

Time commenced - 7.35 pm
Time finished - 9.00pm

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TUESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2005

Present: **Committee A**
Mair Bradley (United Reformed Church)
Maryam Djavid (Bahai Faith)
Arshid Rafiq (Islamic Faith - Jamia Mosque)
Ruth Dolby (Jewish Faith)
Wendy Jordan (Salvation Army)
Phil Royle (Methodist Church)

Committee B (Church of England)
Alison Brown
Anne Johns

Committee C (Teachers' Associations)
Kate McRae (NAHT)

Committee D (Local Education Authority)
Councillor Hird
Councillor Wynn

Co-opted Members
Eileen Fry (Multi Faith Centre)

Apologies
Dr Hardial Singh Dhillon (Sikh Faith)
Joan Price (Pentecostal Church)
Rosemary Wibberley (Church of England)
Viv Lawrence (Church of England)
Joan Hodgkinson (NUT)
David Nicols (SHA)
Councillor Smalley
Councillor Turner

19/04 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

20/04 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

21/04 Minutes

The minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 17 November 2004 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendments:

to include Councillor Hird in the apologies.

Minute No 15/04 Feedback from NASACRE Annual General Meeting - AGM, third paragraph – 'Graham Langtree **praised** the inter-faith work of local SACRE's...'

Minute No 16/04 Islam Truly a Great Religion, last sentence of the first paragraph – 'Arshid Rafiq advised that **two** copies had been distributed to each school in the city.'

Minute No 18/04 Any Other Business - Jewish Faith, second sentence – 'she had received information from **the British Board of Jewish Deputies**, if anyone was interested she could forward the contact details.'

22/04 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

23/04 Feedback from the QCA Conference

Arshid Rafiq gave members a report on the QCA Conference that he had attended in York on 7 December 2004. Arshid advised that Derby City SACRE compared favourably with other SACREs around the country. Mair Bradley thanked Arshid for attending the conference on their behalf.

24/04 Annual Multi-Faith Calendar 2005

Graham Falgate distributed copies of the Multi-Faith Calendar to members of SACRE.

25/04 Annual SACRE Report

Graham Falgate presented members with the annual SACRE report 2003/04 and thanked all those members who helped with the Standards section of the report. He commented that this would be the last year that they would be able to use Ofsted reports to compile the report.

Graham suggested that members should consider ways of looking at local standards in RE at the next meeting. One of the points raised in the report was the shortage of specialist RE teachers in Derby, mainly in secondary schools. Most schools had a specialist running the department, but not all teachers who taught RE were specialists. Councillor Wynn advised that Overview and Scrutiny could look into the specific issues around RE.

Ruth Dolby asked if the exam results in appendix C of the report had been expected. Graham Falgate advised that results had improved and that the number of children taking RE had increased as many schools were doing short course GCSEs.

26/04 Young Inter-Faith Projects

Members considered a paper from NASCRE regarding young inter-faith projects. Graham Falgate advised that SACRE had the opportunity to bid for £5,000 that would be given to four projects in the country. These were to develop and promote inter-faith projects. The deadline for this year was too soon, but SACRE could consider applying for funding next year. Eileen Fry advised that the Multi-Faith Centre had put in a bid to the local initiative fund for something similar. They wanted to investigate what the youth in Derby wanted. Eileen would keep SACRE informed of any developments.

Anne Johns advised that she was involved with a Muslim/Christian combined project in Bosnia. This was started up after the war trying to get Bosnian women working. It had now moved on and Derby Moor were twinned with schools in Bosnia. Teachers had already had exchanges with schools in Bosnia, but more schools were needed in Derby to take part.

Members asked if some of them could come to the next meeting and perhaps the SACRE could get involved. Anne advised that she would invite Paul Johns, Maggie Tennent and Adam Repesa to the next meeting.

Maryam Djavid advised that the evening event after Holocaust Day was very well run and the play by children at St Benedict's was excellent, and she hoped that something could be produced for next year's main event. She suggested that perhaps some more members from SACRE could attend next year's event.

Ruth Dolby advised that if anyone needed material for the Holocaust event next year, they had videos and transcripts of a 90-year-old woman who was the sole Jewish survivor from one village this was excellent for discussions.

27/04 Non-Statutory National Framework

Graham Falgate advised that this was the first time ever a document like this had been produced and it seemed as though it had become a pressure to have a national RE curriculum and this document was paving the way for this.

Maryam Djavid commented that this gave support and encouragement to the Local Framework, but did not replace it.

28/04 Proposal to Consider a SACRE Development Day

Graham Falgate suggested that members needed to meet to discuss the action plan for the next three to four years. Equally SACRE benefited from listening to experiences of individuals and their faiths. They suggested holding a development day to do this. Maryam suggested using the last action plan as a starting point.

Agreed to hold a development day on Saturday 24 September 2005, a venue to be agreed.

29/04 RE Today - Article about the Derby RE Agreed Syllabus

Members discussed an article published in the RE Today by Graham Falgate, about Derby City's agreed syllabus for RE. There were also quotes in the article from Alison Brown.

Graham advised members that since the article had been published, 15 people had contacted his office for copies of Derby's agreed syllabus.

30/04 NASCRE AGM

Agreed that Alison Brown would represent Derby City SACRE at the NASCRE AGM on Tuesday 19 April 2005 in Birmingham.

31/04 Dates of Future Meetings and Presentation from Faith Groups / Teachers

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 8 June 2005, with a presentation from Adam Repesa.

The first meeting of the 2005/06 academic year will be held on Thursday 24 November at 7.30 pm, Maryam Djavid would give a presentation.

32/04 Any Other Business

Phil Royle advised members that he had an issue with the Welsh Joint Examining Board over RE GCSE exams at the Derby Deaf School. They had used the Welsh Examining Board for some years and never had any problems until now. The board had always allowed video submissions or voice over submissions to enable the oral part of the exam. They were now

saying that this could not be done and if an audio cassette was not submitted, the 20% of the exam mark would be forfeit. Anne Johns suggested that Phil should write to Margaret Beckett MP and Bob Laxton MP asking them to forward this concern to the Secretary of State. Graham Falgate suggested that Phil speak to Ann Webster at the City Council. All members of SACRE felt that this was discriminatory and could not believe that this was happening.

Graham Falgate asked for member support for concerns to be raised that some faith communities were restricting access to children in wheelchairs to certain areas of their religious buildings. Clarification did need to be sought on this and Graham would report back to the next meeting.

Kate McRae asked why SACRE did not have a Buddhist representative. Eileen Fry advised that she would forward the details of the Buddhist group in Derby, so that they could be contacted asking if they wanted to put forward a representative.

MINUTES END