

**Bath and North East Somerset
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Minutes for the meeting held at The Newton Annex
Bath Spa University
Tuesday, 7 November 2006
7.30 – 9.00 pm**

Present:

Christian Denominations and other Religions Committee

Mike Wilkinson Free churches
Malcolm Bond Free churches
Anne Banks Free churches

Church of England Committee

Mike Brownbill
Tony Bradley
Rev Kevin Tingay

Teachers' Committee

Mary Dadley NUT
Ann Hatton Moorlands Junior School
Dave Campbell Somervale School
Chris Hammersley Oldfield Park Junior School
Sarah Melling Wellsway
Louise Pope Chew Valley School
Ruth Haines St Mary's Primary School

Local Authority Committee

Co-opted members

Denise Cush Bath Spa University

In attendance

Fred Ward Clerk

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from: Neil Baker, Roland Higgins, Jonathan Gay, Jane O'Hara, Linda Hall.

It was noted that Jessica Wilker had resigned and that she has agreed to ask amongst the Buddhist community for a replacement representative.

2. Appointment of chair/vice chair

David Campbell was proposed by Mary Dadley and seconded by Tony Bradley as chair. There being no other nominations he accepted the post.

In her absence and subject to her agreement, Jane O'Hara was proposed as vice chair.

3. Approval of minutes

With minor corrections, the minutes of the meeting of 12 September 2006 were approved.

4. Matters arising

- a) Membership composition and legal background of SACRE
The circulated membership list was discussed and the increased presence of teacher members was applauded, especially in the light of the work needed on the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Mary Dadley drew members attention to relevant sections of DFE Circular 1/94 para 89:1 and 2 that describes how SACRE members are selected and their appointment approved by the local authority.

ACTION

Newly appointed teacher members were advised to inform their associations that they had been appointed to SACRE so as to ensure their line of accountability was known.

- b) VI th Form Conference
The next conference was planned for Hayesfield School on 19 January 2007. It was noted that depending on the SACRE budget, a further grant to secondary schools would be considered in the next financial year.
- c) Faith Communities Bid
Jane O'Hara was congratulated for her work on compiling the bid; the outcome will be announced by 23 February 2007. It was felt that if this was unsuccessful, SACRE should consider funding this initiative in the next financial year.

5. SACRE Developments

- a) Awarding of service contracts
It was reported that the local authority had signed a contract with QSM Ltd to provide the services described below on behalf of SACRE.
- b) Resource Centre
Neil Baker had agreed to provide these services and would report to SACRE at the next meeting on how he intended to operate.
- c) Website
It was agreed by members to ask QSM Ltd to offer Jane O'Hara a contract to provide this service, with the addition that she also oversees the production of a glossy A3 folded to A4 double-sided sheet publicising SACRE activities to accompany the annual report to schools and QCA (additional funding of up to £500 to be provided from the SACRE budget).
- d) Training and development
Dave Campbell had agreed to provide these services and circulated a report outlining his proposals that were confirmed by members.

6. Budget (Additional agenda item)

A paper was circulated showing committed (£9,525.40) and uncommitted (£2,768.60) funds from the £12,294 allocation for 2006/07. It was noted that the following committed expenditure had been omitted: Website management costs approx £300; and supply costs to support Locally Agreed Syllabus workshop approx £1,200.

ACTION

The clerk to provide a financial update at the next SACRE meeting.

7. Locally Agreed Syllabus

The primary and secondary working parties had met separately and both felt that a new Locally Agreed Syllabus would serve local authority schools better than the adoption or revision of other published versions. Members agreed that the local authority should be alerted to the need to earmark appropriate funds during the next two financial years to fund the work of a reconvened Locally Agreed Syllabus Conference, the publication of the syllabus and appropriate training for school staff.

ACTION

Dave Campbell to co-ordinate the primary and secondary working parties meeting together for a half day; costs to be met from the current SACRE allocation (approx £1,500) in order to draw up a plan of action.

The clerk to alert the local authority and provide a briefing paper to explain likely actions and financial implications.

6. Any other business

- a) Denise Cush reported that she had been appointed to serve on the National Religious Education Council. It was agreed to provide an opportunity at each SACRE meeting for her to report on national developments. She reported that the Government is very keen to involve SACREs in promoting greater inter-faith activities and understanding.

7. Next meeting.

Please note: the next meeting is at 4.30 pm on 16 January 2007 at Saltford Primary School (Neil Baker to confirm if this is possible)

Further meetings for 2007: Venues and times to be confirmed but it was suggested that .

14 March 2007	7.30 pm	Bath Spa University
14 June 2007	4.30 pm	A school
11 September 2007	7.30 pm	Bath Spa University
15 November 2007	4.30 pm	A school