

**Minutes of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Meeting held on  
26 February 2009**

Present:

**Attendance**

Rummy Bajaj	Committee A
Sue Blackmore	Committee B
Pat Budd	Co-opted
Christine Chadwick	Committee A
Peter Davies	Committee D
Veronica Downes	Committee D
Frankie Durairatnam	Co-opted
Terry Finn	Committee A
Mary Gale	Committee B
Colin Hopkins	Committee B
Janet Kemp	Committee A
Karen Knobbs	Committee A
Dr Laow	Committee A
Michael Metcalfe	Committee B
Sydney Morris	Committee A
Liz O'Brien	Committee A
Muhammad Parekh	Committee A
Sam Phillips	Committee A
Bill Walley	Committee A
Rosemary Woodward	Committee B

**Also in attendance:** The following officers were also in attendance: Heather Farr, Senior Advisor for RE; Emma Senior, Advanced Skills Teacher for RE; and helen Phillips, Senior Members and Democratic Services Officer, Law and Governance.

**Apologies:** Catherine Brandrick, Drinkwater, E.N., Lynn Godden, Mr John McCarthy and Wilkins, A.J.

## **PART ONE**

### **44. Welcome to New Members**

The Chairman welcomed new members to SACRE, including Mrs Sue Blackmore, Committee B, and the Venerable Dr. Phramaha Laow Panyasiri, Buddhist representative on Committee A.

Although Mrs Karen Knobbs had attended SACRE previously this was her first meeting as a SACRE member, as a Methodist representative on Committee A.

### **45. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 November 2008**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2008 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Members felt it would be useful to include an item listing officers and non members also in attendance at each meeting.

Members considered the Annual SACRE Lecture, specifically whether the cost influenced attendance. It was suggested that this year they would trial serving refreshments only, rather than a meal, thus reducing the cost and hopefully improving attendance.

### **46. Update on Key Issues**

(Schedule 1)

SACRE received an update on key issues that had developed or arisen since their last meeting. The issues raised included:

- i) the Student Council;
- ii) NASACRE conference for new SACRE members (Staffordshire had been well represented at this event and members heard details of the conference programme. SACRE were pleased to note that both their Annual Report and Terms of Reference were to be included on NASACRE's website as exemplar documents.);
- iii) Ofsted subject focused inspections (Staffordshire had been the subject of four secondary and one primary RE subject focused Ofsted inspections within the last twenty-one months. There was some concern at the number of these inspections within this timescale and it was agreed that SACRE would support a letter being sent to Ofsted highlighting this concern);

- iv) QCA Annual Analysis of SACRE reports from 2006/07 (members were pleased to note that for the first time Staffordshire SACRE was mentioned in this report); and
- v) Examination results 2008 (a letter had been sent to all schools that had done particularly well).

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

#### **47. NASACRE Update**

The Chairman gave an oral report updating members on the key issues raised by the National Association of SACRE's (NASACRE), including: capacity building for SACRE's and how to recruit and prepare new members; interfaith network project; interfaith work with young people awards; and the NASACRE annual meeting held in Birmingham during June 2009.

**RESOLVED** – That the oral report be noted.

#### **48. The Agreed Syllabus Review 2009**

(Schedule 2)

At their meeting of 17 June 2008 SACRE had convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference and set in motion the Agreed Syllabus Review for Staffordshire.

Members received copies of the revised draft and an update and presentation on the Review's progress, including:

- i) consultation with teachers at network meetings;
- ii) consultation with all schools through a questionnaire circulated in the autumn term;
- iii) taking into account best practise whilst retaining those areas of the current syllabus that work well and support high quality teaching and learning;
- iv) take account of the Non- Statutory Framework for RE;
- v) syllabus drafted and shared with SACRE at their meeting of 19 November 2008;
- vi) review of draft and recommendations by a working group of teachers from all phases of schools;
- vii) second draft produced; and,
- viii) media team involved in layout and presentation of the document.

SACRE considered the revised draft and made the following comments and suggestions:

- a) dividing reception/foundation and Key Stage 1 within the syllabus;

- b) giving equal parity to pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN), including references to their attainment targets and levels;
- c) members supported the proposal for an examination syllabus to be followed at KS4;
- d) members supported the move to a single aim for RE;
- e) members supported the proposal that, where schools proposed to offer RE through citizenship or humanities at Key Stage 4, they should submit their proposals to SACRE for consideration in advance of implementation;
- f) members supported a reduction in the previous seven elements of the Syllabus to six, in line with the Non Statutory Framework; and,
- g) the inclusion of conceptual and experiential faiths and how these could be measured.

SACRE also considered teacher development and their awareness of other faiths.

Members were asked to forward any further comments they may have on the revised syllabus to Heather Farr.

**RESOLVED** – That a) the progress made so far be noted; and  
b) any further comments or suggestions be forwarded to Heather Farr.

#### **49. The New Staffordshire Website for RE**

(Schedule 3)

The Staffordshire website for RE had moved to a new site and had a new format. Members were shown the key changes and content of the new website, and saw the SACRE section of this site.

**RESOLVED** – That the report and the new website be noted.

#### **50. The SACRE Budget 2008-2009**

(Schedule 4)

Members received a copy of the SACRE budget for the financial year 2008-09.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be received.

#### **51. Any Other Business**

SACRE were informed that the Friends of Faith Forum was now meeting in Staffordshire and several members of SACRE were also represented on this Forum. Details of these meetings would be reported to SACRE.

## **Chairman**

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Documents referred to in these minutes as Schedules are not appended, but will be attached to the signed copy of the Minutes of the meeting. Copies, or specific information contained in them, may be available on request.