

- The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of Meeting on Monday 11th February 2008

Present:

Group A:
Mrs J Copitch, Ms A Sharma, Mr S Younis

Group B:
Rev L Cornwell, Ms J Fageant, Rev P Gordon

Group C:
Mr M Freeman

Group D:
Mrs E Rowland

In attendance: Ms H Currie – WBC

Clerk: Mrs P Horne - WBC

Apologies:

Group A
Major L Hawkins

Group C
Ms S Cresswell

Group D:
Pauline Helliard-Symons

Not Present:

Group A:
Mr D Atkar
Mrs K Turner

Group C:
Mr S Jarvis

- 1. Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs Pauline Helliard-Symons, Major Lynn Hawkins and Sue Creswell
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting.**
The minutes of the last SACRE meeting held on the 14th November 2007 were approved by all present with the additions as in Item 3 and duly signed by the Chairperson.
- 3. Matters arising**
Helen Currie advised that Item 7 of the minutes should read that 'SACRE agreed to recommend to the Local Authority a change to its constitution to include a Buddhist representative.'

Beth Rowland had not received the budget document relating to committed money. Helen emailed this 4/5 days after the last meeting but will re-send to Beth.

Action

Helen Currie to email Beth Rowland with this document.

An invoice has not yet been received from the DVD Editor. The money should be designated as Committed.

Michael Freeman wrote to Alex Biddle, Headteacher at St Crispin's School and Steve Hempson-Jones, Headteacher at The Hawthorns School in order to find out if they were available for a 15-25 minute slot to give a presentation. Alex Biddle replied that he would have loved to come but that his Head of RE had been ill and had just returned. The Head of the Hawthorns School said that the letter had reached his desk so late that he had been unable to commit to this. Michael Freeman will reply to Mr Biddle's email next week and invite him to attend the June meeting.

Action

Michael Freeman to email Alex Biddle at St Crispin's School and a primary school with a view to inviting them to the June meeting, 9th June 2008.

4. Citizens of Faith

A demonstration of the DVD which it is proposed to call 'Citizens of Faith' was planned and Jo Fageant said that although there were books with this title no one owned the copyright.

Jo Fageant outlined the history of the video for those people who were not around at its inception and explained that the DVD would never be shown as one whole video but that it was available for people to dip into and pick the section that they wanted to see. Four members of different Faiths were interviewed and invited to talk about the challenges of their faiths, how they came to their faith and how their every day lives are influenced by their faith. Of the four people two are converts, two have been brought up in their faiths. The DVD provides an interface between RE and citizenship. Jo circulated two cover designs for the DVD which is designed for Key Stage 3 although some of it could service Key Stage 4.

A grant had been applied for and £3,000 given in funding.

There was a discussion relating to how the DVD, which will be accompanied by teachers' notes, will be offered for use and it was agreed that SACRE does not want to make a profit from the DVD. Four other grants have been allocated to other authorities. It was suggested that distribution of the DVD could be put into the hands of the organisation who handled the Hampshire book. However, it would be a credit to Wokingham SACRE to be able to say on the DVD 'Wokingham SACRE in conjunction with....'.

It was agreed that all four participants would be contacted in order that they might view the edited version of the DVD and to be able to say that they approve the interviews and the dialogue as several years have passed since the original video was made.

A decision was made relating to choice of DVD cover. Jo Fageant will send copies of the DVD to all members who would like them.

Action

Jo Fageant to send the DVDs to Pat Horne at Wokingham who will distribute them.

5. Membership

The recommendation that there should be a Buddhist representative and to change the constitution has been approved by Children's Services Policy Board and will go to the Executive on the 28th February where it will be approved. Therefore on the 29th February 2008 a Buddhist Group in the area can be approached with a view to them providing a representative.

Action

Jo Fageant to pass a contact for the Buddhist group to Helen.

In relation to a Humanist representative, Michael Freeman has been approached by a Humanist with a view to seeking a place on the SACRE. This application has been rejected in the past as this has not been seen as a religion. Michael pointed out that in view of the fact that there was a precedent in that Reading has a Humanist on its SACRE, he would like to propose that this person be invited to the next meeting in order to make a presentation.

There was further discussion on this point and it was agreed that everyone would need to be aware of where the Humanist stands as he would not appear to fit into any of the groups although Jo Fageant felt that he might say that he fitted into group A. It would be possible to recommend to the Local Authority that the Constitution be changed to include co-opted members, who may speak but not vote.

On Saturday 15th March, the Humanists are putting on "What do parents and grandparents want from Religious Education?" This is to be held at the Holt School where the charge was initially £15 but will now be a half day course.

It was agreed that Michael Freeman will write to the Humanist and say that we are interested in considering a personal representative at SACRE, but that our agendas are completely full so we are hoping to invite him later in the year as it would be unfair to invite him for just a ten minute slot. This allows time to further reflect and undertake investigation including members attending the event at the Holt school if this takes place.

6. SACRE Self Evaluation

Helen Currie distributed the self evaluation guide on Collective Worship and Contribution of the SACRE to the social and racial harmony agenda.

In addition to what was discussed on the last occasion, one of the things that SACRE could do was to have members of SACRE visiting schools at the time of collective worship. It was agreed that schools would be approached with a view to ascertaining which ones could be visited.

Jo Fageant suggested that the Head of Emmbrook Junior School could make a presentation to SACRE and they could be approached to present their work on planning SEAL in conjunction with RE and collective worship.

Action

Helen Currie will send out a personal email to 15/20 schools enquiring about inviting SACRE members to collective worship. A general notice will go into the Management Staff Bulletin.

7. New Secondary Curriculum

Helen gave a presentation on 'A big picture of the curriculum', which she circulated to Members. This is built around three questions, What are we trying to achieve? How do we organise learning? and How well are we achieving our aims? It illustrates accountability measures and asks the question of how we can make this a wonderful curriculum for Key Stage 3. Feedback from regional conferences on the place of RE in the new curriculum will be cascaded at the next SACRE meeting.

Action

Jo Fageant and Helen Currie to attend regional conferences and prepare to feed back to June meeting

8. Budget Update

The only amount spent since the distribution of the budget report is the NASACRE subs. There could be £330 left over and it is intended to use this for the transport costs for the SACRE development day.

It was suggested that Jackie Copitch draw up a self evaluation form for teachers to use in schools with pupils, the costs of which can go into next year's budget.

9. SACRE Annual Report

No feedback was received from the SACRE Annual Report 2007.

10. SACRE Development plan

Not many people know about SACRE and we need to promote Wokingham's SACRE. We need to promote Youth and to use 'citizenship'. This can be done by inviting schools to come to ~SACRE meetings and by reaching out to schools and listening to the views of young people as opposed to listening to the views of teachers and finding out what they would like to get out of Religious Education. Visiting schools to share in collective worship is one way of achieving this.

11. SACRE Development Day

Debi Atkar has not reported back at all and Jackie Copitch is waiting on the people that she has contacted in relation to the days when SACRE might visit. This needs to be chased and the possible days are now limited to the 1st, 8th March in view of the Humanist Day on the 15th. It is anticipated that there will be an email relating to this soon.

12. Reading-Wokingham interfaith meeting to support schools

- 12.2.08. This is a meeting arranged by RE Inspired and the Reading Interfaith Group and involves people doing similar work in schools amongst the faiths. There are 21 people from Wokingham and Reading attending. Jo Fageant will report back at the next SACRE meeting.

13. Any other business

- (i) Joint SACRE conference this year. Easthampstead Park and Alan Brie have been contacted and the dates of June 18/19th put forward. There is a preference for the 18th.
- (ii) Helen Currie announced that her work pattern has changed and she is working part time with a view to this decreasing even further after Easter. It has been decided that she will no longer be the LA representative for SACRE and will hand over to Gillian Overall, previous Headteacher of Finchampstead School. Helen's last meeting will be in June.