

BATH AND NORH SOMERSET COUNCIL
Standing advisory council for religious education

Minutes for meeting held at the Progressive Jewish Congregation
Bannerman Rd, Bristol.
Tuesday 25th June 2002
7.00 - 9.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Christian Denominations and Other Religions Committee

Kevin McDermott	RC Diocese of Clifton
Judith Samuel	Judaism
Mike Wilkinson	Free Churches
Rashad Ahmed Azami	Bath Islamic Society
Satyen P Gadher	Hinduism
Jane Aldred	Baha'i

Church of England Committee

Mike Brownbill	Chair
Kevin Tingay	

Teachers Associations Committee

Jackie Williams	ATL
Mary Dadley	NUT
Neil Baker	NASUWT

Local Education Authority Committee

Julie Stiddard

In Attendance

Gerald Whitaker	Substitute Clerk SACRE
Julian Sims	

SACRE Inservice Training.

Prior to the meeting for an almost an hour members were introduced to the Synagogue, told about its history and that of liberal Judaism, the community's activities and worship and were shown the Ark and a Torah scroll in detail. Judith Samuel and Julian Sims, members of the Synagogue answered questions from Sacre members.

1. Welcome and apologies

The chair, Mike Brownbill, thanked the Progressive Jewish Congregation for their hospitality, welcomed the Rev Gerald Whitaker as substitute clerk for the night and Satyen P Gadher as a new member. The other members introduced themselves.

Apologies were received from Tony Bradley, Hilary Harris, Catherine Hewitt, Edward Hulme, Susan Henderson, Sally Davies, Denis Cush, A Thorpe.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 18th March 2002 were approved and signed with two minor alterations. The first being that, as Kevin McDermott pointed out, he was not in attendance and that his apologies should have been recorded. The second was a correction to the spelling of the name of Rashad Ahmed Azami.

3. Matters Arising
 - a) The Saltley Trust. It was pointed out that no awards were given in the academic year 2001/2002 and it was resolved that the clerk should send in an application before September 2002.
 - b) Newsletter and website. As yet, no progress had been made on the Newsletter but it will be progressed later. It was hoped that the website would carry the newsletter and that as all schools were online they should be able to download it. There then followed a wide-ranging discussion on the nature and quality of websites. It was finally resolved that as the budget was only for this academic year and there was no certainty that it would be repeated, there should be a special voluntary meeting to which all members will be invited to attend. This meeting will be on Tuesday 9th July 2002 at 6.30 p.m. until 8.30 p.m. at The City of Bath College. Time will then be spent looking at other web sites and decisions can be made as to procuring professional design help.
 - c) Item 5 OFSTED Reports Jackie Williams wished to know how LEA's responded to denominational OFSTED's. Clerk to advise if possible at the next meeting.

4. Summary of OFSTED inspection reports

St Stephens C of E Primary (short) and Writhlington

Much discussion took place as to the OFSTED report at Writhlington School. Dissatisfaction was expressed with the R.E. provision at Key stage 4 and it was resolved that the Chair should write to Richard Brook as regards Writhlington.

An explanation was then given by the chair as to the procedure for religious schools Denominational Education Inspection. The report for St Stephens, was shown for information only.

- 5 OFSTED document - Inspecting Spirituality

Many responses were offered along the lines that spirituality is difficult to define but this was a good start. Others felt that OFSTED was trying to come up with something to please everyone. It was then pointed out that OFSTED inspectors will not be able to report on this area unless they have undergone the training. There then followed a discussion about religious schools and why they are thought by some to be better. Even though it was pointed out that not all religious schools perform as well as their profile would suggest, it was still recognised that many had a more positive ethos.

- 6 National Framework for R.E.

The Chair reported that the Department of Education wanted this to go ahead with this and that the money was available to do so. He further reported that it was not intended to replace the Agreed Syllabus but was to be a guide to Sacres when revising or replacing their syllabus and so enable a student to move from area to area seamlessly in their RE.

- 7 AOB a) Copies of NASCA papers 1 and 2 were circulated.

b)Booking forms for the Bath interfaith conference were circulated.

- 8 Date, location and time of the next of the next ordinary meeting were confirmed as 7.30 at St Julian's C of E School Wellow near Bath on 11th November 2002.