

**Bath and North East Somerset
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Minutes for the meeting held at The Newton Annex
Bath Spa University
Wednesday 12 May 2010
7.15 – 9.00 pm**

Present:

Christian Denominations and other Religions Committee

Jane O'Hara Baha'i (Acting Chair)
Gary Webber Jewish

Church of England Committee

David Williams
Tony Bradley
Sue Rodford

Teachers' Committee

Neil Baker NASUWT
Margaret West ATL
Sylvia Such NAHT

Local Authority Committee

Co-opted members

Denise Cush Bath Spa University

In attendance

Fred Ward Clerk/Associate Adviser

1. Welcome and apologies

Jane O'Hara took the chair.

Apologies were received from: Dave Campbell, Mukhtiar Singh Gill, Mike Wilkinson, Anne Hutton, Anne Hewitt, John Harvey and Mary Dadley.

Mike Wilkinson tendered his resignation following long service since the inauguration of Bath & NES Council in 1996. He would seek a replacement.

ACTION

The Clerk was asked to write and thank Mike Wilkinson for his support.

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 19 January 2010 were approved.

3. Matters arising

At the request of NASACRE, an invitation was extended to Gandharvika Das, a new member of Bristol SACRE, to attend this meeting. Unfortunately, despite being contacted by Jane O'Hara and the Clerk, she did not turn up.

ACTION

The Clerk to inform NASCRE.

4. SACRE Developments

a) Resource Centre

The planned afternoon session for teachers on 11 March 2010 to learn more about Jewish and Buddhist resources was well attended and much appreciated thanks to

the informative and well delivered input by the two speakers, Gary Webber and Kulamitra.

ACTION

If funds allow, the Clerk will look into organising a similar session targeting two more religions' resources later in the financial year.

b) Website

Tony Bradley circulated a report analysing the number of 'hits' over the last three years. It was encouraging to note that the numbers had increased, with most wanting information about the locally agreed syllabus. Also popular were the RE resource pages and the interfaith material.

Members were grateful for Tony Bradley's continuing support for the web site, despite his own reservations about his contribution.

ACTION

Members agreed to provide at least one item for the news desk between SACRE meetings.

c) Training and development

As Dave Campbell was not present, no written report was available.

5. SACRE Development Plan

A draft Development Plan was circulated based on historical spending patterns. This might have to be adapted in the light of any major changes introduced by the newly elected coalition government.

6. Locally Agreed Syllabus Developments

The Clerk attended a QCDA conference in London on 24 March 2010 looking at the new RE national guidance and proposed changes to the primary curriculum. As the general election had just been called there was considerable apprehension about whether the proposed changes would take place.

At a meeting of representatives from the three 'Somerset' SACREs in Wells on 11 May 2010, these apprehensions were confirmed but it was agreed to continue to proceed with the updating of the joint locally agreed syllabus. However, it was recognised that further changes may have to be made. It is hoped to have a draft document ready to circulate to schools by September 2010 for comment.

ACTION

The Clerk will continue to keep in touch with developments and attend working party meetings.

7. Finance

An outline breakdown of the SACRE budget was circulated to support the draft development plan. There was still some flexibility to support training on the new syllabus and consider what to do for the national RE Festival 2011 in March next year.

The new RE National Guidance suggested some critical questions those involved in RE should ask themselves. The Clerk circulated a check list based on these questions that schools could consider using to meet OFSTED requirements to show how RE was being evaluated. Members felt these might be a way of fulfilling their monitoring role.

ACTION

The Clerk will circulate these to schools and identify a sample to ask if they will consider sending completed copies to SACRE for analysis. David Williams agreed that he would analyse a sample of the inspection reports of CE schools for the next meeting.

8. National developments

Denise Cush reported on the research she, with the support of other SACRE members, was carrying out on behalf of Bath and North East Somerset Council to ascertain what Faith groups contributed to the local community. Many national initiatives were on hold as a result of the change of government.

9. Any other business

- Jane O'Hara reported that recruitment for the Inter-Faith Development Worker [funded under the Government initiative 'Faiths In Action' was in hand.
- Jane, together with Denise Cush, put in an application to NASACRE for a Westhill award at very short notice. (*After the meeting, it was found to have been successful*). The funding is earmarked to help with the planned Sixth Form RE Conference in July
- Jane O'Hara also reported that she had found the meeting of representatives from South West SACREs on 10 March 2010 most interesting and recommended that other members should attend next year. She also suggested that Graham Langtree, an associate adviser in Devon, should be considered as a presenter at any forthcoming SACRE organised event.
- Gary Webber raised a sensitive issue regarding the way some schools handled the Christian Easter story that caused concern to Jewish families.

ACTION

David Williams agreed to bring copies of the guidance given to clergy on such matters. This will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

- A letter from the British Humanist Association regarding representation on SACRE caused considerable discussion.

ACTION

It was agreed to discuss this matter further at the next meeting.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on 13 October 2010 from 7.15 pm at Bath Spa University.

ACTION

Denise Cush agreed to book the room and order refreshments.