

AT A MEETING of the STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) held at Medina Mosque, Southampton, on 8 June 2010.

PRESENT

Chairman

p Councillor P. Mutton (Hampshire County Council)

Vice-Chairman

(Vacant)

p Mr. Mohammed Ansar	-	Muslim
p Councillor Mrs C. Bailey	-	Hampshire County Council
p Mrs. Maureen Barnes	-	Teachers Association
a Mrs. Elaine Bellchambers	-	Higher Education – Co-opted
a Mr. Hugh Benzie	-	Methodist Church
Mr. Tony Blackshaw	-	Church of England
p Mrs. Dawn Casson	-	Teachers Association
p Mrs J. Chong	-	Roman Catholic
Ms. Rebecca Fletcher	-	Church of England
p Mrs. Pat Fry	-	United Reformed Church
Mrs Maeve Gordon-James	-	Buddhist
p Ms Patricia Hannam	-	Hampshire County Council
p Mr. Chris Hughes	-	Fellowship of Independent
p Mrs. Elizabeth Jenkerson	-	Baha’l
Councillor Andrew Joy	-	Hampshire County Council
p Mrs. Julie Lemon	-	Special Education – Co-opted
p Mrs. Judith Lowndes	-	Hampshire County Council
a Ms Jackie McGregor	-	Salvation Army
p Mrs. Jean O’Reilly	-	Humanism – Co-opted
p Councillor Sam Payne	-	Hampshire County Council
p Mrs. Jane Pridmore	-	Teachers Association
p Mr. Paul Tipple	-	Baptist Union
p Canon John Turpin	-	Church of England
a Major Suryaparsad Upadhya	-	Hindu
Mrs. Lillian Weatherley	-	Church of England

35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs. E. Bellchambers, Hugh Benzie, Mrs. Jackie McGregor and Suryaparsad Upadhya

36. 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.

37. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Item 30, Page 3 - The County Inspector and Advanced Skills Teachers are looking at the different GCSE specifications in order to be able to recommend specific GCSE specifications to different schools situations. They hope to be able to ascertain which exam boards are taken in future GCSE cohorts and to analyse data with this information in mind.

Item 34, Page 7 – Mohammed Ansar informed the Council that funding is something that SCOF are unable to offer at this time.

Judith Lowndes confirmed that the Agreed Syllabus is currently in the editing stage and will be presented at the next SACRE meeting in November.

38. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman thanked Mohammed Ansar for organising the venue for the meeting and the Muslim community's hospitality. Maureen Barnes (Teachers Association) and Pat Fry (United Reformed Church) were also welcomed to the meeting as new representatives.

Canon John Turpin announced his retirement from the Council and the Chairman also informed the Council that Hugh Benzie was also retiring. Both were thanked for their valuable contributions to SACRE.

Due to Councillor Anna McNair-Scott becoming Vice Chairman of Hampshire County Council, she regretfully confirmed to the Council that she had to withdraw from SACRE and that Councillor Pam Mutton, would take her place as Chairman. Councillor McNair-Scott was thanked for all her hard work and support and the Council wished her the best of luck in her new role.

The Chair of SACRE informed the Council that a letter had been received from the chairman of the British Humanist Association suggesting that SACREs consider allowing Humanists to be full members of SACRE as

representatives in Group A. This would be something to be discussed at the November SACRE meeting. Jean O Reilly also agreed to do a short presentation on Humanism at the next meeting to give members of SACRE a bit of background information and insight. **Patricia Hannam agreed to respond to Cllr Kirk confirming that this would be discussed at the next SACRE meeting.**

39.DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations

40.MONITORING SUB-GROUP

The Council received the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) informing SACRE of the activities and findings of the Monitoring sub-group.

The group had observed some more lessons and talked to RE managers and looked at schemes of samples of work in schools. Judith Lowndes was pleased to confirm that at the schools visited, the teaching of RE was at a good or outstanding level in all cases.

As further funding had been allocated, the group were looking to do further monitoring in primary schools and also in Secondary Schools in Hampshire. The sub-group hoped to draw attention to the importance of RE, particularly in relation to Community Cohesion when visiting the schools

The Council looked at and discussed the five year plan attached to the report and questioned whether, as well as getting feedback on training from teachers (Item 6b in the Appendix), they should also request feedback from the children. It was agreed and noted that this would be very beneficial.

The Council were informed that Hampshire SACRE had several copies of the new "Effective SACREs" training DVD (Item 10 in the Appendix) and this would be available for new and existing members of SACRE to borrow.

RESOLVED:

- i) That SACRE notes the report
- ii) That SACRE endorses the proposed 5 year development plan to inform its future activities, subject to children being asked for feedback as well as teachers (6b in the appendix)

41. QCDA (QUALIFICATION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AGENCY) / NASACRE (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SACREs) BRIEFING MEETING

The Council considered the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 7 in the Minute Book) which informed SACRE of the new Primary Curriculum and guidance provided in the revision of Circular 1/94, RE in English schools

Due to the recent cutbacks with QCDA, Judith Lowndes informed the Committee that the report in relation to QCDA's guidance was no longer really relevant. She and Patricia Hannam were meeting to discuss opportunities for alignment with agreed syllabuses in other authorities on the 28 June. Further updates will be provided at the November SACRE meeting.

RESOLVED:

- i) That SACRE discuss following updates at the next SACRE meeting.

42. COMMUNITY COHESION

The Council received the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) which updated SACRE on the plans for supporting teachers, head teachers and governors to contribute to their schools duty to work towards community cohesion.

Patricia Hannam presented the Council with a draft leaflet on RE and Community Cohesion but confirmed that since the trimming of the QCDA, that some of the quotes and information was no longer relevant. The Council was informed that the leaflet linked with the Prevent Strategy and offered an educational contribution to Community Cohesion to support and work alongside one the Police were putting together.

Patricia Hannam confirmed that a meeting was taking place at the Gurkha base in Rushmoor on the 12 July. This was open to secondary school teachers and would cover the complexities of the Nepalese religious beliefs,, ways of life and political history. Due to security, only a small number can attend, but it was agreed that Cllr Pam Mutton and Maureen Barnes (local teacher in Rushmoor) would attend as representatives of Hampshire SACRE.

RESOLVED:

- i) That SACRE considers the draft leaflet for governors and senior leaders in schools regarding the faith and religious dimension of

- community cohesion and that comments and ideas for the leaflet are emailed to Patricia Hannam at patricia.hannam@hants.gov.uk
- ii) That SACRE monitors the responses to the training offered to senior management and teachers in schools, regarding the religious diversity of the Nepalese community present in North Hampshire and training provided to teachers across the county.

43.NETWORKING WITH LOCAL SACREs

The Council received the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 9 in the Minute Book) updating SACRE of the issues raised at the meeting with a particular focus on the progress of the review of the Joint Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference.

It was confirmed to the Council that the 'Jewish Way of Life' exhibition arranged by Portsmouth SACRE was going ahead for two weeks from the 2nd July and that the afternoons are open to adults as well as children. More details can be found at <http://www.portsmouthmuseums.co.uk/exhibition.htm> at the bottom of the page.

Judith Lowndes also informed the Council that the Community Cohesion would be taken to the next Local Network meeting in July for information and comment. The joint leaflet is still currently being put together.

RESOLVED:

- i) That SACRE notes the report.

44.THE NASACRE CONFERENCE

The Council received the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 10 in the Minute Book) which updated SACRE on the National Association of SACRE's (NASACRE) conference held on the 12 May 2010.

The conference was very well received and attended by Judith Lowndes and Chris Hughes as Hampshire SACRE representatives. There was a keynote address from Claire Short for NASACRE members. She praised RE teachers for what they have achieved over the last number of decades in terms of developing respect for cultural and religious diversity. She also noted the importance of RE addressing the 'not so nice' aspects of religion as well as the 'pretty' side and the Council agreed with this. Council members attention was drawn to the item about the AGM at the conference which was noted in Annex A to the report. It specified that that representatives at NASACRE conference attended and voted as

representatives of their local SACRE and not as individuals, and that topics should be considered and discussed with each Council and a vote offered on behalf of each SACRE

It was also confirmed at the conference that the National Resilience project was still going ahead (although had no extra funding). A SEF (Self Evaluation Form) for RE has now been produced nationally. The RE inspectors in Hampshire will compare this to the one Hampshire currently use to see if the Hampshire RE SEF can be improved.

RESOLVED:

- i) That SACRE notes the report.

45. BI-NATIONAL RE CELEBRATION 2011

The Council received the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 11 in the Minute Book) summarising the proposal from the RE Council of England and Wales to launch a national celebration of religious education during the month of March 2011.

SACRE had already agreed that this is something that the Council would like to be involved with and were reminded that it is important for SACRE members to get involved in and support any events local to them. Visits to places of worship are a good way of getting children interactive and involved.

It was proposed that a temporary sub-group be put together to arrange and organise the celebration and how the Hampshire SACRE can get involved. **Cllr Pam Mutton, Pat Hannam, Judith Lowndes, Mohammed Ansar, Pat Fry and Elizabeth Jenkerson all volunteered to be on the sub-group, which will meet in September and report back at the November SACRE meeting.**

RESOLVED:

- i) That SACRE discusses and agrees the contribution that it can make to the Celebration year events in Hampshire