

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER, 2003**

**PRESENT:-**

Group A: Councillors	Councillors Brenda Craven, Chris Shepherd, Phillip Steele and Chris Van Roon.
Group B: Church of England	Catherine Coster (Advisor to the SACRE), The Venerable Alan Hawker and Paul Noble.
Group C: Teacher Organisations	David Easter, 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), Godfrey Room (Methodist Church), Father Liam Slattery (Catholic Diocese) and Helen Thomas (United Reformed Church).
Co-opted Representatives	Mrs Jillian Hopes and Dr Marilyn Tew.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: - Annie Nelson (School Improvement Service), Stephen Taylor (Director of Law and Corporate Governance) and Sarah Lawrence (Committee and Member Services).

Apologies for absence were received from Jan Criddle, Councillor Michael Dickinson, Councillor Maurice Fanning, Mr Jaswant Singh Grewal, Mr M.S. Khan MBE, Sarah Lashmar, Emma McCarthy, Ann Ormston, and Penny Summers.

(In the absence of the Interim Chair, Councillor Maurice Fanning, the Vice-Chair Andrew Fleet took the Chair for Items 1 to 3)

**MINUTES FOR REPORT**

**14. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

**15. Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved – That, the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2003, be accepted as a correct record.

**16. Appointment of Chair of SACRE for 2003/04**

Resolved – That, Councillor Brenda Craven be appointed as Chair of SACRE for the remainder of 2003/04.

(Councillor Brenda Craven took the Chair)

**17.**

### **SACRE Membership Update**

The SACRE was informed that Mrs Pauline Baker (Teacher Organisations Group) had stepped down from membership of the SACRE, having completed a 4-year term as a SACRE representative, and that the ATL (Association of Teachers and Lecturers) was currently seeking a replacement representative.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That if appropriate, following clarification from the Director of Law and Corporate Governance of the process for making appointments to the Teachers Group, Norma McKemey contact the Association of Teachers and Lecturers to request that she represent the Association on the SACRE.

(3) That further to (2), a replacement representative be sought to fill the vacancy on Group C: Teacher Organisations.

**18.**

### **Annual Report of the SACRE Adviser**

The SACRE considered the Annual Report of the SACRE Adviser dated 16 October 2003, reporting the achievements of the SACRE in the previous year and the need for the SACRE to review its Agreed Syllabus during 2004/2005, while taking account of the possible implications of proposals for the Secretary of State to introduce a national non-statutory or statutory framework for Religious Education in Schools.

Resolved - (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the SACRE note the advice of the Director of Law and Corporate Governance, that under the SACRE's constitution there was no impediment to Catherine Coster being a member of the SACRE, whilst employed as a SACRE Adviser by the Local Education Authority.

**19.**

### **Annual Ofsted Report Summary**

The SACRE considered the briefing note tabled by the SACRE Adviser summarising the Ofsted judgements received in respect of 14 schools in Swindon from September 2002 to October 2003, and a summary of the 2002/03 Examination Results for Religious Education achieved by Year 11.

Resolved – (1) That the Ofsted Summary report be noted.

(2) That the summary of 2002/03 Examination Results be returned to the SACRE Adviser, to be checked with the Director of Education, to confirm the accuracy of the listed results.

**20.**

### **Annual Budget Summary**

The SACRE received a note of the budget in respect of SACRE for 2003/04.

Resolved – That the Director of Education be requested to report to the next meeting of SACRE as to a breakdown of the budget available to SACRE, of the spend in 2002/03 and in 2003/4 to date, and clarification as to whether the SACRE budget included the provision for the employment of the SACRE Adviser.

**21.****Constitution Working Group - Update**

Further to agreement of the SACRE at its last meeting to establish a SACRE working group to consider and determine whether any further amendments to the Constitution or membership of the SACRE would be appropriate (Minute 8 refers), the Director of Law and Corporate Governance requested that the SACRE appoint named representatives from each Group to sit on the working group.

Resolved – That the following members of SACRE form the Constitution Working Group to be convened by the Director of Law and Corporate Governance, and to report back to a future meeting of SACRE recommending any appropriate amendments to the Constitution:

Group A: Councillor Brenda Craven (Deputies: Councillors Chris Shepherd, Phillip Steele and Chris Van Roon).

Group B: Mr Paul Noble

Group C: Mr Andrew Fleet (subject to no change being made to the constitution of the Teachers Organisations Group).

Group D: Reverend David Howell (Deputy: Helen Thomas)

Co-opted: Mrs Jillian Hopes

**22.****Priorities and Programme for SACRE – 2003/04**

The SACRE was requested by the SACRE Adviser to consider and identify its priorities and programme for 2003/04, including ways it could improve its effectiveness. The following suggestions were received:

- i) Retain a resource of religious education artefacts for use by different schools (noted that a resource was available from Sanford House).
- ii) Increase teacher / SACRE member presentations to the SACRE.
- iii) Invite outside speakers to the SACRE, including regional SACRE advisors, or representatives of faith groups not currently represented on the SACRE.
- iv) Arrange SACRE visits to schools, school governors meetings, curriculum meetings, and an annual visit to a place of worship.
- v) Seek ways to effectively fulfil the SACRE's advisory role, to encourage feedback on the Agreed Syllabus from teachers, and to offer support and training.
- vi) Arrange open days for places of worship in respect of local schools (Noted that currently many local schools do arrange such visits, and that it could be overwhelming if scheduled over one or two days).
- vii) Seek to raise the profile of the SACRE, including considering the introduction of annual awards for achievement in Religious Education.
- viii) Publish 'Good Practice Documents' in respect of key RE themes, providing examples of how 3 or 4 teachers have approached the topic.
- ix) Seek to encourage schools following Ofsted reports and offer SACRE assistance as required.
- x) Find ways to celebrate and share good practice across schools.

Resolved – That the SACRE Adviser bring a report to the next meeting of SACRE suggesting how these ideas and initiatives might be incorporated into a programme for SACRE for 2003/04.

**23.**

**Future Meetings of SACRE**

Resolved – (1) That the following dates for future meetings of SACRE be noted: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2004 and 30<sup>th</sup> March 2004.

(2) That the Director of Law and Corporate Governance in consultation with the SACRE Adviser arrange for the forthcoming SACRE meetings to be held in local schools, wherever possible.

(3) That SACRE members be invited to attend the Day Conference for Secondary Schools on 14 November 2003 at Nythe Primary School, subject to confirmation by the SACRE Adviser of places being available.