

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

**Minutes of the meeting held at St Julian's C of E Primary School
Wellow
Monday, 11 November 2002
7.30 – 9.00 pm**

PRESENT:

Christian Denominations and Other Religions Committee

Julian Sims	Judaism
Edward Hulme	Free churches
Mike Wilkinson	Free Churches
Jane Aldred	Baha'i Community

Church of England Committee

Mike Brownbill	Chair
Sue Rodford	
Tony Bradley	

Teachers' Associations Committee

Jackie Williams	ATL
Mary Dadley	NUT
Neil Baker	NASUWT

Local Education Authority Committee

Sally Davis	Bath & NES Council
Julie Stiddard	Bath & NES Council

Co-opted Members

Denis Cush	Bath Spa University College
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IN ATTENDANCE:

Fred Ward	Clerk SACRE
Richard Brock	Assistant Director Bath & NES LEA

1. Welcome and apologies

The chair, Mike Brownbill, welcomed Julian Sims, a new member (representing Judith Samuel who offered her apologies) - everyone introduced themselves.

Apologies were received from: Sue Henderson, Catherine Hewitt, Judith Samuel, Mary Ede.

Tony Thorpe tendered his resignation by letter.

ACTION: The Chair agreed to write a letter of thank Tony Thorpe..

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2002 were approved.

3. Matters arising

a) Saltley Trust:

It was reported that no more grants were available from this source.

b) Sec 23 Denominational inspections

While the LEA receives these reports, governing bodies are responsible for taking action with the support of the appropriate religious advisory body.

ACTION: The Chair is exploring ways of producing a summary of findings.

- c) Writhlington School OFSTED report

ACTION: Richard Brock, assistant director, agreed to write to the headteacher enquiring what action had been taken to address the issues raised and to ask if SACRE could be of assistance.

- d) National Framework for RE
It was reported that the national feasibility study had been completed and recommendations made to the Secretary of State.

4. RE at St Julian's C of E Primary School, Wellow.

Sue Rodford explained how RE is an important aspect of the curriculum and makes a major contribution to the Christian ethos of the school. There were also strong links with the church and village that made very positive contributions to pupils' experiences. Recently, the school community has drawn up a new vision statement to reflect this approach. The school also saw it as important to make links with the wider world and was developing contact with a school in St Lucia. Teachers would make exchange visits in the Spring term. SACRE members described active links their schools had with others in developing countries. Further discussion followed about the need for increasing flexibility in the primary curriculum.

5. OFSTED reports

As all inspections were short, no relevant reports were available. It was noted that from September 03, changes in the inspection process would ensure RE would always be reported on.

6. Compliance with law on Collective Worship

SACRE members agreed that non-compliance in Secondary schools was widespread and reflected the impossibility of meeting requirements. Many schools opted for fewer quality opportunities for worship. Questions were raised about how the law could be changed to be more realistic.

7. Website

The chair tabled a progress report (Appendix 1) and supporting papers:

- Appendix 2 – Website brief
- Appendix 3 – Response from "First Space".
- Appendix 4 – Response from "Melchior".
- Appendix 5 – Sample page.

As there had been no opportunity to view these documents before the meeting, a short reading break was taken.

ACTION:

- a) Members agreed in principle to proceed with the subgroup's recommendations and leave the chosen contractor to link directly with the LEA specialist officer for technical adjustments.
- b) The subgroup agreed to meet with the LEA officer to review the proposal before a final decision was made.
- c) Julian Sims agreed to join the subgroup.
- d) The chair agreed to liaise with Richard Brock, assistant director, to establish a link with the specialist officer.
- e) The sub-group was given the authority to engage the contractor.

PROPOSAL;

It was agreed that SACRE would allocate up to £7,400 to set up a website, with newsletter, and provision for additional materials and links and proceed to engage a design firm on this basis.

Proposed: Julie Stiddard. Seconded: Mary Dadley

8. SACRE budget 2003/04

ACTION: The chair agreed to prepare and submit a budget covering:

- a) Maintaining the Website
- b) Providing £1000 training for SACRE members
- c) Covering running costs.

ACTION: Richard Brock, assistant director, would circulate an up-to-date expenditure statement for SACRE 2002/03.

9. Any other business

- a) Information on an event organised by North Somerset SACRE on “the Jewish way of life” at Clifton College in May 2003 would be circulated on receipt.
- b) The booklet “Other Dimensions” produced by North Somerset SACRE would be purchased and circulated to schools.
- c) Somerset SACRE website contains lesson notes produced by local teachers (<school.somerset.gov.uk/re_sows>).
- d) The vice chair, Jane Aldred, agreed to attend the QCA - RE conference in London on 2 December 2002.

10. Next meetings

17 February 03
2 July 03
11 November 03

U of Bath Spa
St Gregory's RC Secondary School (subject to confirmation)
Venue to be arranged.