

**Bath and North East Somerset  
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education  
Minutes for the meeting held at  
Bath Spa University  
Tuesday, 10 May 2011  
7.00 – 9.00 pm**

**Present:**

**Christian Denominations and other Religions Committee**

Jane O'Hara                Baha'i (Co-Chair)  
Tim Powell                Unitarian

**Church of England Committee**

Tony Bradley            (Co-Chair)  
Rev Simon Powell  
David Williams

**Teachers' Committee**

Ann Hatton                Moorlands and Widcombe Jnrs  
Sylvia Such                NAHT

**Local Authority Committee**

**Co-opted members**

Denise Cush                Bath Spa University

**In attendance**

Fred Ward                Clerk/Associate Adviser

**1. Welcome/apologies**

The chair welcomed Tim Powell (Unitarian) and Rev Simon Powell (C of E). Apologies were received from Margaret West, Garry Webber, Mary Dadley, John Harvey and Imam Rashad Azami .

**2. Membership**

Margret West and Sylvia Such tendered their resignation as they have or are retiring from teaching. Members thanked them for their support and contribution to religious education in the local authority.

**ACTION**

The clerk to ask that they approach their respective organisations for a replacement member.

The Clerk reported that he had written to the relevant religious groups seeking for nominations to fill other vacancies and had replies indicating that the matter was in hand.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of 25 January 2011 were approved.

**4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

## 5. SACRE developments

### a) Resource Centre

Neil Baker replied to the Clerk's request and reported that he would continue to look after the RE resources at Saltford Primary School. He also stated that teachers attending the recent primary course in March 2011 had borrowed boxes.

ACTION

The Clerk was asked to remind Neil Baker to submit a report about the use of the RE Resources ahead of each SACRE meeting.

### b) Website

Tony Bradley asked if SACRE would pay for training with Melchoir so that he could more easily edit the website.

ACTION

£50 was allocated for the training.

There was some discussion about the new ITC initiatives in the local authority concerning the 'Learning Exchange'.

ACTION

Tony Bradley agreed to contact Steve Bailey of Chew Stoke Primary, who is co-ordinating the project to explore how SACRE might help.

### c) Primary RE Resource Workshop (March 2011)

Teacher members fed back very positive evaluation of the course which was over-subscribed.

ACTION

It was agreed to consider running workshops covering other world religions when looking at the budget for 2011/12.

### d) VI Form Conference 2011

Denise Cush reported that she was under considerable work pressure as were the contacts she had approached looking for Key Note speakers and workshop leaders. However, the programme was being constructed but more support was needed both from schools and members. Possibilities were discussed.

ACTION

Members agreed to let Denise Cush know of possible contacts.

## 6. Locally Agreed Syllabus

Following the good attendance at the launch meetings for the e-syllabus in March, the next step is to remind local authority schools that their governing bodies need to adopt the syllabus before the implementation date of 1 September 2011. Other schools, apart from RC schools, should also consider whether they wish to adopt the syllabus. There was also the offer from Mike Strange, Chair of Somerset SACRE, of his willingness to lead a staff meeting on the new syllabus for the refund of travelling expenses.

ACTION

The Clerk will remind schools of this responsibility and the offer of support.

## 7. Financial statement

The final statement for 2010/11 SACRE expenditure was circulated and members were pleased that nearly all the budget had been spent as planned. It was noted with appreciation that the SACRE budget for this financial year was unchanged.

ACTION

The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the statement with the draft minutes so that members not able to attend were aware of the current financial situation.

## 8. Development Plan

Members had a helpful discussion to identify priorities for the coming year. The following areas were put forwarded:

**SACRE website: [re-bathnes.org.uk](http://re-bathnes.org.uk)**

**Clerk to SACRE: Fred Ward Tel 01453 750009**

Review and update RE resources  
Consider organising two afternoon RE resource workshops  
Continue to support the VI Form RE Conference  
Look at the monitoring of RE teaching and collective worship  
Re-introduce the annual SACRE lecture  
Develop and maintain the web site

**ACTION**

The clerk to produce, cost and circulate a draft plan for consideration and the next SACRE meeting in September 2011.

**9. RE in the English Baccalaureate and other National Developments**

Denise Cush reported that there had been some positive developments in influencing the government's thinking on the inclusion of RE in the baccalaureate but there was a long way to go to mitigate the negative effects that had already occurred on the future of RE in the curriculum. Applications for student places for RE were down, funding for RE teacher training was being cut and schools were already sidelining RE as an examination subject.

**ACTION**

Members were urged to be vigilant and to take every opportunity to put forward the case for RE.

**10. National developments**

Denise Cush reported on a number of developments:

- While the national celebrations of RE were well received by those already aware of the importance of the subject, the impact on the wider world was limited.
- The Pagan Federation has been accepted by the RE Council.
- Pressure is on to ensure RE is reviewed at the same time and in the same way as other National Curriculum subjects to prevent RE from being marginalised.

**11. Any other business**

- The final report of the 'Faiths in Action' project was circulated and discussed. Jane O'Hara outlined the achievements and Tony Bradley reported that the involvement of the Development Worker in his school had been very successful. As a lasting outcome, the Bath Inter-Faith Group will now be able to launch a website with funding from the project to train a member to manage the site.
- Jane O'Hara circulated a report of the South West Conference for SACREs and urged other members to attend next year as she found the meeting most helpful and interesting.

**12. Next meeting**

This will be held at Bath Spa University on Tuesday 20 September 2011, at 7pm.

**ACTION**

Denise Cush agreed to book a different room with better acoustics and order refreshments.