

Time commenced - 7.15 pm
Adjourned - 8.15pm
Reconvened - 8.25pm
Time finished - 9.00 pm

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
16 MARCH 2009**

Present: **Committee A**
Ruth Dolby (Jewish Faith)
Joan Price (Pentecostal Church)
Kate Tippen (Roman Catholic Church)
Lucy Care (Religious Society of Friends)
Rev Mair Bradley (United Reformed Church)
Phil Royle (Methodist Church)

Committee B (Church of England)
Alison Brown
Rosemary Wibberley
Viv Lawrence

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

Committee D (Local Authority)
Councillor Higginbottom
Councillor F Khan
Councillor Turner

Co-opted Members
Mike Lake (British Humanist Association)
Laura Connelly (Open Centre)
Jacq Dobson (Derbyshire Pagans)

Also present
Graham Falgate (Education Officer)
Sarah Turner (Constitutional Services Officer)

16/08 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ginns and Willoughby, David Ginns (Buddhist Faith), Wendy Jordan (Salvation Army), Arshid Rafiq (Islamic Faith) and David Nichols (SHA).

17/08 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair introduced the following late item:

Open Centre – Minute number 28/08.

18/08 Declarations of Interest

Mike Lake declared a personal interest in minute number 28/09 as he was a Director at the Open Centre.

19/08 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2008

The minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 12 November 2008 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair, subject to the following amendment:

12/08 Resignations and Vacancies

To replace the name Rosemary with the name Joan in the second line of the second paragraph.

20/08 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

21/08 SACRE Website

Graham Falgate asked SACRE to provide feedback on the contents of the SACRE website. Graham advised that he had received a few comments since the last meeting that had been fed through to Mike Lake and resolved.

Ruth Dolby commented that the contact list had still not been updated. Mike Lake responded that this was because details had not been passed through from SACRE members. SACRE asked whether the Council could provide, for members that wanted it, a derby.gov.uk email account for receiving emails sent through the SACRE website so that personal email addresses did not have to be used. Mike Lake added that he would try to meet everyone's requirements, whether it be a religious group email address, personal email or council email if this option was a possibility.

Resolved to ask the Council's IT department whether it would be possible to set up email accounts for SACRE members and report back to the next meeting.

22/08 Lees Brook HMI Subject Inspection of Religious Education

SACRE considered a letter from Ofsted to Lees Brook Community Sports College following a recent inspection. The results of the inspection had been positive. SACRE stated that it was encouraged and pleased with the work involved and the positive outcome of the inspection. SACRE made particular reference to the good leadership of the RE Co-ordinators.

Resolved to write to James Hatton at Lees Brook Community Sports College congratulating them on the results of the inspection.

23/08 Language and Religion: A Dictionary of Religious Terms

SACRE considered the glossary of terms used in Religious Education document produced by Mike Lake for inclusion on the Derby SACRE website. Alison Brown asked whether it would be more appropriate to use the definitions produced by QCA or SCAA. The SACRE website would just need a link to these sites. Ruth Dolby asked whether the definitions in the Agreed Syllabus could be used. Graham Falgate responded that the definitions in the Agreed Syllabus were not necessarily appropriate as they were definitions of more technical terms. Mair Bradley and Councillor Khan suggested having a special meeting to look at the glossary in more detail.

Mike Lake stated that by definition philosophical definitions were contentious. The point of this document was to educate children in philosophy. There was no single prescriptive list to define these words. It was up to SACRE to define.

SACRE agreed to adjourn the meeting to allow discussion within the groups to determine what they wanted to do with this item.

On reconvening SACRE voted on whether they wanted to include the glossary of terms on the SACRE website.

Each of the groups voted against having the glossary of terms on the SACRE website.

Councillor Higginbottom suggested that the list of words could be included on the SACRE website to prompt people to go away and consider the meanings themselves. She suggested that was not necessarily for SACRE to provide the answers.

Resolved

- 1. To remove the glossary of terms from the SACRE website as the committee's did not feel the definitions reflected everyone's views and that defining the words was an impossible task.**
- 2. To consider the QCA definitions and terms at the next meeting.**

24/08 Feedback from Day Conference in Birmingham

Mike Lake advised SACRE that the conference had been an excellent event and was well attended. Nottinghamshire county Council had sent 10 representatives.

25/08 Government Circular 194 Update

Alison Brown provided an update on the Government Circular 194.

Resolved to consider a report on Government Circular 194 at a future meeting.

26/08 Appointments of New Representatives

The SACRE considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services regarding the appointment of Maxine Bull as a Church of England Representative on Committee B.

Resolved to recommend that Council approve the appointment of Maxine Bull – Church of England Representative for a four year term.

27/08 Jewish SACRE News

SACRE received a copy of the Jewish SACRE News for information.

28/08 Open Centre

Laura Connelly - Open Centre presented SACRE with a statement on behalf of the Open Centre, which read as follows:

'The Methodist Church has informed the Open Centre that the building it occupies on Pear Tree Road will be sold at auction in July.

The Open Centre will therefore be without premises from the autumn term onwards though we are continuing to take bookings in the hope that something can be arranged.

The Open Centre is busier now than it has been – the diary is fully booked for March/April and is rapidly filling up for the summer term. We have already taken many repeat bookings for academic year 2009/10.

In the long term we have had support from council officers about the possibility of the needs of the Open Centre being included in the plans for developing the Normanton Mills site. We would welcome the support of the SACRE on this. However, it is a long way off and does not help with our immediate problem.

We would like to ask for the support of the SACRE in finding both sort term and long term premises for the Open Centre. If the SACRE agrees, we feel that a formal letter of support from the SACRE sent to the appropriate officers of the Council would be of great assistance. We would also welcome the assistance of Councillors on the SACRE in bringing this problem to the attention of the Council as a whole.'

Councillor Turner commented that the Open Centre provided a valuable service for the people of Derby and should be able to continue its operation without interruption.

Lucy Care asked for an idea of the minimum size of accommodation they would be looking for. Laura Connelly responded that information had already been provided to Council Officers and that the minimum requirement would be the equivalent of two primary school classrooms plus toilet and kitchen facilities.

Resolved to support the request made by the Open Centre and to ask Council Cabinet to investigate whether suitable accommodation is available for the Open Centre both short term and long term.

29/08 Any Other Business

Open Centre – Survey of Student Attitudes

Mike Lake advised SACRE that the Open Centre would be carrying out a survey of student attitudes and asked for the support of the Derby SACRE.

Resolved to consider this item at the next meeting.

30/08 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 2 July 2009 at the Multi Faith Centre.

Minutes End