

**Bath and North East Somerset
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Minutes for the meeting held at
Bath Spa University
Tuesday, 20 September 2011
7.00 – 9.00 pm**

Present:

Christian Denominations and other Religions Committee

Jane O'Hara Baha'i (Co-Chair)

Church of England Committee

Tony Bradley (Co-Chair)
Rev Simon Powell

Teachers' Committee

Local Authority Committee

Co-opted members

Denise Cush Bath Spa University

In attendance

Fred Ward Clerk/Associate Adviser

1. Welcome/apologies

Apologies were received from Ann Hatton, Garry Webber, Mary Dadley, John Harvey, David Williams and Imam Rashad Azami .

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

There being no other candidates, the existing Chair, Jane O'Hara, and Vice-Chair, Tony Bradley, agreed to continue to serve.

ACTION

Next year, the clerk will alert members to the forthcoming elections that take place at the beginning of the academic year.

3. Membership

The clerk reported that Dr Yuktेशwar Kumar, a Hindu, and Kerry Huggins, a serving teacher, had volunteered to become SACRE members. Unfortunately, both were unable to attend and sent their apologies.

The Free Churches national representative had been contacted regarding filling vacancies and was investigating.

ACTION

The clerk is to approach teacher organisations for replacement members.

A letter had been received from the British Humanist Association asking if a representative could join SACRE. After some discussion, it was agreed that an invitation to co-opt a Humanist would be appropriate.

ACTION

The clerk is to inform the British Humanist Association of this decision.

4. Minutes

The minutes of 10 May 2011 were approved.

**SACRE website: re-bathnes.org.uk
Clerk to SACRE: Fred Ward Tel 01453 750009**

5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising that were not covered by the agenda.

6. SACRE developments

a) Resource Centre

No report was received from Neil Baker on the Resource Centre. It was suggested that the resources could be transferred to the Minerva Centre, opposite the RUH Hospital as it was more central.

ACTION

Jane O'Hara will approach the centre to explore possibilities.

b) Website

Tony Bradley is still exploring possibilities of training with Melchoir so that he can more easily edit the website.

ACTION

Tony Bradley will undertake training funded by SACRE and report back at the next meeting.

c) VI Form Conference 2011

Denise Cush reported that the conference had been a great success with over 600 students attending.

d) VI Form Conference 2012

After considerable discussion, it was agreed to explore the possibility of a smaller conference to cater for students from those secondary schools still with the local authority as more become Academies. This will be within the budget of £2000.

ACTION

Denise Cush will contact the Heads of VI Forms and Bath FE College to see what can be organised

e) Primary Professional Development 2012

Following the success of previous workshops, it was agreed to run another focusing on Hinduism and Christianity in February 2012. This could be based at the Minerva Centre.

ACTION

Jane O'Hara will explore the possibility and the clerk will organise an event if appropriate.

Denise Cush reported how Somerset and North Somerset teachers were being involved in producing resources to support the new revised Locally Agreed RE Syllabus. It was felt that Bath and NES teachers could be involved in the evaluation of materials produced.

ACTION

Denise Cush to approach Dave Francis, associate adviser, to see if this was possible.

The clerk is to organise an event if approved.

f) SACRE public lecture 2012

Simon Powell reported that Satish Kumar would be able to deliver an evening lecture on 'The Spiritual Centre at the heart of Education and the Heart of the World'. The day offered was 14 March 2012 from 6.30 to 7 30 pm. It was agreed to seek to hire The Guild Hall, Bath.

ACTION

Simon Powell is to confirm the booking and send the clerk details of the talk. The clerk is to book the venue and organise publicity.

7. Financial statement

The statement was circulated showing the costings for the planned expenditure.

8. Development Plan

Members had a helpful discussion to re-adjust priorities for the coming year. The following areas were agreed:

Review and update RE resources

Organising an RE resource workshop

Explore running a session for teachers to evaluate new resources for the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Support a smaller VI Form RE Conference

Look at the monitoring of RE teaching and collective worship, possibly through an online service provided by Better RE.

SACRE lecture 2012

Develop and maintain the web site

ACTION

The clerk to produce, cost and circulate an up-dated plan for consideration and the next SACRE meeting and to explore the online monitoring service for RE.

9. RE in the English Baccalaureate

Denise Cush reported that there was likely to be no change to subjects included in the Baccalaureate for at least two years despite considerable pressure from teachers, MPs and the religious community.

10. National developments

Denise Cush reported that the number of students taking publicly examined RE courses was continuing to expand but it was thought this would fall once the impact of changes to the secondary curriculum were fully implemented.

11. Any other business

Jane O'Hara reported on the NASACRE 2011 conference she attended. Issues raised included:

- The cuts to local authority funding were adversely affecting SACRE's ability to function. As more secondary schools become Academies, even less funds will be available and these schools will have to pay for any SACRE services they want.
- National Holocaust Day on 27 January 2012 should be promoted by SACREs.

ACTION

Jane O'Hara will look into what can be done to involve schools with SACRE funding the event in association with Bath Multi-Faith Group.

12. Next meeting

This will be held at Bath Spa University on Tuesday 6 March 2012 at 7pm.

ACTION

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