

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

TUESDAY, 15th JULY, 2003

PRESENT:- Councillor Maurice Fanning in the Chair;

Group A: Councillors	Councillors Phillip Steele and Chris Van Roon.
Group B: Church of England	Catherine Coster (Advisor to the SACRE), Paul Noble and Ann Ormston .
Group C: Teacher Organisations	Pauline Baker, Andrew Fleet, Tracy Mason and Norma McKemey.
Group D: Other Faiths	Reverend David Howell (Swindon Evangelical Alliance), Reverend Paul Knight (Baptist), Mr. Dinesh Patel (Hindu Community),
Other Representatives	Marilyn Tew (Co-opted)

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 Brenda Craven and Michael Dickinson, The Venerable Alan Hawker, Penny Summers, Father Liam Slattery, Helen Thomas, and Helen Miller.

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

8. SACRE Constitution and Membership

The SACRE considered a report of the Borough Solicitor dated 17th June 2003, recommending (a) amendments to the SACRE constitution and membership to reflect the implications of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (including the deletion of the post of grant-maintained schools representative) and the current the political structure of the Council, (b) the establishment of a SACRE working group to determine whether additional changes to the SACRE constitution were appropriate, and (c) to recommend to Council the formal reappointment of SACRE Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' representatives.

Resolved – (1) ...

(2) ...

(3) That, subject to the changes to membership authorised at the meeting, the current membership list shown at Appendix '2' to the agenda report be recommended to Council for the reappointment of the members of Groups 'B', 'C' and 'D' for a new four year term of office.

MINUTES FOR REPORT

1. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved – That, the minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2003, be accepted as a correct record.

3. Working with the Agreed Syllabus

Julia Harle reported on her experience as a teacher new to the area working with Swindon's Agreed Syllabus, and circulated example classwork. It was noted that the syllabus was extremely detailed and supportive for new teachers, in particular in relation to assessment criteria. In addition, Julia Harle shared information in relation to useful websites, such as those offering interactive tours of places of worship, which could be used to support the teaching of religious education.

Resolved - That, Julia Harle be thanked for her presentation.

4. Islamic Awareness and Education Project (IAEP) - Presentation

Imran Golding and Hassan Morrison, the Director and Education Officer of the Islamic Awareness and Education Project, attended the SACRE meeting to introduce the work of the IAEP. Its main remit was to assist teachers to teach Islam, providing school presentations, free teaching packs and by organising visits to local mosques. The IAEP had also been consulted to authenticate the representation of Islam in the Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus, on which the Swindon Agreed Syllabus was based.

Resolved - That, Mr Imran Golding and Hassan Morrison be thanked for their presentation on the work of the Islamic Awareness and Education Project.

5. Feedback from Secondary Cluster Meetings

Tracy Mason (Teachers Group) reported back on the Secondary Teacher Cluster meetings that had been held with secondary religious education co-ordinators to review the operation of the agreed syllabus. The meetings had shown that it would not be appropriate to produce a common scheme of work to support the agreed syllabus, because while the agreed syllabus was fully covered by each secondary school, it was taught in a diverse number of ways. It was agreed that the Secondary Coordinators would continue to meet regularly to exchange ideas and support.

Resolved – (1) That Tracy Mason be thanked for her presentation, and the report be noted.

(2) That the Director of Education bring back a financial report to the next meeting with regard to the SACRE's budget.

6. Feedback from Primary Cluster Meetings

Catherine Coster (Advisor to the SACRE) reported back on the Primary Teacher Cluster meetings that had been held with primary religious education co-ordinators to review the operation of the agreed syllabus. The meetings had revealed that teachers had been working closely to the scheme of work written in support of the agreed syllabus, and were now looking for more creative ways in which to teach the material including use of art, dance, drama and interactive websites. The opportunities to meet and exchange ideas had been invaluable, and it had been agreed that the group would continue to meet approximately twice a term.

Resolved – That Catherine Coster be thanked for her presentation, and the report be noted.

7. Appointment to Group D (Other Faiths) Vacancy

The SACRE were informed that Mr Singh Babbra (Sikh Community) had stepped down from membership of Group D (Other Faiths) due to work commitments. The Sikh Temple Committee had nominated Mr Jaswant Singh Grewal as his replacement representative.

Resolved – That, Mr Jaswant Singh Grewal be appointed to the SACRE as a member of Group D (Other Faiths), to take office at the next meeting of SACRE.

8. SACRE Constitution and Membership

The SACRE considered a report of the Borough Solicitor dated 17th June 2003, recommending (a) amendments to the SACRE constitution and membership to reflect the implications of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (including the deletion of the post of grant-maintained schools representative) and the current the political structure of the Council, (b) the establishment of a SACRE working group to determine whether additional changes to the SACRE constitution were appropriate, and (c) to recommend to Council the formal reappointment of SACRE Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' representatives.

Resolved – (1) That the minor amendments shown in bold on the Constitution of the SACRE attached at Appendix '1' to the agenda report be approved.

(2) That, further to (1) above, the Advisor to the SACRE in conjunction with the Borough Solicitor, be authorised to establish a SACRE working group with representatives of each Group, to consider and determine whether any further amendments to the Constitution or membership of the SACRE would be appropriate, and to report back to a future SACRE meeting.

(3) ...

**9. Appointment of Chairman of SACRE for 2003/2004
from 1 September 2003**

Resolved – (1) That, Councillor Maurice Fanning be appointed as interim Chairman of SACRE up to and including the next meeting of SACRE on 21 October 2003; and

(2) That, the appointment of Chairman of SACRE for the remainder of 2003/2004 be considered at the next meeting of SACRE.

**10. Appointment of Vice-Chairman of SACRE for 2003/2004
from 1 September 2003**

Resolved – (1) That, Andrew Fleet (Group 'C' - Teachers Organisations) be appointed at Vice-Chairman of the SACRE for 2003/2004 with effect from 1 September 2003, subject to confirmation that he is willing to accept the appointment.

**11. Appointment of Representative Group Chairmen
from 1 September 2003**

The SACRE was requested to consider whether it was appropriate that a Chairman of each Group be appointed for 2003/2004 in accordance with paragraph 12 of the current Constitution.

Resolved – That, the SACRE Working Group appointed to review the constitution and membership of the SACRE (Minute 8 refers) be requested to consider whether it was appropriate for a chairman to be appointed for each representative group.

12. Ofsted Reports

(i) Catherine Coster (Advisor to the SACRE) reported on recent Ofsted reports from local schools, which showed 'satisfactory' or 'good' performance for all schools.

(ii) The Chairman, Councillor Fanning, requested information as to why the SACRE had not been inspected as part of the Ofsted Inspection of the Local Education Authority. Cledwyn Davies (Assistant Director for School Improvement) advised that he believed it was one of the areas that the inspection team had decided did not require in-depth consideration, but would confirm at the next meeting.

Resolved – (1) That the Chair be requested to write to the local schools who had recently received Ofsted reports on behalf of the SACRE to congratulate them on their performance.

(2) That, the Assistant Director of Education (Cledwyn Davies) be requested to report back to the next meeting of the SACRE with regard to the inclusion of SACRE in the recent Ofsted inspection.

(3) That, an overview of the key stage 4 results be communicated to the SACRE by the Director of Education or Advisor to the SACRE at the appropriate time, as part of the annual QCA report.

13. Future Meetings of SACRE

Resolved – That, the following dates for future meetings of SACRE be noted: 21st October 2003 (AGM), 10th February 2004 and 30th March 2004.