

# INFORMAL MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**TUESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2004**

PRESENT:-

Group A: Councillors                      Councillor Fay Howard

Group B: Church of England              Mrs Catherine Coster, Mrs Anne Ormston, Mrs Penny Summers, The Venerable Alan Hawker and Mr. Paul Noble.

Group C: Teacher Organisations      None.

Group D: Other Faiths                      Mr. Jaswant Singh Grewal (Sikh Community), Reverend Paul Knight (Baptist), Mr Dinesh Patel (Hindu Community), Mr Godfrey Room (Methodist Church) and Mrs Helen Thomas (United Reformed Church)

Co-opted Members:                      None.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Andrew Fleet, Ms Norma McKemey, Mrs Tracy Mason, Mr David Easter, Mrs Emma McCarthy, Reverend David Howell, Dr Marilyn Tew and Councillor Maurice Fanning

*(As the meeting was not quorate, it was agreed that an informal meeting be held and any matters requiring a formal decision be deferred to the next meeting).*

## **9.                      Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2004 / 2005**

The appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair was deferred to the next formal meeting of the SACRE.

At the request of the members of SACRE, The Venerable Alan Hawker chaired this meeting.

## **10.                      Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

## **11.                      Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2004 were noted, and referred to the next formal meeting of the SACRE for approval.

## **12.                      Celebrating Faiths in Swindon**

Margaret Griffiths of the Swindon Inter-Faith Group gave a presentation on the work of the Group, their recent event entitled 'Celebrating Faiths in Swindon', and background to the various faith groups which meet in Swindon. It was

understood that the Inter-Faith group was informally constituted and held meetings five to six times a year with discussions and speakers, but also served as a link between religious groups and as an information resource.

The SACRE members thanked Margaret Griffiths for her presentation.

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

The SACRE members received the Annual Report of the SACRE Adviser dated September 2004, reporting the achievements of the SACRE in the previous year and the likely future roles for the SACRE in the coming year, which would include the review of its Agreed Syllabus, taking into account the national non-statutory framework for Religious Education in Schools due to come into effect in the next month. The SACRE members thanked the Catherine Coster for her Annual Report.

### **14. Agreed Syllabus Review - Update**

Catherine Coster (SACRE Adviser) circulated a copy of the timetable for the review of the Agreed Syllabus, and the membership of the working parties being set up to carry out the review work prior to submission to an Agreed Syllabus Conference meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2005. Catherine requested that Members of the SACRE notify to her any other representatives who should be included in the working parties. The costs of the Review were noted, including the provision of supply cover for teachers to attend the working groups.

### **15. Annual Review of Ofsted Reports**

The SACRE members received a detailed summary of the fifteen Ofsted reports carried out in 2004 in Swindon primary schools. Overall, it was noted that teachers were more confident with teaching and assessment and using the Agreed Syllabus. The supporting materials to the syllabus had been particularly valuable. At the request of the SACRE, the Advisor had written to schools throughout the year when individual reports were received to offer congratulations and support.

### **16. Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the SACRE would be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 6 p.m.