

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

held on Monday 10 November 2008 at 5.30 p.m.

at Salvation Army Citadel, Green Lane, Walsall

Present

Councillor Ault
Councillor Cook
Councillor Rochelle
Councillor Turner
Reverend Elizabeth Snowden
Father Michael Leadbeater
Mrs M. Gibbons
Mrs. V. Morris
Captain Stubbings
Barbara Groombridge
Mr. Mahmood Sacha
Ismail Dangor
Father John Nankivell
Mr. K. Yeates
Mrs L. Edwards

Apologies

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Khan.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October, 2008 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Together with the minutes of the SACRE Strategy Sub-Group held on 20 October, 2008:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October, 2008 be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:-
Page 2, line 8 to read "5 areas (or Patriarchates)";
Page 3, paragraph 1, line 4 to read "The Church in Palfrey was fully Orthodox and was dedicated to Cedd, brother of St. Chad"; paragraph 2 refers to today's "Middle East"; paragraph 3, line 3 "believe in one holy Catholic"; paragraph 6, lines 1 and 2 "The main diocese in Great Britain is known as Thyatera".

- (2) That the notes of the SACRE Sub-Group held on 20 October, 2008 be received.

Late items to be introduced by the Chairman

Resolved

- (1) That the item relating to the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools on Blue Coat Church of England (Aided) Infant School be considered with the item on the agenda relating to the Statutory Inspection of Old Church C.E. Voluntary Controlled Primary School;
- (2) That the papers relating to the Review of Agreed Syllabus be considered in conjunction with that item;
- (3) That the papers relating to the SACRE Conference be taken as the next item.

Conference 5 March, 2009

A briefing paper and proposed itinerary for the conference on 5 March, 2009 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Advertisements for the conference would be circulated to neighbouring local authorities and schools on 14 November, 2008. R.E. Today had agreed to advertise the event. Attendance at the conference would cost £150 per delegate.

Resolved

- (1) That the report and itinerary be noted;
- (2) That the Local Authority be requested to fund the attendance of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and one Member from each group at the conference;
- (3) That copies of the advertising material be forwarded to all members of SACRE.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items for consideration in private session.

Brief presentation by Father M. Leadbeater, Roman Catholic Church

Father Michael Leadbeater, Roman Catholic Church Representative gave a brief presentation on the faith.

Catholics understand the Church as a '*Mystery*'. It is not of human origin, nor a human organisation, but is created by God himself. She is, therefore, human and divine.

- Christians of the first centuries said, 'The world was created for the sake of the Church.' Clement of Alexandria said, '*Just as God's will is creation and is called 'the world', so his intention is the salvation of men, and is called 'the Church'.*'
- The Church is made up of those who are in communion with God and one another. This gathering together of the Church began as soon as sin destroyed that communion. It is prepared for by the call of Abraham who is the father of the People of God and then through the history of the people of Israel.
- The Church is instituted by Jesus Christ by proclaiming the Good News of the coming of the Kingdom of God, promised in the Scriptures.
- Jesus gathered round him those who accepted his message. Of these he chose Twelve with Peter as their head.
- Christ himself is the Sacrament of God, making visible the hidden mystery of God, ('The word was made flesh and dwelt among us' – JN. 1:14)
- The Church is sacramental, because as the Body of Christ, the community makes Christ present in the proclaimed word and the celebration of the Sacraments. She, therefore, communicates grace and truth to all people.
- The Catholic Church teaches that '*This Church, constituted and organised as a society in the present world, subsists (subsistit in) the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him*'. (LG 8.2)
- Jesus chose the Twelve as a permanent assembly, giving to Peter (the 'rock') alone, the keys of his Church making him shepherd of the flock. The office of binding and loosing was given to Peter, and to the Apostolic assembly as a whole, who are in communion with him.
- The revelation of God's salvation in Christ comes to an end with the death of the last apostle. But the apostles, to be sure that their work continued, were careful to appoint successors.
- Since Peter was Bishop of Rome, the office of Pope, or the successor of Peter, falls to all who become bishop of Rome after him. The Pope has many titles, the most important being *Servant of the Servants of God*. But he is also known as the Vicar of Christ. He is the perpetual and visible source of the unity of the bishops and the whole People of God in communion with him, His office is the same as every bishop: to teach and to give pastoral care, but he does this universally as Roman Pontiff
- To be catholic is to be in communion with the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome and with the successors of the apostles, the bishops. In the Archdiocese of Birmingham, in which territory we live, Archbishop Vincent Nichols is the bishop. Through him we have communion with the whole Church universal.

In response to questions, Father Leadbeater confirmed that priests did not marry although some priests did have a dispensation from Pope John Paul II. Celibacy arose out of concern that, in frugal times, a Bishop or Priest could hand his diocese to his son and could have heirs to church property.

The Vatican was a Sovereign state and like all monarchs they had a court, the Cardinals were the Courtiers, they were usually Bishops and worked in administrative offices. Normally each Bishop's conference had its own Cardinal.

Only Bishops were appointed by the Pope.

The Chairman thanked Father Leadbeater for his presentation.

Election of spokesperson to represent the Teachers Group

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Mr. K. Yeates be appointed as spokesperson of the teacher group.

Review of Agreed Syllabus – Guidance from QCA

The guidance from QCA together with draft letters, questionnaire and protocol for school visits were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mr. Taylor confirmed that a letter would be forwarded to all schools regarding a visit by SACRE members to enable consultation on the Agreed Syllabus to take place. A questionnaire would also be included on the Education Walsall website for schools to complete and submit. Provision had been made for 10 days teaching staff time to enable a review of the relevant key stages. Good practice in relation to lesson plans would also be required.

A specialist R.E. Adviser would be engaged to assist with the process and ensure that the review was on target. Ten schools had been chosen that would give a good spread of the types of schools to be visited. The remaining schools would be contacted by letter, email and would be requested to complete the questionnaire on the website.

The Chairman referred to the urgency in having a specialist R.E. adviser in place prior to 5 March, 2009 to advise SACRE and the working group.

Councillor Rochelle stated that the aims and objectives were ill defined and unquantifiable, it was noted that RE was no longer part of the OFSTED inspection.

Councillors who choose to be the Councils representatives are mocked mostly because it is seen as an unproductive waste of time. I feel a pressing need to change this.

Recommendations

1. This SACRE committee believe that no child shall be admitted to secondary education unless they can say the Lords Prayer
2. Hymns reflecting Christianity shall be taught and used in school assemblies and at other moments in all primary education establishments
3. The knowledge and understanding of all major faiths be taught in secondary education.

1. To comply with the Education Act. To have at least this basic belief that can be applied to all GOD fearing peoples. Should non believers not agree with this then that is their judgement. Their children should have full knowledge so that they can decide their own path in life.
2. To comply with the Education Act. Music is one of life's best communicating mediums, we see it in propaganda, the exploitation of money, the degradation of human values. Music is often remembered when much of our teachings are forgotten. It is so important that good Christian music reflects life to influence for good amidst the moral corruption to which we are all subjected.
3. To comply with the Education Act to reflect that people from every point of the compass have a love of one GOD to whom they offer their oblations in a variety of customs but that this central tenet is the belief on which all else is structured.

The Chairman confirmed that the recommendations could be used in the feedback stage.

Mr. Taylor indicated that SACRE should consider monitoring 10/15 schools on an annual basis to inform the Annual Report.

Resolved

- (a) That the QCA guidance on the review of an Agreed Syllabus be received.
- (b) That a meeting of the Agreed Syllabus working group meet in the near future to commence the review process.

Draft Annual Report

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Draft Annual Report be received and Members be requested to inform Mr. Taylor of any amendments they would like included prior to its submission to Council.

Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools / Section 48

- (a) Old Church C.E. Voluntary Controlled 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.

(b) Blue Coat C.E. (Aided) Infant School.

The report was circulated at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted and the school be congratulated on the outcome of the inspection;
- (2) That a letter be forwarded to schools that have achieved “outstanding” in their Ofsted reports.

Members welcomed Mrs. V. Morris, Baptist Representative, to the Council. Mrs. Morris stated that she had been Head of RE in a Stockport School for the last eight years and was very interested in working with SACRE, visiting schools and talking with advanced skills teachers.

Mr. Yeates informed Members that a member of his staff at Blue Coat C.E. Performing Arts Specialist College had begun AST training.

He also stated that a meeting of the Children’s Area Partnership would take place at Blue Coat C.E. Performing Arts Specialist College on Monday, 8 December, 2008 at 11.30 a.m. to consider activities and decide on the focus, Members of SACRE would be welcome to attend.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 6.50 p.m.