

The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of Meeting on Monday 9th June 2008

Present: **Group A:**
Mrs J Copitch (vice chair), Ms A Sharma,
Mrs K Turner, Mrs C Christy.

Group B:
Rev L Cornwell, Ms J Fageant,

Group C:
Mr M Freeman (chair), Mr S Jarvis

Group D
Mr M Bryant

In attendance: Ms H Currie – WBC

Clerk: Mrs P Horne – WBC

2 members of the public

Apologies: **Group C**
Mrs S Cresswell

Group D:
Mrs E Rowland

Not Present: **Group A:**
Mr S Younis
Mr D Atkar
Major L Hawkins

Group B
Rev P Gordon

Group C:
Mr S Jarvis, Mr C Rouse

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Welcomes were extended to our new Buddhist Representative, Christine Christy and to Mr Malcolm Bryant, Conservative Representative who has taken the place of Pauline Helliar-Symons. The Chair expressed thanks to Mrs Helliar-Symons for her help and support in whatever SACRE may have been doing.

Action

Helen Currie will send a letter of thanks to Mrs Helliar Symons.

The Chair also announced that Helen Currie has been asked by the Council to continue to be the LA representative on SACRE. This news was welcomed by all present.

2. APOLOGIES

Formal apologies were received from Sue Cresswell and Beth Rowland.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last SACRE meeting held on the 11th February 2008 were approved by all present.

- In relation to the DVD and the four members of different faiths involved Jo Fageant has tracked down the last remaining person but was unable to obtain contact details for him. Jo's own contact details were left and the person was expected to contact her. However, this has not happened. It was agreed that the person concerned did know what the contents of the video were and was aware that it would be aimed at schools and it was agreed that distribution of the DVD could go ahead.
- The chair said that of course Item 13 (ii) of the minutes of the last meeting was now a lie as Helen Currie will be staying on.
- Michael Freeman has spoken to Alex Biddle, St Crispins and he has agreed to come at a later date.
- The Humanist Meeting of the 15th March was cancelled.
- There has been no reply from Debi Atkar relating to the SACRE Development day. Michael has emailed him but there is the possibility that the email address is not correct.
- In 13 (i) the name of Alan Brie has been corrected.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- Membership – Jo Fageant was congratulated for her appointment to the National Executive Committee of SACRE. There has been an approach by the Elder of Norreys Church. There is a vacancy in the Free Church Group and he was asked to contact the Free Church. Helen will contact him again to see if he is happy for his church to nominate him. Helen will check the authenticity of this.

Action

Helen Currie to check.

The appointment of the new Buddhist representative went through very smoothly.

- Response to collective worship – Lisa Cornwell and Michael went to Hatch Ride School and the service was taken by the local Baptist Minister. It was a very good assembly and he spoke about Jesus stilling the storm which he did it in an inter-active way. The children engaged and they thought about what would happen if they went outside and told the rain to stop. Other members apologised for not being able to take the time off to attend.
- Re-invite St Crispins plus response from the Hawthorn School – Spiritual and Moral Plan document for information received from the Hawthorn School. Alex Biddle has said that he will attend on another occasion as the school's Head of RE has been ill. He said that he would welcome being re-invited and this will happen for the November meeting. Hatch Ride School sent back the document on spiritual and moral plan which was sent out to everyone with the Agenda and Minutes. Another primary school will be invited.

5. (a) NEW SECONDARY CURRICULUM

Jo Fageant cascaded information on the Interface and the new curriculum.

Jo and Sue Cresswell went to the Training meeting on the New Curriculum, somewhat with reservation but it turned out to be better than anticipated.

Presentation

Why Change?

- Changes in society and the nature of the work
- Impact of technology
- New understandings about the nature of learning
- Increased global dimension of life, learning and work
- The public agenda – personalisation , ECM, sustainability, social cohesion enterprise.

Things change from the National Curriculum to where we need to go.

Opportunities:

- Flexibility
- Focus on aims and skills
- Pupil Voice – talk to children about what they want to learn
- Personalised assessment
- The impact of this
- Progress and achievement
- Skills for life and work.

Jo presented a slide showing a big picture of the curriculum and emphasised teachers asking what do we want to achieve and how are we achieving it?

What are the connections of a successful learner?

What has changed?

- A whole focus on the whole curriculum underpinned by aims.
- Increased flexibility – less prescription for focus on key concepts questions and processes in subjects.
- More room for personalisation – locally determined curriculum.
- More emphasis on skills and on personal development
- ECM
- More opportunities for coherence

Cross curriculum dimension:

- Identity and cultural diversity
- Healthy lifestyles
- Common participation
- Enterprise
- Sustainable futures and the global dimension
- Technology.

Personal learning to include well planned curriculum with clear aims, organised and evaluated.

Local agreed syllabus

- Importance
- Aims
- 6 key concepts
- 2 key processes
- At least p3 religious/world views
- 9 key questions
- 6 curriculum opportunities
- skills (page 9-10 of document) and attitudes (page8)

Teachers have to focus on **COMPELLING LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

Malcolm Bryant enquired whether the curriculum presentation was going out to consultation and wondered whether it was just another way to downgrade education. Jo responded that this was not necessarily so because the emphasis will be on schools to deliver, it is just a way of saying that things should be organised in another way.

Stephen Jarvis commented that he works in a catholic school in the Portsmouth diocese and they work by these methods. It is a good way of teaching.

Reference NATRE website containing case study material. A revised approach to the curriculum needs to be in place by September this year. OFSTED inspection by 2011. It is incredibly flexible but the question remains how adept pupils will be at approaching the national curriculum.

Interfaiths

Jo reported that this was a very good day, bringing people from different communities/faiths together and to set Religious Education into real life situations. This was about actually meeting people and talking about the impact of religion in their lives.

One of the negatives that came out of this was that some people do not trust other people in their own community to represent their faith in the schools and that is potentially so in all of the communities. Otherwise this was a very positive day and got people thinking about how they could support RE in schools. Real commitment was shown and work is being done on an afternoon where people can talk together.

Lisa and Anju went to an Islam evening. Wokingham is forming an interfaith forum which will meet three times a year, including visiting different venues. The last was at the Interfaith Centre at Palmer Park. There was a panel of male Muslims who were trying to represent what they say is the truth – trying to say that they are not all suicide bombers. Anju reported that one of the things they were looking at is maybe doing an Interfaith Festival Day. The proposal would be brought to SACRE to see how it would be supported.

6. BUDGET UPDATE

- The proposal was made for a change in the financial year
- Helen reported that last year there was £5,560 in the budget. This does not cover staffing but covers everything else. £2,096.31 spent.
- A little less money was spent at the meeting than anticipated.
- The Joint SACRE conference was £250.
- No-one attended the NASACRE Conference.
- Diocese consulting shared with project.

- £2,000 to support leading teacher in RE. No-one from RE applied.
- Syllabus not able to do
- £1,300 moved to next year.
- Reproduction video in next year.
- £5,560 in next year's budget.

7. SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The accounts run from September to August and the Fiscal Year April to April. The plan is to bring this to the February meeting with a view to aligning it. There was universal agreement to this.

8. SACRE DEVELOPMENT DAY

Anju will obtain a telephone number for Debi Atkar with a view to arranging the SACRE Development Day (this has now been done). Proposals for Saturday mornings in November are 22/11, 29/11 and 6/12.

Action

Michael Jackie and Debi to sort out.

N.B. Ladies must wear a skirt in the synagogue. Details and dress code to be sent out with the communication.

9. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

3rd November 2008, 9th February 2008, 8th June 2008

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The importance of attendance at the November meeting was stressed as this is about the election of officers. Each group gets a vote.
- Helen passed around information on the Interfaith Group and Youth Group Interfaith evening.
- DVD-is it sent from Local Authority or SACRE.
- A document relating to a course at Harewood House was circulated.
- There were two visitors for the first time in the gallery, Humanists, David Williams and David McKnight.
- Jo referred to circular 194 in relation to Humanists which is being re-written. The concept of a Humanist will be re-visited. The government is not intending to change the legislation. The re-launch will be in October next year when the updated guidance will be available.
- Helen stated that in our Constituency we can co-opt non voting members and we can ask them to come and talk to us. Michael felt that this could be followed up with a presentation. The committee was in favour of a presentation at the November meeting and this would leave the Committee free to co-opt at any time. It might not take a year but it would have to go in front of the council and it would be some months before a decision was made.

Action

Helen Currie to send a formal invitation to the Humanists for a presentation.

- Jo highlighted the fact that the joint SACRE conference will take place next week 6 for 6.30 p.m.
- There is a DVD issued on the Jewish Way of Life.