

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

**held on Monday 6 October 2008 at 5.30 p.m.**

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

### **Present**

Councillor Ault  
Councillor Khan  
Mr. C. Hopkins  
Mrs. S. Blackmore  
Reverend Elizabeth Snowden  
Father Michael Leadbeater  
Mrs. M. Gibbons  
Captain Stubbings  
Barbara Groombridge  
Mr. Mahmood Sacha  
Ismail Dangor  
Father John Nankivell  
Mr. R. Simmons

### **Appointment of Chairman for the 2008/09 Municipal Year**

Rev. E. Snowden was appointed Chair of SACRE for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

### **Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the 2008/09 Municipal Year**

Mr. I. Dangor was appointed Vice-Chair of SACRE for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors J. Cook, K. Phillips, J. Rochelle and D. Turner; Imam Saeed-Ur-Rahman, Mr. K. Yeates, Mrs. L. Edwards and Mrs. P. Davies.

SACRE was informed that Mrs. J.A. Smith (NAHT), Mrs. A. Powell (NASUWT) and Rev. R. Mason had recently resigned.

Margaret Carter (Children's Services - Serco) introduced herself as David Taylor's replacement. David's services on SACRE had been secured for a period of 10 days.

## **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 14 November, 2007; 10 March, 2008 and 8 July, 2008 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Together with the minutes of the SACRE Strategy Sub-Group held on 15 September, 2008:-

(see annexed)

## **Resolved**

- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November, 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman;
- (2) That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March, 2008 (inquorate meeting) be ratified and signed by the Chairman as a correct record;
- (3) That the notes of the meeting held on 8 July, 2008 be noted;
- (4) That the minutes of the SACRE Strategy Sub-Group held on 15 September, 2008 be noted.

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

There were no late items.

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

There were no items for consideration in private session.

## **Presentation by Father J. Nankivell, Orthodox Church**

Father Nankivell gave a brief presentation on the historical structure of the Orthodox Church. With regard to the continuity of the Church from early times, moving from the time of Pentecost, the Church was organising itself in the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Centuries into 5 main areas:- West - Rome, in the East - there were four; Jerusalem (where the Church began) Antioch (where Christians were first called Christians); Alexandria in Egypt; Constantinople (New Rome) which became the capital of the Roman Empire from the year 336 and remained capital of the Roman Empire to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. Those Churches were organised in 65 areas (or Patriarchates) with a Senior Bishop of each. They ran their own affairs united in beliefs and practices but not uniform; they had local language and customs. When issues around beliefs and practices arose a Synod (a coming together a meeting of people) from all those Churches was held and a number of these universal ecumenical Councils were first held in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century, 325 to the 8<sup>th</sup> Century, 787. These Councils defined the parameters they were diverged from the faith

of the Apostles. There were certain statements of belief within them that were affirmed at these Councils, one which has been the universal belief of the Church and still said in the services today as it was in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century.

Christianity arrived in the U.K. with the Romans. St. Albans was named after St. Alban the Martyr. In the 4<sup>th</sup> Century, there were a number of Bishops at Council in France where Latin was used as the language whereas in Jerusalem, Aramaic was spoken and the majority of Churches today used Greek. The Church in the U.K. was fully Orthodox and was dedicated to St. Cedd, brother of St. Chad, a missionary.

Following the invasion of Rome in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century, Christians lived cheek by jowl with Muslims. Orthodox Christians have lived close to Islam since the birth of Islam. A number of Christians left Syria, Palestine and took refuge in various places, including the West; one was a Greek from Syria called Theodore who, at the age of 66, was made Archbishop of Canterbury; he founded the Diocese of Hereford and the Diocese of Worcester. The School of St. Theodore in Palfrey serves the whole of the Midlands area.

Between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries, of the five patriarchates, one centred on Rome and began teaching about the Pope, the jurisdiction over the whole Christian world. This was never accepted in the Orthodox Catholic Church; "believe in one whole Catholic" conference of the faith in the Catholic teaching there was never a hierarchy amongst Bishops. A change was made to the Creed, one of the five patriarchates changed it unilaterally, from the Orthodox point of view, the Roman Church went its own way. It introduced celibate Clergy and as a reaction to this came the introduction of the Protestant Churches who interpreted the scriptures according to their understanding. The Orthodox Church spread, there were many important missions from Thessalonica to the Slavs who invented the Cyrillic alphabet which is still used in text in those Churches. The Romanians were predominantly Orthodox and used the Latin language. As these Churches grew, they became self governing with their own patriarch; there were now more than five patriarchs.

Many of the Churches in the Balkans, with the rise of the Ottoman Empire, came under another rule which has affected developments since.

As a result of the movement of people over the last one hundred years or so, a new Romanian Parish is being established in Birmingham. The Orthodox Church is numerically the second largest Church since the Roman Church worldwide.

The infra-structure exists around ethnicity for language reasons. The main diocese is known as Theotera in Asia Minor, now part of Turkey, the Bishop comes under Constantinople (or Istanbul).

The Chairman and Members thanked Father Nankivell for his presentation.

### **Election of spokespersons for the Groups**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

- (a) That the following be appointed spokespersons for the Groups:-
- Elected Members (Group D) - Councillor Ault
  - Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education (Group B) - Mrs. S. Blackmore
  - Christian and other Religious Denominations (Group A) - Mr. Dangor
- (b) That the representative for the Teacher Group be deferred to the next meeting.

### **Appointment of Members to the Strategy Sub-Group**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

- (a) That the under-mentioned persons be appointed to represent the Groups indicated on the SACRE Strategy Sub-Group:-
- Local Education Authority - Councillor C. Ault  
Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education - Mrs. S. Blackmore  
Christian and other religious denominations - Mr. Dangor  
Teacher representative - Mr. R. Simmons  
Chairman (ex-officio) - Rev. E. Snowden
- (b) That meetings take place at Pleck Methodist Church, Bescot Road, Walsall at 4.30 p.m. on the following dates:-
- Monday 20 October 2008  
Monday 16 February 2009  
Monday 22 June, 2009

### **Update on**

#### **(a) Monitoring of Agreed Syllabus**

#### **(b) Review of Agreed Syllabus**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mrs. Carter, Children's Services - Serco, stated that an RE Adviser would need to be engaged to carry out this review and would be contacting Mr. Dilwyn Hunt, Dudley MBC on this matter.

It will be necessary to show that all faith groups have been consulted and a small Sub-Group might be required to visit schools to discuss this with RE co-ordinators at schools. It will be necessary to write to schools as part of the consultation and give faith groups and schools the opportunity to comment on the Agreed Syllabus.

Mrs. Carter referred to changes in the RE curriculum at secondary level but not at primary and specialist help on that would be necessary.

Sneyd, Shire Oak and Blue Coat had offered to assist with this and it would be necessary for a nominated teacher to look at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. One teacher could look at Key Stages 1 and 2 (Primary phase).

### **Resolved**

- (a) That the process for managing an Agreed Syllabus Conference, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (b) That the support work set out in Appendix 2 to the report be noted and that officers be delegated authority to take appropriate action on points 10 to 16 of the Appendix and report the results to SACRE at the appropriate time;
- (c) That the Agreed Syllabus Conference 2008/09, as set out in Appendix 3 be agreed;
- (d) That the Strategy Sub-Group, together with any other Members of SACRE be delegated as the review body to report to the Agreed Syllabus Conference on its recommendations.

### **Proposed local conference/seminar - progress**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Children's Services - Serco would provide publicity for the Conference after half term.

### **Resolved**

That SACRE note that the Conference will be held on 5 March 2009 at The Banks' Stadium.

### **Self-evaluation - Action Plan**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

That the working group be requested to focus on addressing key areas that are identified as “developing” with a view to moving these areas forward.

### **Five year development plan - progress**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

With regard to training for SACRE Members, Mrs. Ensor reported that she had attended a Seminar run by NASACRE on a pilot scheme to train new Members. The question of training for existing Members was also raised.

### **Resolved**

That SACRE note that action is required during 2008/09 on the issues listed and agreed that the Review of the Agreed Syllabus was its priority.

### **Visits to Schools by SACRE Members**

#### **Resolved**

That the Sub-Group to look at the Agreed Syllabus be requested to consider the issue of visits to schools.

### **Proposals to change the meetings cycle**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

#### **Resolved**

That the number of SACRE meetings remain at one per term.

### **Dates, times and venues for future meetings**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

## **Resolved**

- (1) That, in order to comply with the current Constitution, SACRE meetings for the 2008/09 Municipal Year take place on:-

10 November 2008

9 March 2009

13 July 2009

- (2) That the request to hold themed meetings be refused;
- (3) That the meetings be held at the Salvation Army Citadel, Green Lane, Walsall commencing at 5.30 p.m., subject to availability of the venue.

## **2008 NASACRE Chair's Report**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

## **Resolved**

That the 2008 NASACRE Chair's Report be noted.

## **Standing Item**

### **Budgeting Requirements for 2008/09 - to identify funding for review of the Agreed Syllabus**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

## **Resolved**

That the projected costs for 2008/09 be noted.

## **Late items**

There were no late items.

## **Termination of meeting**

The meeting terminated at 7.05 p.m.