



Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

MINUTES



Minutes of Meeting

27.03.17

Greenmount Primary School

Richard May, Headteacher of Greenmount, described how the school was relocated from its Victorian building in Ryde, to the Mayfield Middle School site and how it had slowly expanded from 150 to 420 pupils. The school also has an attached unit for autistic students and a "Nurture suite". The focus of the school is on a broad and balanced curriculum, complemented by pupils development in spirituality, feelings and self confidence. A "Big Think" has been used in the school. This is where topics are discussed in cross-school, mixed age groups. Topics have included "How do you know you're not dreaming" and a painting by Botticelli.

He informed SACRE that RE in the school is taught one day per half term. BM thanked him for his hospitality in hosting SACRE at his school.

Chairman Beryl Miller (CE)

Attendance

Committee A

Co-opted members representing non-Christian faiths

Mr. David Downer (Buddhist)

Mrs Norma Corney

Committee B Representing The Church of England

Mrs Beryl Miller

Committee C

Representing the teachers of the Isle of Wight.

Visit the IW SACRE website:

<http://www.iwight.com/Residents/Schools-and-Learning/School-Curriculum/Isle-of-Wight-SACRE>

Committee D (4 members in total)

Representing the Local Authority.

Mrs. Patricia Hannam

RE Inspector

In attendance

Valerie Lawson (Buddhist observer)

Justine Ball (Primary RE Inspector)

Harry Kirby Clerk

Apologies

Venerable Peter Sutton , Mrs Nicki Mobley, Mrs Sue Cox, Dr. Lionel Alexander, Miss Beth Feltham, Cllr John Hobart, Mr. Ralph Hodd, Sister Stella Kelly

Reflection.

- BM described an activity in a reception class. The children were asked to draw something they were fond of and to write one sentence. A child needed help spelling the word "love". "What sound begins the word Love?" she asked. The response was "Heart". This then caused her to reflect on the various kinds of love and she then read a variety of quotes on the subject. She was thanked for her words.

Minutes of Previous Meeting were read and approved,

Matters Arising.

- Youth Voice. BM had made contact with various primary schools and there was an enthusiasm for them to join together in RE activities/conference. She considered that, logically, area meetings would be easier. Areas suggested were; Ryde, Sandown, Newport. The Summer Term was favoured. JB would supply a questionnaire and a suitable activity. BM offered to facilitate this venture. It was suggested that Year 7 students might be invited. **Action BM**

Correspondence

- HK had responded to the LA's request for details of SACRE in anticipation of elected member(s) joining
- NASACRE AGM in York. It was decided that the cost, involving 2 overnight stays, would be prohibitive.

Visits to Schools

- Sister Stella had visited St Francis School with the Catholic Pastoral Coordinator.. They observed RE and Collective Worship. She "was very impressed". They also visited Christ the King and Holy Cross Primary. A Child-led CAW was observed at the latter. They were also accompanied by the Headteacher of St Francis, as they shared good practice. "All very encouraging stuff!"
- DD had spent a day in Medina House and was involved in Year 6's sensory experience. He had also spent a day in the Free School working with 5 year groups, an hour with each. What struck him was the different dynamics of each group.
- BM had attended staff meetings at Brading CE and talked about RE.
- HK, as a Governor of HH, had a monitoring role for SMSC etc.

Training attended

- HK had undertaken Governor training in RE led by JB
- HK and BM had spent time observing the Lead Teachers ' training at Hunnyhill. This was commissioned by SACRE .
- Both were impressed by JB's delivery, style of presentation and the quality of the courses.

Reports from Members attending Conferences/Meetings

- None to report

Monitoring

- See attached report from PH re GCSE RE results
- Funding is available for 3 days of monitoring. (6 x 0.5 days Primary Schools). These will be accompanied by SACRE members.
- PH will be visiting Medina and Carisbrooke on behalf of the LA.
- It was decided that minutes for the LA website will not include the detail presented to SACRE.
- RE comments from OFSTED reports on Cowes, Brading, Wootton, St. Francis were considered. It was noted that, although not inspected in detail, there is an expectation that RE has its statutory place in the curriculum.

Religious Education update

- The role of the SACRE hub meetings, attended by several local SACRE's, will be reviewed in the light of comments received. Members considered this group important as it presents the opportunity to share good practice.
- It was agreed that a letter, advocating the role of SACREs would be sent to the RE Commission. PH would supply a link to forward to members. **Action PH/BM/HK**

Agreed Syllabus Launch

- The planned launch of this had been postponed due to the change of leadership in the LA.
- Following a wide ranging discussion, it was decided to plan a Primary/ Secondary conference in March 2018. Provisional arrangements ; March 15th. , Venue RVYC , Inputs/workshops involving a range of faiths, A week's activities with RE displays in schools and libraries.

Agreed Syllabus implementation

- Good support across the IW. 19 Senior Leaders attended a briefing and this will be followed up with, for non-attenders, another on 7th July.
- Approximately 16 Governors had attended a training session. It is hoped to run a second course.
- Primary RE networks are well supported and valued by teachers.
- Diocesan networks continue. JB will lead one out of their three courses.
- RE Leaders course, commissioned by SACRE, was attended by approximately 12 teachers.
- There was discussion re access to RE resources held at Thompson House. There seemed to be some confusion in schools about whether they are subscribed to the resource centre and whether this subscriptions and access to resources will continue. Being a subscribing school is important since this is a way for schools to access the RE packs produced from the RE centre in Winchester to support the new RE curriculum, as well as borrowing artefact boxes. PH and JB will check the present situation.

Action PH/JB

Development Plan

- It was noted that the Development Plan was on track. The planned Pupil Voice conferences (above) addresses one element.

Annual Report

- This has been forwarded to the LA. Any questions arising will be addressed by PH, BM and HK

Constitution

- A draft update of SACRE's constitution was considered. It reflected SACRE's current practice. It will need to go to the LA for ratification. Proposed NC, Seconded DD. Agreed unanimously

Any Other Business

- The Quaker community has approached SACRE to have a representative on the committee. This was agreed unanimously following a proposal from BM, seconded by NC Action HK
- Members had previously been informed of Ralph Hodd's illness. **They thought it very important that their good wishes be forwarded to Ralph.** Action HK

Future Meetings

July 10th Place of worship
October 10th Secondary School
March 13th Primary School

Dates will be adjusted to accommodate the diaries of the RE inspectors, whose attendance is key to SACRE's effectiveness.

All meetings at 1600hrs unless otherwise notified.

Monitoring Report prepared for Isle of Wight SACRE meeting on 27.3.17

Patricia Hannam Hampshire County Inspector Adviser RE/history

Context of this report

The research for this report has been undertaken in order to support the Isle of Wight SACRE fulfil its responsibility to monitor the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus. A new Agreed Syllabus has been introduced in January 2017 formally. Therefore this report is based in general upon the impact of the former Agreed Syllabus.

The report is in two parts. First with regard to Ofsted inspection reports made on the Isle of Wight that have mentioned or in other ways referred to or from which something may be inferred about Religious Education and secondly regarding the Isle of Wight GCSE performance in 2016.

1.2 Report on Ofsted inspections of IoW schools

- Since July 2016 three IoW secondary schools have had visits from Ofsted. Two of these have been monitoring visits to schools that are requiring improvement (RI) and no mention of RE is found in the monitoring letters. A third school received a full 2 day inspection that graded the school as 'good' (it had formerly been RI). Religious Education was mentioned in this report.
- Since July 2016 five LA/CofE linked primary schools have been visits by Ofsted. Two of these were monitoring visits. One was a full section 5 inspection where the school has become Good from RI and the other a short inspection where the school has continued to be Good.

Religious education may or may not be explicitly mentioned but inferred in relation to mentions of Religion, belief and/or faith and usually mentioned in relation to Leadership and Management or and usually to support a judgement about SMSC or preparing children for life on modern Britain.

2. IoW GCSE performance in 2016

This part of the report offers an analysis of the 2016 GCSE data available regarding full course GCSE Religious Studies (RS) on the Isle of Wight. As mentioned previously, when comparing GCSE results year against year, it is very important to note that it is not the same group of students and not always the same teachers teaching the GCSE being compared. It is important to note the implications of the move in recent years away from 'Criteria referencing' to 'Norm referencing'. This is the way grade boundaries are set. Since 1988 when the GCSE examination was first introduced GCSE exams have been 'Criteria Referenced', there is a deliberate move away from this now. Therefore there is increasing volatility in the grading of GCSE, not in the standards of the students or necessarily the teaching of GCSE RS. This is something Ofsted are aware of and have alerted schools to in recent communications. In other words, like is increasingly not being compared with like. It is therefore essential to consider results a year at a time, to look carefully school by school at what this may reveal in any one particular year, in order to draw meaningful and practical conclusions about any action that should be taken.

Background information

- The GCSE Full Course is in general a 2 year course sat at the end of year 11, however some schools teach the GCSE RS over three years, beginning in year 9. All but one Isle of Wight school in 2016 took all students through the full course GCSE.
- The GCSE is planned to be taught in 120 hours. Usually in two lessons per week over 2 years.
- It is important to note that some schools teach RS GCSE in one lesson per week over two or three years. Usually in these schools teachers are non-specialist teachers.
- Schools which have the best results for RS are those which enable students to access the full time recommendation for the GCSE and to be taught by specialist teachers.
- The current 'legacy' GCSE which was sat in 2016 and for which year 11 students are being prepared now, was first available for examination in 2011. It is being replaced by a new course which will be available for examination for the first time in 2018.
- Assessment Objectives for the current 'legacy' GCSE Religious Studies course are : A01 Describe, explain and analyse, using knowledge and understanding 50% A02 Use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights, and differing viewpoints 50%.
- RS GCSE therefore is testing not only knowledge but the capacity to *analyse* and *to use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate*. Teaching must, and will increasingly have to in the new GCSE, enable students to do this. RS GCSE success is about higher order thinking, not just writing facts. Challenging children to analyse evaluate and in other ways reason well at KS3 and KS4 is known to raise standards at GCSE. The implementation of Living Difference III across the Island, where it is embedded well at KS3 and where children and young people are able to access the correct amount of teaching time for GCSE should help to raise attainment

Overall findings

- Entries for GCSE Full Course on the Isle of Wight have fallen in 2017 to 653 entries. In 2012 the number of Full Course entries was 728 (and including Short Course the total number of students sitting a Religious Studies GCSE was 1183). In 2013 Full Course entries were 662 (and including Short Course entries the number sitting an RS GCSE 1174). In 2014 1099 sat Full Course GCSE. In 2015 the number of students sitting a RS GCSE Full Course was 1075. Of the 6 main secondary schools all but one took most students through the Full Course.
- One school did not enter students for GCSE. Two schools entered only a proportion of their year 11 students. There will be follow-up visits to the two LA schools in the summer term that will enable SACRE to ascertain whether students in these schools can access their entitlement to RE at KS4.

Full Course GCSE Analysis and Commentary:-

- Across the Isle of Wight there continues to be a wide disparity in achievement in RS GCSE school by school. This can be accounted for by the teaching time that is given to RS at GCSE.
- Achievement is high where there is adequate time given to the GCSE teaching and it is taught by specialist teachers. Where this is not the case achievement continued to be low.

Recommendation:-

- As recommended in previous years, it is recommended that students should be taught by RE specialist teachers or teachers who have access on going CPD in religious education at GCSE.
- As recommended in previous years adequate time should be given to GCSE teaching, at least that which is recommended by the examination boards.
- Where GCSE is not taught at KS4, students must have access to a rich religious education curriculum that meets the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus and is at least ensuring schools meet the OFSTED requirements for religious education as set out in the Ofsted Handbook in September 2016.