

**Bath and North East Somerset
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

**Minutes for the meeting held at, The Newton Annex, Bath Spa University College
Wednesday, 15 June 2005
7 30 - 9 00 pm**

Present:

Christian Denominations and other Religions Committee

Anne Banks	Free Churches
Mike Wilkinson	Free Churches
Edward Hulme	Free Churches
Bob Coleman	Roman Catholic
Jane Aldred	Baha'i
Jessica Wilker	Buddhism

Church of England Committee

Kevin Tingay
Tony Bradley
Mike Brownbill
Imogen Woods
Marie Mallet

Teachers Associations Committee

Mary Dadley	NUT
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Local Education Committee

Cllr Jonathon Gay

Co-opted members

Denise Cush	Bath Spa University College
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In attendance

Richard Brock	Assistant Director of Education, Bath and NES LEA
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1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from: Fred Ward (Clerk) for unforeseen personal reasons

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13 January 2005 were approved after some minor amendments.

3. Matters arising

a) Membership:

There was considerable discussion about widening the membership of SACRE following the paper circulated at a previous meeting, particularly about whether to include representation from alternative spiritual groups. The possibility of including coverage of such groups in a revised Agreed Syllabus was also considered.

ACTION:

The clerk is to review the legal position with regard to the appointment and co-option of members to SACRE and circulate information prior to the next meeting. Members were invited to put forward names/groups of un-represented organisation to consider inviting them to be co-opted

b) VI Form Conference

A half-day is to be held at Ralf Allen School on 12 July 2005; two schools are definitely attending. SACRE members agreed to discuss the possibility of using any under-spend to support individual events in other secondary schools at the next meeting.

c) Resource Centre.

Jane Aldred and Edward Hulme were thanked for their work in cataloguing and organising the recently purchased resources that are stored at Keynsham Primary School.

ACTION:

A date will be agreed with Keynsham Primary School for an opening session in the third week of September.

The clerk will circulate information to schools and seek wider publicity.

d) SACRE Annual Report 2004

It was felt that the report could be better-presented and used for publicity purposes.

ACTION:

Mike Brownbill agreed to bring an example of the Cornish SACRE annual report to the next meeting with a view to a working group being set up to produce a more informative and attractive report.

4. OFSTED reports

These were received but no actions were necessary. It was noted that a new inspection procedure was starting from September 2005 and that reports would be very short, focusing on the effectiveness of a school's own self-evaluation.

ACTION:

It was agreed to review the effects of the new inspection process in the Spring of 2006.

5. Website

There had been no response from teachers to contribute to the website.

ACTION:

It was agreed to use the Agreed Syllabus Conference as an opportunity to demonstrate and publicise the website.

6. Locally Agreed Syllabus Conference.

The success of the pre-conference held on 23 May 2005 was reported when the following options were discussed:

- Maintain current syllabus for up to five years
- Adopt revised Somerset syllabus.
- Adopt another recently revised syllabus.

- Start afresh and produce a new syllabus.

The primary and secondary representatives recommended that the current syllabus be maintained and a group set up to start working on a simpler agreed syllabus, drawing on national developments.

ACTION

It was agreed to send a questionnaire to schools in early September to determine the views of teachers and governors on the above options.

An Agreed Syllabus Conference would be convened for early October for a full day and the date and venue circulated this term with a reminder in September.

7. SACRE Development Plan

It was recognised that the outcomes from the Agreed Syllabus Conference would have a significant bearing on possible development actions. A range of ideas were proposed, including appointing a 'leading teacher', an annual conference for secondary teachers, more in-service training courses and an exhibition of pupils' work.

ACTION:

It was agreed to hold a half-day workshop for SACRE members in January 2006, possibly at Ammerdown, for members to consider the findings of the recent OFSTED report on SACREs and evaluate their own work and seek developments in the light of the key findings.

8. AOB

- a) Edward Hulme regretfully tendered his resignation with effect from after the next SACRE meeting.
- b) Mary Stone is leading training for primary teachers on RE in the environment on 18 November 2005.

10. Next meeting

This will be held in 'The Newton Annex', Bath Spa University College on Monday, 7 November 2005 from 7.30 – 9 pm.