

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2003

PRESENT:- The Venerable Alan Hawker in the Chair;

Group A: Councillors	Brenda Craven and Philip Steele.
Group B: Church of England	Catherine Coster and Penny Summers.
Group C: Teacher Organisations	Pauline Baker, Jan Criddle, David Easter, Andrew Fleet, Tracy Mason, Norma McKemey and Sarah Lashmar.
Group D: Other Faiths	Reverend Paul Knight (Baptist), Mr. Dinesh Patel (Hindu Community) and Helen Thomas (United Reformed Church).
Other Representatives	Helen Miller (Grant Maintained), Jillian Hopes (Co-opted) and Marilyn Tew (Co- opted).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: - Hilary Pitts (Director of Education), Cledwyn Davies (Assistant Director for School Improvement), Andrew Ferguson (Legal Services) and Sarah Lawrence (Committee and Member Services Section).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maurice Fanning, Fionuala Foley and Geraldine Robertson; Malkit Singh Babbra, Reverend David Howell, Mr. Mohammed Salas Khan, Paul Noble, Anne Ormston, Godfrey Room and Father Liam Slattery.

MINUTES FOR REPORT

95. Public Question Time

No Public Questions were received during the meeting.

Further to a Public Question asked at the meeting on 5 November 2002 (Minute 88 refers), Mrs Margaret Griffiths thanked the SACRE for arranging for the teaching packs to be corrected in respect of the misspelling of 'ADONAI'.

96. Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2002, be accepted as a correct record.

97. Consideration of Appointment of Mr. Larry Wright as a Co-opted Representative to the SACRE

The SACRE considered (a) the appointment of Mr. Larry Wright as a co-opted representative on the SACRE having regard to his potential value to the work of the SACRE in respect of his qualifications as a teacher and as a humanist, and (b) whether to amend SACRE's constitution to increase the number of co-opted representatives.

The SACRE gave detailed consideration to the application. It was considered that SACRE was currently very large and that there were not sufficient advantages to

further increasing its membership. Having regard to Mr Wright's qualifications as a teacher and a humanist, it was felt that there was already a wealth of teaching ability on the SACRE, and while recognising Mr Wright's position as a humanist, it was felt that the SACRE was itself not unaware of these views. Furthermore, the SACRE could call on the advice of a humanist from a local group if required for a specific project.

Resolved – 1) That, Mr Wright not be appointed as a co-opted representative to the SACRE.

2) That the number of co-opted representative on the SACRE as set out in its Constitution be maintained at two.

3) That the Clerk to the SACRE inform Mr Wright of the SACRE's decision.

98. Introduction to the Director and Assistant Director of Education

The SACRE were introduced to the Director of Education, Hilary Pitts, and to the new Assistant Director for School Improvement, Cledwyn Davies.

99. Swindon Annual SACRE Report

Mrs. Catherine Coster presented for information the Swindon Annual SACRE Report for September 2001 to July 2002, which had been submitted to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) in accordance with statutory requirements.

Resolved – 1) That the Annual Report be noted.

(2) That Mrs. Catherine Coster be commended for her work on the Annual Report.

(3) That the Director of Education be requested to send a copy of the Annual Report to all schools in the Borough.

100. QCA Conference Notes

The SACRE received, for information, notes of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) Conference, attended by Mrs. Catherine Coster.

Resolved – That the QCA conference notes be noted.

101. Development Plan 2003

The SACRE received for consideration the Development Plan 2003 for the SACRE, drawn up following discussions at the last meeting identifying the SACRE's priorities for 2003. The Development Plan contained five targets and showed the breakdown of the £5,000 SACRE budget towards their achievement.

Resolved – That the Development Plan for 2003 be approved.

102. Collective Worship in a Primary and Secondary School

Norma McKemey and Jillian Hopes gave presentations on examples of collective worship in a secondary and primary school. Mrs. Catherine Coster circulated for consideration a suggested guidance for collective worship to be circulated to schools.

Resolved – (1) That Norma McKemey and Jillian Hopes be thanked for their presentations.

(2) That, the Director of Education be requested to amend the Guidance for Collective Worship to take account of:

- (i) comments received from the SACRE meeting, together with any additional feedback received from individual Members of SACRE;
- (ii) advice to be sought from the Department for Education and Skills on the results of the review of its guidance for collective worship; and
- (iii) results of consultation to be undertaken with local schools.

(3) That the revised document be brought to a future meeting of SACRE.

103. OFSTED Reports

The SACRE received OFSTED reports from 5 local schools, which showed a very positive performance in all areas of religious education.

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

(2) That, the Chair be requested to write to the schools on behalf of the SACRE to congratulate them on their performance.

104. Future Meetings of SACRE

Resolved – That the next meeting of the SACRE be held on Tuesday 1 April 2002, at a venue to arranged by the Borough Solicitor in conjunction with the Chair of the SACRE.

105. Tour of Religious Venues

The SACRE noted that the next meeting of SACRE was unable to take place at the Sikh Community Temple as previously requested, as suitable accommodation for a meeting of this size was not available. However, an invitation had been extended for members of the SACRE to receive a tour of the temple. It was agreed this could be arranged in conjunction with a visit to other places of worship in Swindon.

Resolved – That the Director of Education in conjunction with the Borough Solicitor be requested to arrange for a tour of local places of worship for SACRE members.

106. Any Other Business

1. Group C (Teacher Organisations) Vacancy

The SACRE were informed that Emma McCarthy had been nominated, with the support of her union, to fill the current vacancy on Group C (Teacher Organisations).

Resolved – That the appointment of Emma McCarthy to Group C (Teacher Organisations) be the first item of business at the next meeting of SACRE.

2. Guidance for Visits to Places of Worship

The SACRE were informed that increasingly local schools were organising visits to places of worship and it was felt appropriate that the SACRE should compile a guidance note to assist with matters related to appropriate dress, conduct and hospitality.

Resolved – That the Director of Education be requested to draft a guidance note for schools.

Signed at a meeting of SACRE held on 1 April 2003.

Person presiding at meeting at which Minutes signed.