

**In my role as RE Adviser and to support SACRE (referring to Items in Minutes of 28/9/16) I have addressed the following:**

**Matters Arising in the Minutes of 28/9/16**

**Item 5 : (Links to Point 7)**

Further work took place during the school term to identify gaps in the provision of RE in schools. This is further covered in Point 7 (below).

**Item 7: Survey Analysis**

This continues but work has been interrupted while completing the Annual Report and the Accord Application but should be available at the next meeting with current updates as many changes are underway since the information about “compliance” and Ofsted was published (see point 5 above) and then shared across the Borough via the invites to both Secondary and Primary Lead Teachers Network meetings.

There is work still ongoing to ascertain the full picture such as reviewing the information shared on School Websites. Lead RE Teachers find the networks a great support while bringing such information, with authority, to their Leadership Teams. Many Lead teachers are still looking to use the Locally Agreed Syllabus rather than invest in their own or another while undergoing the process of conversion to Academy status which is also altering the local picture of RE provision.

**Item 9: SACRE Training**

Robert Harris attended the Inter-Faith Group Meeting. I am to attend the next meeting to be held at 4pm on 23/02/17.

**Item 9.2:**

I continue to attend the meetings of the Difference and Diversity Group of the Healthy Schools partnership to maintain our links with this worthwhile group. I am still intending to arrange a repeat of the Respect for All Pupils of Southend Conference however, budgeting difficulties may have stilted progress.

**Agenda 28/9/16**

**RE Advisers Report**

The DfE were later than usual in publishing their data which were shared with me in mid-December 2016. The Annual Report has been compiled and contains analysis of the DfE official data and that collected from RE Lead Teachers concerning the RE provision in their schools. The AR has a separate agenda item for this meeting.

I completed the Accord Inclusivity Award Application form which has been circulated as part of the SACRE papers. This was a very substantial part of my term’s work and drew praise, being commended for the following:

The judges

- are grateful for the efforts gone to, in applying for the Award, and praise the efforts that the SACRE is making:
- the support the SACRE received from Councillors as expressed by 7 of them serving on Committee D
- the SACRE’s proactive scrutiny in making sure local schools provided RE at KS4

- the wide breadth of training offered - with the SACRE's Annual Teacher/Pupil Conference, 10 teachers having received the Culham St Gabriel's "Excellent RE" Course,
- the SACRE having further funded training events on 'Respect for All Learners' and British Values'

The email went on to say, however:

*"I regret to write that the Southend SACRE has not been placed by the Judges in this year's Inclusivity Award. Thank you again to you for submitting the nomination. Accord hopes to publish a short report in the spring, highlighting some of the innovative practices that the 2017 Award has discovered. We hope these will provide positive messages about the work SACREs can do and are doing."*

I emailed asking if there was any further feedback that I could share with the SACRE at their forthcoming meeting in February and was told that the decisions were not yet available.

I then received a request from the Accord with the following:

- No criticisms of the SACRE were recorded, so I am afraid I do not have anything I can offer in this regard.
- Accord has decided to submit the short report on the 2017 Award that it will produce to the recently launched independent Commission on Religious Education <<http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/commission-on-re>> which the Religious Education Council is supporting.

...and asking:

- **Would it be possible for Accord to also submit Southend SACRE's 2017 Award nomination to the Commission? Some of the Commissioners may not be overly familiar with the work of SACREs.**

After a brief discussion I have been assured that the submission was in fact, an excellent document and would be shared within a highly positive light. I will report more of the feedback in due time.

### **Secondary and Primary School lead Teachers RE Networks**

These took place at WHSGs Secondary, 25/1/17: Primary, 1/02/17. The dates are published on the SETSA Website.

Both Secondary and Primary School lead Teachers RE Networks meetings were very successful with new members representing a wider group of schools attending each. The networks have a high priority on Lead Teachers' agendas and those who could not attend shared with me the reasons (always the timetabling of other school meetings such as parent meetings) and they often:

- add agenda items
- request that I ask those who do meet to consider questions they pose
- ask for advice for areas they met in their work, especially in leadership meetings
- ask to be included in any email follow up / minutes

Teachers keep in touch with me and each other between meetings which has grown into a thriving digital support network. I often receive requests for information, guidance and support in the weeks between meetings, to source documentation, often for their staff / staff and governor meetings, recommend or find resources and ideas, especially for visiting speakers, venues and places of worship.

The next meeting will be a joint Primary Secondary meeting and the agenda includes discussing transition from Year 6 to Year 7 as leads found this very interesting when they met at the NATRE Conference and wished to continue their discussions.

### **Continuing Professional Development**

On January 28<sup>th</sup> 2017 a group of 9 teachers from Southend schools attended “Strictly RE” the national conference hosted in London by the National Association of Teachers of Religions Education. This was a great event and our group was the largest contingent from any one Local Authority and, once again, I believe, was the only group funded by its local SACRE. The pleasure and excitement derived from a complete day of such high quality continuing professional development was immense with speakers, published writers, inspectors and presenters of note, seminars, workshops, resources and networking available under one roof.

Many primary teachers said this was the only CPD they receive all year and feel it contributes greatly to their ability to support their schools colleagues and pupils well. They wished their thanks to be shared with members of SACRE for providing this opportunity and for valuing their work in such a practical and supportive way. They also want to go again next year!

*Frances Neil (February, 2017)*