

## **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2004**

### **PRESENT:-**

Group A: Councillors	None
Group B: Church of England	Mrs Catherine Coster, Mrs Penny Summers, The Venerable Alan Hawker and Mr. Paul Noble
Group C: Teacher Organisations	Mr Andrew Fleet, Mrs Tracy Mason, Mr David Easter and Mrs Emma McCarthy
Group D: Other Faiths	Reverend David Howell (Swindon Evangelical Alliance), Mr Dinesh Patel (Hindu Community) and Father Liam Slattery (Catholic Diocese)
Co-opted Members:	None

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fanning, Howard, Greenhalgh and Fisher; Mrs Ann Ormston, Mr. Jaswant Singh Grewal, Mrs Helen Thomas, Dr Marilyn Tew and Norma McKeney.

### **17. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair, 2004/05**

Resolved – That (1) the Venerable Alan Hawker be Chair of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education and (2) Mr Andrew Fleet be Vice-Chair of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

The Venerable Alan Hawker took the Chair.

### **18. Chair's Announcement**

The Chair welcomed Mr. John Young of Greendown School to the meeting who was to be a new representative on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education for Group C, Teacher Organisations.

### **19. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

### **20. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2004 and 28<sup>th</sup> September 2004, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **21. Presentation by the Head of Moredon Junior School**

Lauren Conner, Head of Moredon Junior School, updated members of SACRE on the provision of religious education in Moredon Junior School. In 2001, the school had been criticised during their Ofsted Inspection over the teaching of religious education. By January 2004, the Ofsted Inspection stated that the standards for teaching of religious education were above the national standards and

that it had become a very valued subject within the schools curriculum. Initially, the teachers had not perceived that their role was in teaching morality to the children even though they were imparting right and wrong every day. Once the base line had been established, it was possible to build upon the teachers' knowledge and skills in teaching religious education.

Religious education is now taught in every year group for one hour per week and every class has designed a R.E. display. Although the school focuses upon Judaism and Christianity, other faiths are considered through other activities and displays. Every teacher now writes their own teaching plans that are carefully linked to skills associated with listening and speaking. The assessment is very rigorous and each child is given an individual target to reach before they can develop to the next level. Ms Connor believed that her enthusiasm and passion for teaching R.E stems from her absolute belief that she has a moral obligation to children and that R.E. provides this completely.

Resolved – That Ms Connor be thanked for her time and enthusiasm in updating members of SACRE on the provision of religious education at Moredon Junior School.

## **22. SACRE Membership Update**

SACRE were asked to confirm the appointment of two new members to vacancies on the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Resolved – That (1) Mrs Wendy Tucker be appointed to the SACRE as a member of Group D (Other Faiths) representing the Methodist Church, to serve the remainder of the term of office of the Methodist Church representative up until September 2007, unless reappointed and (2) subject to formal approval being received from the National Union of Teachers (NUT), Mr John Young of Greendown School be appointed as a member of Group C (Teacher Organisations), to serve the remainder of the term of office of this vacancy up until September 2007, unless reappointed.

## **23. The Non-Statutory National Framework for Religious Education**

SACRE received copies of the publication of the Non-Statutory National Framework for Religious Education and were asked to note its recommendations. This was a sound document that would provide uniformity across Local Authorities and which had a strong focus around community cohesion and social inclusion. The Chair asked if there was now a formal recognition as to the teaching of a secular world view as stated in the Framework and highlighted that the phrase "where appropriate" was not particularly helpful to teachers. Mrs. Catherine Coster confirmed that this was a non-statutory document for schools and that the SACRE could bring to the attention of the working group any issues that were still of concern to them.

Resolved – That the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) note the new National Framework for Religious Education and its implications for the delivery of religious education in Swindon.

## **24. Agreed Syllabus Working Parties**

SACRE received the report of the SACRE Advisor on the progress of the agreed syllabus working parties. A paper entitled 'The Importance of Religious Education' was tabled at the meeting and this included a summary of what was

included within the Non-Statutory National Framework for Religious Education along with elements that were important to Swindon. It was intended that this would help to explain to parents, teachers and community leaders about the importance of religious education within schools in Swindon.

Resolved – That (1) the progress of the Agreed Syllabus Working Parties be noted; (2) any comments from members of SACRE on 'The Importance of Religious Education' paper be forwarded to the SACRE Advisor and (3) 'The Importance of Religious Education' paper be discussed at the next meeting of the SACRE.

## **25. Annual Report of the SACRE**

SACRE received the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Annual Report that was to be submitted to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), covering the period September 2003 to July 2004.

Resolved – That (1) the SACRE's Annual Report be approved and (2) the SACRE Advisor be authorised to submit it to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA).

## **26. Ofsted Reports**

SACRE received the latest Ofsted Report for Crowdys Hill School in respect of the teaching of religious education.

Resolved – That (1) the Ofsted Report in respect of Crowdy's Hill School be noted and (2) the SACRE Advisor be requested to write to the school on behalf of the SACRE to offer support and congratulations.

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

The next meeting date would be 8<sup>th</sup> March 2005.