

BATH AND NORTH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Minutes of the meeting held at Bath Spa University College
Tuesday 23 March 2004
7.00 – 9.00 pm**

PRESENT:

Christian Denominations and other Religious Committee

Edward Hulme	Free Churches
Mike Wilkinson	Free Churches
Catherine Hewitt	Buddhist
Jane Aldred	Baha'i

Church of England Committee

Mike Brownbill
Tony Bradley
Imogen Woods

Teachers' Associations Committee

Mary Dadley	NUT
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Local Education Authority

Cllr Jonathan Gay	Bath and NES LEA
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Co-opted members

None present

In attendance:

Richard Brock	Assistant Director of Education, Bath and NES LEA
Fred Ward	Clerk to SACRE

The meeting was preceded by a short meditation, remembering victims of terrorism and war.

The clerk opened the meeting inviting members to nominate and appoint a Chair. After discussion, Mike Brownbill agreed to lead the meeting temporarily.

1. Welcome and apologies

Imogen Woods, a new appointee by the Church of England, gave a brief description of her professional background as a primary teacher and a former member of a SACRE in another local education authority.

Apologies were received from: Jackie Williams, Kevin McDermott, Rashid Azami, Kevin Tingay, Denise Cush.

It was noted that the following member had resigned: Steven Harvey.

2. Chair/Vice-Chair

After discussion, Mary Dadley agreed to take the Chair for a year and Jane Aldred to continue as ViceChair.

Members thanked Mike Brownbill for his service as Chair.

3. Approval of minutes of 11 November 2003.

It was requested that future minutes indicate when listing those present, the religious organisation they represented. This noted, the minutes were approved.

4. Matters arising

- a) NUT representative.
Mary Dadley reported that she had consulted the district NUT secretary and that in the short term she would continue to be their representative on SACRE.
- b) Oldfield School.
Richard Brock reported that he would follow up the initial response from Oldfield during the summer term and report back at the next SACRE meeting.
- c) Edward Hulme clarified the description 'free trade zone', explaining that the local authority had sufficient organisations following fair trade principles to use this designation.

ACTION: Richard Brock agreed to email all schools reminding them of SACRE's support for fair trade; also a statement to this effect would be included in the next newsletter to governors and also posted on the SACRE website.

- d) d) Collective worship
It was pointed out that under the new inspection framework, governance would be judged as unsatisfactory if the requirements for collective worship were not met.

ACTION: Richard Brock agreed to issue a statement reminding schools of the implications of non-compliance.

5. OFSTED Reports

These were received. It was noted that under the new inspection framework, there was less detail about the reasons for judgements in RE, Collective worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. However, one member reported that a colleague had found professional discussion with an OFSTED inspector about RE, most helpful during the inspection of her school.

6. Budget

A breakdown of expenditure to date was circulated showing £4,009 spent and £7,043 uncommitted.

After detailed discussion about SACRE development priorities and work in hand, it was agreed to make the following payments:

VI form conference	£2,500
Web site maintenance	£ 300
Web site shared practice facility	£1,100
Resource Centre stock	£2,000
Consultant fees for web site	£1,000

This left a contingency balance of £143.

ACTION: Richard Brock and the Clerk are to ensure payments are made within current financial year 2003/04.

7. RE Syllabus

- a) Locally agreed syllabus
Reports are pending from the working parties in North Somerset, and Somerset LEAs attended by teacher members of SACRE. These reports will contribute to the revised locally-agreed syllabus.

b) National framework for RE.

A new non-statutory framework is also due for consideration but there are concerns about how such guidance will threaten the continued existence of the locally-agreed syllabus.

8 SACRE Annual Report

This was received and it was reported that the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority had given their acknowledgement – SACRE has therefore met its statutory requirement for 2003.

9. Web Site Update

Edward Hulme circulated a report showing that our SACRE web site was growing in popularity and that the working party had now completed the setting-up phase. As a result, the on-going running would be undertaken by Edward Hulme and Tony Bradley and the web site working party will meet less frequently. A plea for news and events was made.

10. Developments

a) Resource Centre

A verbal report was received from Jane Aldred on the visit to Plymouth to investigate how the Cultural and Religious Resource Centre there operated. Also, the results of a survey of Bath and NES schools were presented. These were highly in favour of the establishment of a Resource Centre.

ACTION: Jane Aldred agreed to – draw up and circulate an action plan for developments; produce an order sheet for stock and storage furniture; liase with Richard Brock about the possible location for the Resource Centre.

b) VI Form Conference

In the absence of Jackie Williams, no firm proposals were made.

ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to meet with Jackie Williams to discuss possibilities.

11. AOB

a) NASACRE Conference

Jane Aldred agreed to attend the conference on 20 April 2004.

b) Development Plan.

This to be an agenda item for the next SACRE.

c) Membership list. The Clerk agreed to circulate an up-to-date SACRE membership list, showing vacancies.

12. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at Bath Spa University College on 30 June 2004 at 7.30 pm.