

**Bath and North East Somerset
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Minutes for the meeting held at Saltford CE Primary School
Tuesday, 16 January 2007
4.30 – 6.15 pm**

Present:

Christian Denominations and other Religions Committee

Jane O'Hara Baha'i

Church of England Committee

Tony Bradley

Kevin Tingay

Teachers' Committee

Dave Campbell	Somervale School (Chair)
Sarah Melling	Wellsway School
Chris Hammersley	Oldfield Park Junior School
Ruth Haines	NAHT
Neil Baker	NASUWT
Ann Hatton	Moorlands Junior School

Local Authority Committee

Cllr Jonathan Gay

Co-opted members

In attendance

Fred Ward Clerk

1. Welcome and apologies

Mary Dadley, Louise Pope, Linda Hall, Mike Wilkinson, Roland Higgins, Denise Cush and Ann Hewitt.

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7 November 2006 were approved.

4. Matters arising

- a) Membership
Anne Bancroft was nominated as a Buddhist representative.
ACTION
The Clerk to invite her formally to join.
- b) Vlth Form Conference
As no member of the Secondary Heads of RE was present, no further details of the forthcoming conference at Hayesfield School on 19 January 2007 were available.
ACTION
The Clerk to ask for a post-conference evaluation.
- c) Steering group
Discussion on the suggestion for a small steering group to be formed to meet between scheduled SACRE meetings to monitor progress and propose agenda items was postponed to the March meeting

5. SACRE Developments

a) Resource Centre

Neil Baker reported that he intended to allocate two after-school sessions at the start of each term for people wishing to borrow and return items. The service would now be widely publicised.

ACTION

The service would be operational next term and advertised on the SACRE website as well as through the local authority.

A budget allocation would be made in the next financial year for the purchase of new resources.

b) Website

Jane O'Hara circulated a written report outlining proposed changes to make the site more accessible and easier to use.

In addition, she was producing a A3 folded to A4 leaflet to wrap-around the SACRE annual report to raise greater awareness of new developments, including the website.

ACTION

The Clerk to produce a list of Secondary Heads of RE to be added to website.

ACTION

Jane O'Hara to implement the proposed changes to update the resources page and re-organise the news pages.

c) Training and development

Dave Campbell circulated a draft questionnaire for schools to ascertain the range of provision and the needs of different sectors.

ACTION

SACRE members to review and feedback any comments to Dave Campbell by 26 January 2007 so that changes can be made and the questionnaire sent to schools.

6. Locally Agreed Syllabus

A draft briefing paper outlining the proposed programme of actions and costs to be incurred for the production of a locally agreed syllabus was circulated. The Clerk reported that the Director of Children's Services had agreed in principle to the funding of this work over the next two financial years. Committees A, B and C agreed to proceed with Committee D abstaining.

ACTION

The Clerk to meet with Sally Boulter, Interim Head of School Improvement, on 31 January 2007 to discuss the financial implications.

7. QCA Conference

Dave Campbell circulated his report of the conference 'Strong SACREs, Good RE' and spoke to the main points. In particular, he raised questions about the relationship between SACRE and the Local Authority., indicating that he hoped this could be strengthened.

ACTION

A discussion paper '30+ things a good SACRE can do' will be a main agenda item at the next SACRE meeting and be used to formulate a Development Plan for the next year.

8. Finance

A financial statement was circulated showing that £4030.29 of the current year's allocation of £12,294 was spent with only £946.31 uncommitted. Members agreed that as the current Vith Form Conference had been paid from an under-spend, the £2000 earmarked should be re-allocated to support development of the website.

ACTION

Jane O'Hara to inform Melchoir to implement the changes to the web site and invoice accordingly before 31 March 2007.

9. National developments

A written report was received from Denise Cush:

Religious Education Teaching and Training in England: developing a national strategy

The draft report of the REC's RE Teaching and Training Commission on the state of RE in schools, ITT and CPD has been completed and will be presented to the DfES in the coming two months together with proposals for remedying weaknesses through requirements for primary ITT and a comprehensive programme of CPD for teachers at all phases and career stages. The REC hope to gain funding to develop a National RE Strategy, probably Regionally implemented, in the next financial year.

10. Any other business

The NASCRE 'Young Inter-faith Projects awards 2007/08' letter was circulated. Members were reminded that the closing date for applications was 31 March 2007.

ACTION

Jane O'Hara to include details on the website.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting is at 7.00 pm on 20 March 2007 at The Newton Annex, Bath Spa University.

NB This is a change of date and time.