

**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:	Ms Zoe Abernethy	Group A
	Mr I McKenzie	Group B
	Ms Razbully	Group C
	Councillor W Clements	Group D

In attendance:

Mrs M Landor, RE Advisor

Mr Steven Baker (later accepted as a Group B member)

Mr Matt Fairhead (later accepted as a Group B member)

Mrs Helen O'Brien (Later accepted as a Group A member)

Mr Paul Barrett (Later accepted as a Group A member)

Guests:

1 Ms M Landor **welcomed** everyone and read out the **Apologies Received:** Councillor B Mooney Ginny Lewtas

**2 Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair.**

Mrs M Landor explained that since the previous meeting the Chair Rev Dominic Newstead had had to resign for personal reasons and Zoe Abernethy was appointed vice chairperson.

It was proposed that Ms Razbully be appointed Chair and Ms Abernethy 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, Mr M Fairhead is a youth worker at St Andrew's C of E Bebington, Mr P Barrett works for Wirral Youth for Christ and Mrs H O'Brien 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 Rev D Newstead had indicated that he had contacted Bishop Keith to arrange for a replacement but he has not informed us of any response. Mrs Landor 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 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Mrs W Clements proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record and Ms Abernathy seconded.

#### **5 SACRE Annual Report and Action Plan 2014-17**

Mr Richard Neale has resigned and the action plan is out of date, in so far as it has served its purpose. Mrs Landor 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 Mr I McKenzie 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 Rev D Newstead 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**

Ms Razbully 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.

Zoe asked for a leaflet to be prepared explaining the aims of the youth SACRE. Ms Razbully 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. Ms Abernathy suggested using incentives, such as cake, to get more boys to attend.

##### **b. Learn Teach Lead RE**

As Ms J Schmack was not present and it was her project Mrs M Landor, summarised. Since retiring as head of RE teacher training at Hope University Mrs Schmack has worked for spirit of Liverpool, Organised a Merseyside hub, which has recently provided the 3D Judaism CPD. Ms Schmack 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.

Mr McKenzie said that people think that all SACRE does is arrange the Holocaust memorial day event.

Ms Razbully expressed a desire to arrange more speakers for RS lessons/assemblies in particular she was keen to approach Gee Walker.

**a. Holocaust Memorial Day 2017**

Mrs Landor offered the group 3 dates in order of preference.

Weds 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2017

Tues 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2017

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Ms Razbully 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. Ms Razbully said pupils could submit written questions to be answered by the survivors. Ms Abernethy also queried whether there had been any negative feedback concerning the length of the memorial event, there had not. Ms Razbully asked if guests could be invited and it was agreed they could. Mrs Landor 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. Ms Razbully 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 Ms J Schmack would be able to arrange a keynote event around the new GCSE RE specifications.

A desire to strengthen primary links.

Ms Razbully asked that congratulations be sent to Ginny Lewtas on getting the quality mark for her school.

Interfaith Site

**b. Interfaith week**

Ms Razbully recommended the website [www.interfaithweek.org](http://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 Mrs M Landor explained that it is managed by Jamie Dixon on behalf of Wirral Council. Mr Martin Dickson (former Chairperson of SACRE) used to host the website on his personal server but once he resigned this was no longer feasible. Ben Parker (ICT adviser until September 2015) sorted it out. Unfortunately there is no budget for the website.

Ms Razbully 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 Mrs Jane Owens for circulation to Governors, she will also be sent the minutes and dates of future meetings and the Holocaust Memorial Day. Bishop Keith will also be sent the suggested dates.

## **9 Agree keynote speaker for the next meeting –**

Ms Razbully 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.

Mr Ian McKenzie offered the meeting room at Holy Cross Woodchurch for the May meeting (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week in May and offered to give a talk on the history of the building.

Sue Talbot had suggested that Colleen's secretary be asked to be the clerk but Mr Steven Baker offered to ask his clerk to the Governors.

Mr I McKenzie 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 Rudi Oppenheimer.**

**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.**

**Rebecca Heron from Srebrenica.org will be our guest speaker, with some input from Mr. Steven Baker.**