be copied in to all emails regarding the website. The members asked for a copy of the current Collective Worship Calendar to be sent out by email. It was suggested that a copy be sent to Name redacted for circulation to Governors, she will also be sent the minutes and dates of future meetings and the Holocaust Memorial Day. Name redacted will also be sent the suggested dates.

9 Agree keynote speaker for the next meeting –

Name redacted introduced Mr Steven Baker the executive head of Kilgarth and Gilbrook. He offered to be the keynote speaker for the next meeting.

Mr Baker has worked as a forensic anthropologist and helped exhume and identify the victims of the Srebrenica massacre. He now leads a positive mental health project in his schools. He is working with Merseyside Police and the prison service on non-confrontational approaches and methods to modify challenging behaviour. His work was explored in an article in the daily telegraph “Schools without punishment”.

He mentioned a fund for teachers to visit Bosnia and suggested that Srebrenica teaching resources be included on the SACRE website.

10 Any other business

a. Date and venue for the next meeting of Wirral SACRE

The focal point of the next action plan. – make SACRE relevant in schools, link to the PREVENT programme.

Wirral agreed syllabus was published in 2013 and should be renewed every 5 years. We should therefore try and review in 2017 to be published in 2018. Genocide prevention should be in the agreed syllabus and conflict resolution should be considered at the next review of the Agreed Syllabus.

The Middle East has been a topic for discussion. Mr Steven Baker was invited to be a speaker at the youth SACRE.

Name redacted offered the meeting room at Holy Cross Woodchurch for the May meeting (1st or 2nd week in May and offered to give a talk on the history of the building.

Sue Talbot had suggested that Name redacted be asked to be the clerk but Mr Steven Baker offered to ask his clerk to the Governors.

Name redacted asked which school was attending Auschwitz this year, it is the Wallasey School now known as the Kingsway Academy. He suggested that parents be invited to the HMD.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 5.30

Dates

The Wirral Holocaust Commemoration Event will take place at the Floral Pavilion on Wednesday 1 February 2017. The survivor who will address the meeting is Name redacted.

The next Wirral SACRE meeting will be held after the Event – at the Floral Pavilion on 1 February 2017. This will begin as soon after 4pm as possible.

Name redacted from Srebrenica.org will be our guest speaker, with some input from Mr. Steven Baker.