

AT A MEETING of the STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) held in the Mountbatten Room, The Castle, Winchester, 23 November 2010.

**PRESENT**

**Chairman**

p Councillor P. Mutton ( Hampshire County Council)

**Vice-Chairman**

P Councillor R Muschamp (Hampshire County Council)

a Mr. Mohammed Ansar	-	Muslim
p Councillor Mrs C. Bailey	-	Hampshire County Council
p Mrs. Maureen Barnes	-	Teachers Association
Mrs. Elaine Bellchambers	-	Higher Education – Co-opted
a Mr. Tony Blackshaw	-	Church of England
a Mrs. Dawn Casson	-	Teachers Association
p Mrs J. Chong	-	Roman Catholic
p Councillor Sam Darragh	-	Hampshire County Council
p Mrs L Fairhurst	-	Hampshire County Council
Ms. Rebecca Fletcher	-	Church of England
p Mrs. Pat Fry	-	United Reformed Church
p Mrs Maeve Gordon-James	-	Buddhist
p Ms Patricia Hannam	-	Support Officer
p Mr B Hay	-	Church of England
p Mr. Chris Hughes	-	Fellowship of Independent
a Mr Colin How	-	Methodist
p Mrs Elizabeth Jenkerson	-	Baha'i
p Mrs Julie Lemon	-	Special Education – Co-opted
p Mrs Judith Lowndes	-	Support Officer
Ms Jackie McGregor	-	Salvation Army
p Mrs. Jean O'Reilly	-	Humanism – Co-opted
p Mrs Jane Pridmore	-	Teachers Association
p Mr Paul Tipple	-	Baptist Union
p Major Suryaparsad Upadhya	-	Hindu
p Mrs J Warren	-	Higher Education – co-opted
p Mrs. Jenny Zeffertt	-	Jewish
observer Mr Joel Matthews	-	Mormon

Prior to the start of the meeting Jean O'Reilly, co-opted member of Hampshire SACRE, gave a short talk about Humanism and the British Humanist Association and members were given time for questions.

#### **46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mr M Ansar, Mr T Blackshaw, Mr C How and Mrs D Casson.

#### **47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed that they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally, at the time of the debate, declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code .

No declarations of interest were made.

#### **48. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

Mrs Jenny Zeffert stated that she was present at the meeting 8 June 2010.

Item 43, Page 5 – Mrs Jenny Zeffert informed members that the 'Jewish Way of Life' exhibition in Portsmouth in July had been a phenomenal success.

Members requested that they would like to be notified of events that are happening, as some had not known about the Jewish exhibition in time to go.

#### **49. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman introduced Roz Muschamp as the new vice-chairman and Liz Fairhurst who had replaced Andrew Joy. She congratulated Mrs Sam Darragh who was married in the summer. On behalf of all the members she gave thanks to Lilian Weatherly, one of the Church of England representatives, who had stepped down from SACRE, for her contributions and commitment over the years. She expressed her hope that those members who attended the recent SACRE training had found it beneficial. Finally, she asked members to consider a Mormon representative joining SACRE, something which would be addressed at a future meeting.

#### **50. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations

## **51. HUMANIST REPRESENTATION ON SACRE**

The Council received the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 6 in the minute book) about a request from the British Humanist Association (BHA) to make Humanist representatives full SACRE members.

It was noted that the Humanists were currently co-opted members with no voting rights and that if they were admitted as full members then it would make no difference to the voting as each group only has one vote. However, it was noted that the issue was one of principle. It was confirmed that the advice from NASACRE (appendix 2) on allowing Humanists to be full members was received after the recent government guidance and the letter from the Humanists (appendix 1). It was explained that the issue had arisen because of the government guidance. There was discussion about whether a 'belief stance', which is how the Humanists see themselves, rather than a religion should be admitted to full membership. It was brought to members' attention that they were not considering what was being taught in the classroom about Humanism, but rather whether a non-religious body should have full membership. It was clarified that NASACRE cannot change the status as it is the law, and that is up to local SACREs to decide whether to go outside the law. Members were asked to consider the consequence of opening up full membership to the Humanists, and what other groups may seek to be admitted.

RESOLVED:

No decision could be taken as Group B was not quorate. The matter was deferred to the next meeting.

## **52. MONITORING SUB GROUP**

The Council received the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 7 in the minute book) about the activities of the group and the need to recruit new members of SACRE to the group.

It was reported that the autumn term meeting had been postponed to the spring term 2011 due to a lack of OFSTED reports and Self-Evaluation forms for RE to justify the meeting. Due to retirements from the Sub Group a request was made for three members to join the Group.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Councillor Roz Muschamp, Mrs Elizabeth Jenkerson and Major Suryaparsad Upadhyia be appointed to the Monitoring Sub Group.

### **53. GCSE RESULTS**

The Council received the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 8 in the minute book) providing an overview of the GCSE results for RE short and full courses in Hampshire for 2010.

It was explained that the tables show the raw unadjusted data and it was envisaged that a more detailed analysis giving a comprehensive picture of the state of RE in the county would be brought to the next SACRE meeting. It was noted that broadly speaking the results were positive for both the short and full courses. For the full course there had been an increase both in the number of boys and girls taking it and in performance; the numbers for short courses were down, possibly due to the increase in numbers for the full courses, but performance had improved. It was also noted that there was a continuing trend of more boys than girls being entered on the short courses. The Hampshire RE residual analysis for both the full and short courses showed a better performance compared to the National residual results.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That SACRE notes the report.

### **54. NETWORKING WITH LOCAL SACREs**

The Council received the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 9 in the minute book) on the SACRE network meetings.

It was reported that joint SACRE network meetings had taken place regarding the agreed syllabus and would continue.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That SACRE notes the report.

### **55. THE NATIONAL RE CELEBRATIONS**

The Council received the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 10 in the minute book) of the meeting of the SACRE sub group established to address Hampshire schools' contribution to the National RE Celebrations in March 2011 which was held on 8 October 2010.

It was reported that venues are being sought around the county to display children's RE work. Agreement was sought from members to distribute a letter to all Hampshire school head teachers and chairs of governors to enlist their support for the National RE Celebrations. It was recommended

that the letter should be made colourful and inviting to ensure that it was read. It was also suggested that RE managers in schools should be sent the letter.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That SACRE notes the report.
- (ii) That the letter about the National RE Celebrations is sent to Hampshire head teachers, chairs of governors and RE managers.

## **56. SACRE'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009/10**

The Council received the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 11 in the minute book) on the activities of SACRE during the 2009/10 academic year.

Judith Lowndes gave a general overview of the contents of the report, explaining that it has to be produced and its purpose is to inform and was a self-evaluation of the work of SACRE. In answer to the question as to whether the weaknesses highlighted in the report would inform SACRE's five year plan, it was stated that the plan was not renewed every year, but that the issues raised from this year's report were being addressed. It was requested that the question numbers in the report be linked to the action plan. Members raised the issue of the transition between KS2 and KS3, which was highlighted as a weakness, and were informed that good liaison was not happening yet, but that a meeting was taking place in January 2011 with the advanced skills teachers. Following a request the two newly published books mentioned on page 4 of the report were circulated.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That SACRE approves the report and would have it sent to the appropriate bodies.

## **57. OFSTED CONFERENCE**

The Council received the report from the Director Of Children's Services on the OFSTED National RE conference held on 1 October 2010.

Pat Hannam explained that the conference had looked at the OFSTED report 'Transforming Religious Education', (<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Transforming-religious-education>), which contained the accumulated analysis from over the last five years. The following points had come out of the Conference and were brought to members' attention: that good enquiry-based RE led to very good RE; that

where RE was knowledge-based, then it was not so good; that with enquiry-based RE the quality of teaching, learning and assessment was good and that teachers know what they are doing.

Pat Hannam informed members that she had attended a number of meetings of an Alignment Group of authorities who were reviewing their agreed syllabus and affirmed that it was important for this group to continue meeting, particularly as the QCDA had been abolished. Pat Hannam informed the members that the Alignment Group were meeting on 9 December 2010 to look at attainment and assessment and she would give a report to SACRE at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That SACRE notes the report.

At the end of the meeting the Chairman gave the Mormon observer, Mr Joel Matthews, an opportunity to address the meeting. He suggested that the best websites to find information about the Mormons were [mormon.org](http://mormon.org) or [lds.co.uk](http://lds.co.uk). It was agreed that the issue of the Mormons being represented on SACRE would be discussed at the next meeting.

The Chairman apologised to members for the smallness of the room, explaining that the number of members attending meetings had not been very high over the last few meetings and so a smaller room had been booked.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 1 March 2011 at 14.00 pm.