

**Bath and North East Somerset
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Minutes for the meeting held at St Julian's CE School
Wellow
Thursday, 14 June 2007
4.30 – 6.30 pm**

Present:

Christian Denominations and other Religions Committee

Anne Bancroft Buddhist
Jane O'Hara Baha'i

Church of England Committee

Mike Brownbill
Kevin Tingay
Sue Rodford

Teachers' Committee

Dave Campbell Somervale School (Chair)
Ruth Haines NAHT

Local Authority Committee

Co-opted members

Denise Cush Bath Spa University

In attendance

Fred Ward Clerk
Sue East Head teacher, St Julian's CE School

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from: Mike Wilkinson, Neil Baker, Jackie Williams, Tony Bradley, Chris Hammersley, Bob Coleman, Anne Hewitt, Mary Dadley, Roland Higgins, Ann Hatton, Louise Pope, Rashid Azam, Malcolm Broad and Cllr Chris Watt, the replacement for John Gay.

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20 March 2007 were approved with minor alterations.

ACTION

The clerk to add a footer to the minutes and agenda indicating the SACRE website and the Clerk's contact details.

3. Matters arising

a) Membership

Mukhtiar Singh Gill indicated by letter that he was prepared to join SACRE to represent the Sikh community. It was reported that Gary Webber was also willing to join SACRE to represent the Jewish Community.

ACTION

The Clerk to invite them formally and send them the introductory booklet.

4. SACRE Developments

a) Resource Centre

A report from Neil Baker was circulated and discussed, showing the activities he had undertaken over the past six months. Unforeseen delays meant that the loan service would now start in September.

ACTION

It was agreed to ask Neil Baker to monitor and report on the use of the boxes over the next four months.

It was suggested that a promotion box was put together to be used by schools and for special events. Neil to be asked to do this [it will mean taking one item or so from each 'religion', and some posters as well].

b) Website

The changes to make the site more accessible and easier to use were taking time to introduce as Melchior had not been able to allocate sufficient time to the work.

The A3 folded to A4 leaflet to wrap-around the SACRE Annual Report has been distributed to schools and elected members. The value of such a leaflet was recognised and further publicity material would be produced to promote special events, such as the launch of the new syllabus.

ACTION

- a. Jane O'Hara agreed to approach Melchior to speed up the changes.
- b. The Clerk was asked to circulate the SACRE leaflet to LA officers so they would be aware of SACRE's activities in promoting cultural and religious awareness and tolerance.

c) Training and development

Sally Boulter, the Head of School Improvement and Achievement, had acknowledged the detailed and helpful summary of the schools' response to the SACRE training and development questionnaire. She looked forward to receiving SACRE's development plan to show how funds were to be allocated to respond to the identified schools' needs.

Members discussed the value RE contributed to children's education and several examples were presented.

ACTION

The Chair will convene a working party to draw up a draft SACRE Development Plan.

Mike Brownbill agreed to report on RE developments at Chilcompton school.

5. Locally Agreed Syllabus

The Chair reported on the working party's brief for the Locally Agreed Syllabus Conference.

ACTION

- a) Members asked the Clerk to require the LA to convene a Locally Agreed Syllabus Conference for 4 October 2007 (the venue and time to be confirmed – likely to be the Town Hall, Keynsham from 1 to 4 pm) and to invite a wide representation to the first session.
- b) The Chair to provide the Clerk with a written brief from the SACRE working party.

6. SACRE Annual report 2007

The new format would be adopted.

7. Finance

Contracts had now been agreed with the LA and funds would be allocated to support the Resource Centre and Training and Development at the same level as last financial year. Uncommitted funds would be held over until the next meeting.

ACTION

Jane O'Hara would indicate the level of funding required to support the website and the surplus would be used to further develop the website.

8. FCCBF Small Grant Award

There had been difficulty recruiting teachers and agreeing the time for meeting with religious leaders.

ACTION

The meeting would now be held in the autumn [early September].

9. National developments

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

The report summary is now available at www.religiouseducationcouncil.org but decisions about funding availability have not yet been made by the DfES.

10. Any other business

Mike Brownbill retires from his position with Bath and Wells Diocese at the end of August 2007, and may not be attending SACRE meetings from September 2007. Members expressed their thanks and gratitude for his long and supportive service to SACRE and Bath and NES.

Thanks (and appreciation of the refreshments provided) were expressed to Sue East and Sue Rodford for their hospitality during this SACRE meeting at Wellow School.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting is from 7 pm to 9 pm on 15 November 2007 at The Newton Annex, Bath Spa University.

NB The meeting proposed for 11 September 2007 will not be held.