

## **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

**TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2002**

**PRESENT:-** Councillor Maurice Fanning in the Chair;

Group A: Councillors	Fionuala Foley and Philip Steele.
Group B: Church of England	Catherine Coster, The Venerable Alan Hawker, and Penny Summers.
Group C: Teacher Organisations	Pauline Baker, Tracy Mason, Norma McKemey and Sarah Lashmar.
Group D: Other Faiths	Reverend David Howell (Swindon Evangelical Alliance), Mr. Mohammed Salas Khan (Muslim Community), Reverend Paul Knight (Baptist), Father Liam Slattery (Catholic Diocesan).
Other Representatives	Helen Miller (Grant Maintained).

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** - Mr Shaun Banks (Committee and Member Services Section), Miss Sarah Lawrence (Committee and Member Services Section) and Mr Martin Grant (Education Department).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brenda Craven and Geraldine Robertson; Malkit Singh Babbra, Jan Criddle, Andrew Fleet, Jillian Hopes, Anne Ormston, Marilyn Tew and Helen Thomas

### **88. Public Question Time**

No Public Questions were received during the meeting.

The Chairman had received a letter regarding the misspelling of 'ADONAI' in the teaching packs. The SACRE were advised that the teaching packs were being revised to correct this and any other errors and would be redistributed to schools.

### **89. Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2002, be accepted as a correct record, subject to amendment of the date of the meeting.

### **90. SACRE Membership/Constitution/Vacancies**

The SACRE Membership List and Constitution was made available for information and comment.

Resolved – (1) That notified changes to membership details be made by the Clerk to the SACRE;

(2) That Group C (Teacher Organisations) be requested to arrange for suitable replacement for the vacancy left by Angela Hinde.

(3) That once Department of Education's advice is received on suitable terminology in respect of 'Grant-Maintained Sector' this SACRE's Constitution be updated accordingly.

## **91. Appointment of Mr. Larry Wright to SACRE**

The SACRE discussed the appointment of Mr. Larry Wright. There were currently no suitable vacancies and, as a general rule with the exception of co-optees, the SACRE felt it could not support an application from an individual, rather than appointed representative from a local group. The SACRE discussed the possibility of appointing Mr Wright as a co-opted member, but this would not entitle him to voting rights he sought, and would require an amendment to its constitution.

Resolved – 1) That Mr Wright not be appointed at this time.

2) That the Chair write to inform Mr Wright of the SACRE's decision.

## **92. Becoming an Effective SACRE**

Mrs. Catherine Coster presented a briefing paper on the key factors for becoming an effective SACRE. Following discussion, the SACRE identified its priorities to be drawn up into a development plan, these included (i) raising the profile of SACRE, (ii) networking with schools and their faith communities, (iii) providing support and facilitating training, (iv) having a clear process for dealing with determinations and (v) identifying a sufficient budget for SACRE support and actions.

Resolved – (1) That the Director of Education be requested to increase the budget dedicated to SACRE from £5,000 to £10,000 to assist in its support and development; and

(2) That an informal Working Party of SACRE members, coordinated by Catherine Coster, draw up a draft development plan based on identified priorities to be considered at the next meeting of this SACRE.

## **93. OFSTED Reports**

The SACRE received OFSTED reports for 19 primary and 1 secondary schools that, with the exception of 2 schools, showed a very positive performance in all areas of religious education. The 2 schools that had unsatisfactory results had since been visited and showed great improvement.

Resolved – (1) That the OFSTED papers for 19 schools be noted;

(2) That, further to (1) above, the appreciation of this SACRE for the hard work of Joy Tubbs on the Agreed Syllabus be recorded; and

(3) That, following future OFSTED reports, SACRE write to all schools to commend results and offer assistance as required.

(4) That the Director of Education and Community be requested to include a reference from the SACRE in the LEA's Annual Report.

## **94. Future Venues for Meetings of SACRE**

Resolved – That the following dates for future meetings be noted:

Tuesday 4 February 2002

Tuesday 1 April 2002.

(To be held at Leftbridge Primary School and the Sikh Community Temple respectively, subject to confirmation.)

Signed at the meeting of SACRE held on 4 February 2003.

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Person presiding at meeting at which Minutes signed