

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MONDAY, 12 JULY 2004

PRESENT:-

Group A: Councillors	Councillors Bernard Baker, Andrew Bennett, Maurice Fanning and Raymond Fisher
Group B: Church of England	Mrs Catherine Coster, Mrs Anne Ormston and Mr. Paul Noble
Group C: Teacher Organisations	Mrs Emma McCarthy
Group D: Other Faiths	Mr. Jaswant Singh Grewal (Sikh Community), Mr M S Khan (Muslim Community), Mr Dinesh Patel (Hindu Community) and Mr Godfrey Room (Methodist Church)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Penny Summers, The Venerable Alan Hawker, Reverend David Howell, Mr Andrew Fleet, Ms Norma McKemey, Reverend Paul Knight, Mrs Helen Thomas, Dr Marilyn Tew and Councillor Fay Howard.

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair, Municipal Year 2004/05

Resolved – i) That the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2004/05 be deferred to the next meeting of SACRE, due to the number of SACRE members unable to attend this meeting;

ii) That SACRE members be requested to notify nominations to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair to the Clerk to the SACRE prior to the next meeting, to assist the appointment process; and

iii) That the Councillor Maurice Fanning be appointed as Chair for this meeting only.

Councillor Maurice Fanning took the Chair.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No interests were declared.

3. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

4. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th March 2004, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising – Further to Minute 36, Sarah Lawrence (Committee Officer) advised that this meeting of the SACRE had not been arranged at Lethbridge Primary School, as the teacher who had suggested the visit had now left the school.

5. Response to the National Framework for Religious Education

The Committee considered (a) the consultation draft of 'A National Framework for Religious Education' issued by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority which was planned for implementation in September 2004 and (b) an oral report of Catherine Coster (SACRE Advisor) with regard to the key features of the document and how its principles measured up to the current Swindon Agreed Syllabus.

Resolved – That the Advisor to the SACRE be requested to respond to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority with regard to the draft 'National Framework for Religious Education', welcoming it as a non-statutory framework, and endorsing i) its definition of Religious Education, ii) its provision of national attainment standards for Religious Education, and c) the extent to which it would continue to enable local schools to make curriculum choices in response to its faith communities, which reflected the principles of the current Swindon Agreed Syllabus.

6. Ofsted Reports

The SACRE received OFSTED reports in respect of provision of religious education in three local schools (Haydon Leigh Primary School, Greenmeadow Primary School and Ferndale Junior School).

Resolved – i) That the OFSTED reports be noted; and
ii) That the SACRE Advisor (Catherine Coster) write to the schools on behalf of the SACRE to congratulate them on their performance.

7. Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Swindon

The SACRE received for information a copy of the Equalities Assessment Form completed by Catherine Coster (SACRE Advisor) on behalf of the SACRE in respect of the Swindon Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

Catherine Coster (SACRE Advisor) informed the SACRE that arrangements needed to be made for the review of the Swindon Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, for the revised syllabus to come into effect in September 2005.

Resolved – 1) That the completed Equalities Assessment Form be noted; and

2) That the Director of Education in conjunction with the SACRE Advisor be requested to make the necessary arrangements for the review of the Swindon Agreed Syllabus, including the establishment of working groups to conduct the preliminary review work, and the formal constitution of the Agreed Syllabus Conference to review the work of the working groups and to recommend to the Local Education Authority the adoption of a revised Swindon Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, to come into effect in September 2005.

8. Next Meeting of SACRE

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the SACRE would be held on Tuesday 28th September at 6 p.m.

