

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

**Minutes of the meeting held at St Gregory's Catholic Secondary School
Tuesday, 11 November 2003
7.30 – 9.00 pm**

PRESENT:

Christian Denominations and Other Religions Committee

Edward Hulme Free churches
Mike Wilkinson
Kevin McDermott
Catherine Hewitt
Jane Aldred

Church of England Committee

Mike Brownbill Chair

Kevin Tingay
Tony Bradley

Teachers' Associations Committee

Jackie Williams ATL
Mary Dadley NUT

Local Education Authority Committee

Co-opted Members

Denise Cush

IN ATTENDANCE:

Richard Brock Assistant Director of
Education, Bath & NES.
Fred Ward Clerk SACRE

The meeting was preceded by a short meditation for Remembrance Day.

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair, Mike Brownbill, welcomed everyone and reported that Judith Samuel had resigned and that Julian Sims was her replacement. There were no apologies.

ACTION: The Clerk to send Julian Sims an introductory pack and notice of the next meeting.

Mary Dadley was uncertain if she could continue to represent the NUT as she had retired from teaching.

ACTION: Mary Dadley to contact the NUT before the next meeting and inform the Clerk of their decision.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

There were no nominations to replace Mike Brownbill, who was vacating the chair. Jane Aldred agreed to continue as Vice Chair.

ACTION: Before the next meeting, members to consider who would serve as chair and come prepared to make a nomination with the nominee's agreement.

3. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2003 were approved following the inclusion of Denise Cush's apology for not attending..

4. Matters arising

- a) Sec 23 Denominational inspections – the chair reported that these reports would be published on the World Wide Web in the near future and a summary could be prepared for members.
- b) Letter re RE as a shortage subject – no action would be taken as developments were pending nationally.

5. OFSTED inspection reports

Richard Brock agreed to see whether Oldfield School required additional support form SACRE re their unsatisfactory RE inspection.

6. New OFSTED Framework

The Clerk reported that under the new framework commenced from this September, the school was able to influence the focus for inspection. Unless RE was nominated as a priority, it was only likely to be sampled during the inspection. Similarly spiritual dimension was now integrated with pupils' responses and was less likely to be reported fully.

ACTION: Members agreed to review the quality of inspection reports of local schools with regard to pupils' spiritual development and RE after the new framework had bedded down.

7. RE syllabus

- a) National – A letter from DfES indicated that a national framework would be produced that would not in the first instance be mandatory. Members agreed that this raised implications about the future role of SACRE. It was also noted that OFSTED would probably use the framework criteria when inspecting RE in schools which would further undermine the status of the locally agreed syllabus.
- b) Locally – David Francis, the associate adviser for Somerset and North Somerset was in the process of reviewing the locally agreed syllabus, also used by Bath and North East Somerset. He invited SACRE to nominate teachers to serve on the working party meeting on 26 November 03, 12 and 27 January 04. It was agreed to fund Sue Rodford and Jackie Williams

ACTION: The Clerk to write to the teachers and David Francis explaining the recommendation.

8. QCA RE Annual Report 2003

It was noted that the take up of short GCSE Religious Studies courses locally was better than the national scene but this did not indicate the numbers doing so in each school. It was felt that SACRE should investigate further with a view to encouraging more take up in schools.

ACTION: Richard Brock to initiate an analysis of take up by gender/school; to send a short questionnaire to secondary schools about future entries; prepare a report for SACRE and then follow-up with a letter to governing bodies.

7. Website

The working party was looking at ways of developing the site and encouraged members to contribute news by letting Edward Hulme have contributions.

8. Budget and Development Plan for 2003/04

a) It was agreed to fund a Sixth Form conference in the Spring Term.

ACTION: Jackie Williams to ask the Heads of Secondary RE to organise, explaining funds are available to support the course organiser and fees for speakers/facilitators up to £1500.

b) It was agreed to fund investigations into the setting up of a religious cultural centre in Bath.

ACTION: Kevin Tingay, Jane Aldred and Rashid Ahmed Azami to be funded to visit Plymouth religious and cultural Centre and report back to SACRE up to £1000.

9. Any other business

Members were alerted to the news that the local authority had been identified as a FairTrade Zone.

10. Next meetings

23 March 04	Bath Spa University College (subject to confirmation)
30 June 04	Venue to be decided
11 October 04	Venue to be decided.

It was agreed that the next meeting would begin a 7 pm.