Time commenced - 7.15 pm Time finished - 8.20 pm

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 12 NOVEMBER 2008

Present: Committee A

Ruth Dolby (Jewish Faith)

Rev R Ninkovic (Serbian Orthodox Church)

Joan Price (Pentecostal Church)
David Ginns (Buddhist Faith)

Kate Tippen (Roman Catholic Church)

Arshid Rafiq (Islamic Faith)

Rev Mrs Mair Bradley (United Reformed Church)

Phil Royle (Methodist Church) Wendy Jordan (Salvation Army)

Committee B (Church of England)

Alison Brown

Rosemary Wibberley

Viv Lawrence

Committee C (Teachers' Associations)

Kate McRae (NAHT) Joan Hodgkinson (NUT)

Committee D (Local Authority)

Councillor Ginns Councillor F Khan Councillor Turner

Co-opted Members

Mike Lake (British Humanist Association) Laura Connelly (Open Centre)

Also present

Graham Falgate (Education Officer)

Sarah Turner (Constitutional Services Officer)

01/08 Appointment of Chair

The Committee agreed to appoint Alison Brown as Chair for the meeting.

02/08 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Higginbottom and Willoughby, Raj Bali (Hindu Faith) and Jacq Dobson (Derbyshire Pagans).

03/08 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

04/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

05/08 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2008

The minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 7 May 2008 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

06/08 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

07/08 SACRE Website Update

The Chair asked that members commit to visiting the new SACRE website before the next meeting so that content could be discussed more fully at the next meeting. Graham Falgate added that unless any concerns were raised it would be assumed that SACRE were happy with the site.

Mike Lake advised that since the website had gone live there had been 5730 hits.

Members raised concern about documents being posted on the website prior to them being agreed by SACRE. It was agreed that a new tab be created for items that were to be considered by SACRE to make clear that they had not yet been formally agreed.

Resolved

1. To visit the SACRE website and report any concerns to the Education Officer prior to the next meeting.

2. To create an additional tab on the SACRE website for items not yet agreed by SACRE.

08/08 Feedback on NASACRE Meeting by Councillor Ginns

Councillor Ginns provided SACRE with feedback on the NASACRE meeting that she had recently attended which had been a very positive experience. The meeting had been about training and funding for NASACRE to develop its recruitment and training programme. Graham Falgate added that this was a government funded training programme for new members

Resolved to note the feedback.

09/08 Lessons from Auschwitz Project

Arshid Rafiq provided members with feedback following his visit to Aushwitz. The visit had been arranged by the Holocaust Committee and paid for by SACRE. The visit had been interesting and insightful.

Resolved to note the feedback.

10/08 Safeguarding Children Guidance

Graham Falgate – Education Officer, presented members with the published Safeguarding Children Guidance document. He asked that any observations or concerns be forwarded to Mark Sobey – Derby City Safeguarding Team Policy Officer.

Resolved to note and welcome the guidance and to forward any comments or concerns to the Derby City Safeguarding Team Policy Officer.

11/08 Operation Christmas Child

SACRE discussed this issue that had initially been raised last year. The Chair advised that Operation Christmas Child had changed their policy in light of criticisms it had received but wasn't sure what this meant. The Church of England advice to schools was for schools to do their own investigation before determining whether to go with this charity.

The leaflet did now state that 'where appropriate a Christmas story would be put in boxes. They were sensitive to situations. Wendy Jordan added that there was no evangelical literature which would hopefully set minds at rest.

Mike Lake advised that the Rotary operated a similar operation so there were alternatives.

Graham Falgate stated that he felt the SACRE advice provided to schools last year through the School Circular still stands.

Resolved to note the update.

12/08 Resignations and Vacancies

The SACRE were advised that a nomination had been received for the vacancy in Committee B. Members asked for a report at the next meeting.

Joan Hodgkinson submitted her resignation from Committee C and the representative of the NUT. The Chair thanked Rosemary for her commitment and valued contribution to SACRE.

Resolved to receive a report at the next meeting on the appointment of Maxine Bull to Committee B.

13/08 Any Other Business

There were no items.

14/08 Dates for Future Meetings

Resolved to hold the next meeting of the SACRE on 16 March 2008 at 7.15pm, at the Derby Multi-Faith Centre.

15/08 Revision of Agreed Syllabus

Resolved to convene as the Agreed Syllabus Conference in order to revise the Agreed Syllabus.

MINUTES END