

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

TUESDAY, 1ST APRIL, 2003

PRESENT:- The Venerable Alan Hawker in the Chair;

Group A: Councillors	Brenda Craven.
Group B: Church of England	Catherine Coster, Ann Ormston, Paul Noble and Penny Summers.
Group C: Teacher Organisations	Jan Criddle, Andrew Fleet, Tracy Mason and Emma McCarthy.
Group D: Other Faiths	Reverend Paul Knight (Baptist), Mr. Dinesh Patel (Hindu Community), Godfrey Room (Methodist Church), Father Liam Slattery (Catholic Diocesan) and Helen Thomas (United Reformed Church).
Other Representatives	Helen Miller (Grant Maintained).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: - Cledwyn Davies (Assistant Director for School Improvement) and Sarah Lawrence (Committee and Member Services Section).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maurice Fanning, Fionuala Foley, Geraldine Robertson and Philip Steele; Pauline Baker, Norma McKemey, Malkit Singh Babbra, Reverend David Howell, Mohammed Salas Khan and Marilyn Tew.

MINUTES FOR REPORT

107. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

The Head of Hreod Parkway School, Andrew Fleet, took the opportunity to welcome the SACRE to the school and also introduced Alison Beecham, Co-ordinator for Religious Education at Hreod Parkway. The Chair welcomed Alison Beecham to the meeting and thanked her for the display of RE materials made available to the SACRE.

108. Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved – That, the minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2003, be accepted as a correct record.

Further to the Minute 102 'Guidance for Collective Worship', Mrs Catherine Coster updated the SACRE on the preparation of the 'Guidance for Collective Worship'. The revised document would be sent to schools for comment shortly, with a view to finalising and circulating the guidance in September 2003.

**109. Appointment of Emma McCarthy to Group C
(Teacher Organisations) Vacancy**

The SACRE, at its last meeting, had received formal notification that the Teachers Group had nominated Emma McCarthy to fill their current vacancy on the SACRE.

Resolved – That, Emma McCarthy be appointed to the SACRE as a member of Group C (Teacher Organisations).

110. Guidance for Visiting Places of Worship

The SACRE received for consideration 'Guidance for Visiting Places of Worship' for use by schools.

Resolved – (1) That the 'Guidance for Visiting Places of Worship' be finalised subject to the inclusion of information relating to specific places of worship in Swindon to be supplied by SACRE members and appended to the Guidance.

(2) That, Mrs Catherine Coster be commended for her work on the document.

(3) That, the Director of Education be requested to send a copy of the Guidance to all schools in the Borough once it was finalised.

111. Secondary Teachers Meeting

Mrs Catherine Coster informed the SACRE that she had met with six secondary school teachers to discuss progress in implementing the agreed syllabus and any difficulties experienced. It was noted that the schools were at a variety of stages in their implementation, and that a further three such meetings had been set up during the summer for Religious Education Co-ordinators to meet together and share best practice in order that this could be disseminated to all teachers as they felt need of support.

The SACRE, at their request, received information from Alison Beecham, Co-ordinator for Religious Education at Hreod Parkway School, in relation to the current syllabus and subject areas being taught in each year group and the heightened profile of religious education within the school.

Resolved – That, the three meetings proposed with secondary teachers to share best practice be supported.

112. OFSTED Reports

The SACRE received OFSTED Reports from two local schools, which showed a very positive performance in religious education.

Resolved – (1) That the OFSTED Reports be noted.

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

(3) That the Director of Education and Borough Solicitor be requested to provide the SACRE with background information on schools when OFSTED Reports are presented to the SACRE.

113.

Future Meetings of SACRE

Resolved – (1) That, the date of next meeting of SACRE be notified by the Borough Solicitor to all SACRE members as soon as the new municipal calendar is finalised.

(2) That, specific Religious Education (RE) co-ordinators be invited to attend the first meeting in the new municipal year to provide insight into the practice of their schools and to share any concerns with the syllabus and ideas of how the SACRE can best support them, and that all other RE co-ordinators be invited to submit their views in writing.

(3) That, Mrs Catherine Coster report to the next meeting with a review of her work as advisor to the SACRE during 2002/2003.

(4) That, the SACRE explore its priorities for the new municipal year at the next meeting, including how best to involve schools in its work and to monitor the operation of the locally agreed syllabus.

114.

Any other Business

1. 'P' Scales – Schemes of Work

Tracy Mason (Teachers Group) asked whether there were schemes of work available from QCA to support 'P' Scales (those below level 1) under the locally agreed syllabus, as there were concerns that these could become a statutory requirement. It was noted that there were no schemes of work currently in existence for 'P' Scales. Cledwyn Davies (Assistant Director for School Improvements) stated that he was not aware that these were becoming a statutory requirement for RE, but would investigate further and report back to the next meeting

Resolved – That, the Director of Education (Cledwyn Davies) be requested to investigate further the position in relation to 'P' scales and report back to the next meeting of SACRE.

2. NASACRE - Annual General Meeting

The SACRE was advised that the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (NASACRE) Annual General Meeting would take place on Wednesday 7th May 2003 in Birmingham.

Resolved – That, Members of the SACRE be invited to inform Mrs Catherine Coster if they wish to attend on behalf of the SACRE.