

Time commenced - 7.30 pm

Time finished - 9.15 pm

## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 8 JUNE 2004

Present: **Committee A**

Mair Bradley (United Reformed Church)  
Wendy Jordan (Salvation Army)  
Joan Price (Pentecostal Church)  
Ruth Dolby (Jewish Faith)  
Dr Hardial Singh Dhillon (Sikh Faith)  
Arshid Rafiq (Islamic Faith)  
Rev Roy Ninkovic (Serbian Orthodox Church)

**Committee B (Church of England)**

Viv Lawrence  
Alison Brown  
Rosemary Wibberely  
Geoff Robson

**Committee D (Local Education Authority)**

Councillors Jones, and Turner

**Co-opted Members**

Eileen Fry (Multi-Faith Centre)

Apologies: Kate McRae (NAHT)  
Maryam Djavid (Baha'i Faith)  
David Nichols (SHA)  
Phil Royle (Methodist Church)

The meeting was inquorate.

### 39/03 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair introduced the following late item:

a brief verbal report from Ruth Dolby, Jewish faith representative, about the National Jewish SACRE meeting that she attended recently.

### 40/03 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 41/03 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 February 2004

The minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 24 February 2004 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## 42/03      Matters Arising

### **Proposal to Establish a Student SACRE, Minute no 33/03 refers**

Graham Falgate advised that he would be meeting the RE Advisor from Bradford and would report back in the autumn term.

## 43/03      Presentation by a Representative of the Derby Cathedral

The Commission received a presentation from Graham Peel, Church Warden at the Derby Cathedral, detailing the functions of the Cathedral and the structure of the Diocese community in Derby.

The Chair thanked Graham Peel for his informative presentation.

## 44/03      Resignations and Vacancies

The Chair announced that Geoff Robson, representing the Church of England, had resigned and this would be the last meeting he would attend of Derby SACRE. The Chair thanked Geoff for his dedicated service to the SACRE. Graham Falgate stated that Geoff had been a member of the Derby SACRE since Derby became a unitary authority and had convened the SACRE. Geoff had always been there behind the scenes giving support when needed and would be missed on SACRE. Geoff Robson advised that he was retiring to spend more time working with children and helping with exhibitions at the Cathedral.

The Chair advised that a letter had been received from Reverend Graham Coleman, representing the Baptist Church, advising of his resignation. The Chair thanked Graham for his contribution to SACRE during his term of membership.

## 45/03      Annual SACRE Report 2002/03

Members were asked to comment on the Annual SACRE report 2002/03. No comments were received from members of the Committee and the Chair thanked everyone involved in the production of this document.

## 46/03      Collective Worship in Schools

The Committee discussed articles published within the media regarding Ministers proposals to scrap daily worship in schools.

Graham Falgate advised that David Nichols, SHA representative, had advised that he felt that it was not possible to enforce the law consistently in his school. He did understand that this would obviously not be the view of all schools in Derby.

Mair Bradley advised that Committee A were in favour of continuing collective worship in schools, as every person needed the means to express and develop their integrity and diversity and it would be a disservice to take collective worship away from children.

Dr Dhillon advised that collective worship did not mean having to give up your individual values. It had to be considered however, that even if a school did not have members of some faiths, then the school should still appreciate these religions within their collective worship.

Alison Brown stated that this time enabled a child's spiritual development and gave secular time to learn the language for spiritual development and to learn how to pray. Members did question however, whether collective worship needed to be daily. It was decided to discuss this issue again, once the national debate had progressed.

Councillor Turner reiterated that Members wished schools to continue with assemblies and that SACRE recognised that the law did not present the best way for individual schools to develop the spiritual well being of children.

## 47/03 Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Members agreed that the summary was comprehensive and it would be helpful to have something like this available in schools.

## 48/03 Renewal of Determinations in Derby Schools

Graham Falgate advised that schools that had previously received an exemption from broadly Christian collective worship would soon have to apply for a new exemption for a further five years. Members asked that information be included in the education circular advising all schools that they can apply for determination.

**It was suggested that the Members Services Officer would write to all schools whose determination was due to expire and that the Council would consider these determinations in the Autumn term.**

## 49/03 Feedback from NASACRE Annual General Meeting

**This item was deferred until the next meeting.**

## 50/03 The National Non-Statutory Framework

Graham Falgate advised that the thinking behind the non-statutory framework was that not all SACREs were as well supported as Derby's, and that down the line religious education should become part of the national framework. The national framework would not be provided to schools but would be given to SACREs to provide a benchmark against which they could provide a more standardised document to schools across the country. Graham advised that members could respond individually to the framework. It seemed to be a helpful document and was well set out. The main concern however, was to ensure this document did not get sent to schools, and he had been assured that this would not happen.

Councillor Turner advised that he believed that Derby was one of the more successful SACREs in the country and felt that the National Framework would help in areas where there was not such a religious diversity as Derby.

## 51/03 Spirited Arts Competition

Graham Falgate advised that he been running a competition for all schools this year. Nine schools had sent in entries, which had been broken down into age groups. The winners were being invited to attend the junior citizenship ceremony to receive their prizes. The winning entries were to be exhibited in Derby Cathedral week beginning 5 July until 17 July.

## 52/03 SACRE Representation on Derby City Faith Forum and Council of Faiths

Members agreed to discuss this item at the next meeting, where they would consider the minutes of the first meeting of the Council of Faiths.

## 53/03 Jewish SACRE Conference

Ruth Dolby advised that she had recently attended a Jewish SACRE conference in London, attended by 152 Jewish representatives from SACREs around the country. She advised that Derby was seen as one of the most successful SACREs in the country. One of the main concerns from the Jewish faith was that in some areas Judaism was being excluded from the syllabus. Jewish SACRE representatives were asked to ensure that they attended SACRE meetings in their areas.

## 54/03 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of SACRE would take place at 7.30 pm on the 17 November 2004 at the Multi-Faith Centre, University of Derby. Group pre-meetings would commence at 7.00 pm. Dr Dhillon agreed to give a presentation on the Sikh faith.

MINUTES END