

## **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

**held on Monday 9 March, 2009 at 5.30 p.m.**

**at Salvation Army Citadel, Green Lane, Walsall**

### **Present**

Councillor Ault  
Councillor Rochelle  
Councillor Turner  
Mrs. S. Blackmore  
Reverend Elizabeth Snowden (Chairman)  
Mrs M. Gibbons  
Mrs. V. Morris  
Captain Stubbings  
Barbara Groombridge  
Ismail Dangor (Vice-Chairman)  
Mrs. A. Sharma  
Mr. R. Simmons  
Mr. K. Yeates  
Mrs L. Edwards

### **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Cook, Mr. C. Hopkins, Father Michael Leadbeater, Mrs P. M. Davies, Mr. M. Sacha, Imam Saeed-Ur-Rahman, Jeet Sohal and Father John Nankivell.

### **Minutes**

**10 November, 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November, 2008 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November, 2008 be approved as a correct record subject to the amendment of the first main paragraph on page 3, line 3 as follows:-

Delete "in frugal times"  
Insert "in feudal times"

## **Agreed Syllabus Working Group – 26 November, 2008 and 27 January, 2009**

The notes of the Agreed Syllabus Working Group held on 26 November, 2008 and 27 January, 2009 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

That the notes of the Agreed Syllabus Working Group meetings held on 26 November, 2008 and 27 January, 2009 be received and noted.

### **Late items to be introduced by the Chairman**

There were no late items to be introduced by the Chairman.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985**

There were no items for consideration in private session.

### **Agreed Syllabus – Progress Report**

A copy of the draft Agreed Syllabus together with a copy of the Progress Report were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mr. Taylor confirmed that version 3 of the draft Agreed Syllabus was closely linked to the non statutory guidance and its contents had also been discussed at the SACRE Conference on 5 March, 2009. It was anticipated that a final draft would be available by the end of April 2009.

Mr. Taylor referred to the involvement of specialist teachers to assist with the provision of information and exemplars and completion of that stage was anticipated by 2 April, 2009. On that basis, the final syllabus could be launched to schools in the third week of September 2009 to enable schools to move from the existing syllabus to the new syllabus completely by September 2010. He emphasised the need for information from the major faiths for inclusion in the document. This would take the form of a brief overview in relation to learning skills and knowledge and applying concepts to other faiths as well as Christianity.

Mr. Taylor confirmed that the final document should be a living document with any new examples being included in the appendix; the spirituality element should be built upon.

The second faith to be taught in schools could be drawn from the local area and it was usual for primary schools to agree on a common faith in order that children transferring to secondary schools would have a similar knowledge base.

Mr. Yeates agreed that pupils from his school could produce a CD of pronunciation of religious vocabulary and requested that Mr. Taylor liaise with him on this.

Mrs. Blackmore agreed to prepare a letter to be included with the revised agreed syllabus giving a description of SACRE and its functions together with its legal duties.

Mr. Taylor stated that a training session for RE teachers would be taking place between November 2009 and Summer 2010 and it might be useful for SACRE members to attend some of the training sessions.

### **Resolved**

That the Progress Report and draft Agreed Syllabus be received and that a further update on the syllabus be submitted to the 22 June, 2009 Working Group Meeting with a view to the document being finalised.

### **Feedback from 5 March, 2009 Walsall SACRE Conference**

Mr. Taylor gave a brief report on the conference that had taken place on 5 March, 2009. The conference had been a success and those attended had given positive feedback on the content of the conference as well as speakers and the suppliers who had attended to display materials and resources.

Members indicated that an annual conference would benefit SACRE as well as teachers and RE specialists.

After discussion it was:-

### **Resolved**

- (1) that a conference be set up for March 2010, workshops to include:
  - primary and secondary RE;
  - “engaging 16-19 years in a spiritual life”;
- (2) that investigations take place into the possibility of holding a conference for sixth formers from Walsall schools and Walsall college;
- (3) that a letter be sent to the Managing Director, Children Services – Serco expressing SACRE’s concern in the delay in appointing an officer to support SACRE and to hopefully work alongside Mr. Taylor to ensure a smooth transition;
- (4) SACRE placed on record its thanks to Mr. Taylor for the work undertaken with the conference.

### **National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools – Birchills C.E. V.C. Primary School**

The report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted and the school be congratulated on the outcome of the inspection.

### **Termination of meeting**

The meeting terminated at 6.40 p.m.