

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
10 NOVEMBER 2011  
5.00 - 6.35 PM**



**Present:**

Gordon Anderson, Church of England (Chairman)  
Paula Ridgway, The Free Churches  
John Baidam, The Free Churches  
Anne Gibbons, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
Carol Nicholls, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
Kusum Trikha, Hindu Faith  
Joel Roszykiewicz, Buddhist Faith  
Rabbi Zvi Solomons, Jewish Faith  
Arfan Rashid, Muslim Faith  
David Fawcett, Church of England  
Julie Mintern, Church of England  
Councillor Blatchford, Bracknell Forest Council (BFC)  
Councillor Mrs Hayes, BFC  
Councillor Heydon, BFC  
Madeline Diver, VOICE  
Colin Hickson, NUT  
Dr Kathy Hadfield, Co-opted Member  
Rev Michael Bentley, Co-opted Member

**In Attendance:**

Jo Fageant, Advisor to SACRE  
Martin Surrell, Children, Young People & Learning (BFC)  
Priya Patel, Democratic Services Officer

**Apologies for Absence were received from:**

Ranjit Bilkhu, Sikh Faith  
Councillor Dr Barnard, BFC  
Councillor Thompson, BFC  
Felicity Allen, NASUWT  
Samantha Hunt, ATL

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Opening Prayer/Thought for the Day**

Gordon Anderson welcomed all to the meeting and read a piece of relevant prose:  
**The Words of a Teacher - Clifford Jones** (full text at the end of the minutes)

**2. Election of Chairman**

Upon the proposition of Councillor Mrs Hayes, seconded by Cllr Blatchford, **Gordon Anderson** was elected as Chairman of SACRE for the academic year 2011-12.

**3. Appointment of Deputy Chairman**

Upon the proposition of Gordon Anderson, seconded by Anne Gibbons, **Paula Ridgway** was appointed as deputy chairman.

4. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 July 2011**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2011 were approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

Page 1: David Fawcett was a Church of England representative, this needed to be amended.

Minute 185: Gordon Anderson stated that he would continue as chairman for this academic year.

Minute 188: Circular 1/94

Minute 189: typo in third paragraph, should be 'at'.

Minute 192: Gordon Anderson also attended the Joint SACRE's Conference.

5. **Matters Arising not Already on the Agenda**

Minute 186: The Chairman advised that as there was a very full agenda for this meeting, Abby Thomas had not been asked to attend.

6. **SACRE Membership**

- a) Resignations and vacancies: The Chairman advised that there were currently four vacancies that needed to be filled as follows:

- i) The Free Churches:
- ii) Church of England, a nomination had been agreed and would be forwarded to the clerk.
- iii) NAHT: the clerk agreed to write to the head office.
- iv) ACSL: the clerk agreed to write to the Chairman, Kathy Winrow.

- b) Humanist request: The Chairman reminded the meeting that he had sought advice from the Borough Solicitor, copies of which had been circulated. There was no requirement to provide a formal slot in Group A, as humanism was not a faith. It was noted that SACRE had the power itself to co-opt a humanist if it felt that was appropriate and if there was a vacancy. No vacancy existed at the time of the meeting under the existing constitution.

It was unanimously agreed that the SACRE could not co-opt a humanist representative nor would recommend to BFC any change in SACRE's constitution.

7. **Resources Centre and Artefacts Report/Update**

Martin Surrell reported that two schools had borrowed artefacts during the period September 2011 to November 2011. The artefacts borrowed were for Sikhism and Hinduism.

8. **The Monitoring of RE and Collective Worship in Bracknell Forest Schools - Report and Update**

Martin Surrell reported that a briefing about the new Ofsted Framework for Inspection (due to come into effect in January 2012) had been given by HM Inspectors. There would be a consideration of the impact of collective worship on personal, social and moral education, if there were any concerns with this, collective worship would only then, be commented on.

Jo Fageant referred to Minute 188 from the last meeting and stated that the RE community was pressing the Government to drop the Circular 1/94, as it was not seen to be a sound document.

Martin Surrell reported that he would liaise with Bob Welch to finalise a report on the results of the survey completed by RE teachers in the Borough and submit it to the next meeting.

**9. School RE Examination Results 2010 - Review**

Martin Surrell provided SACRE members with provisional examination results for 2011 for the Borough and stressed that the results needed to be kept confidential at this stage, as they were still provisional.

Martin Surrell reported that Easthampstead Park School had entered all their pupils for the full course this year and had not participated in the short course. It was noted that Brakenhale had not entered either the full or the short course.

The Chairman and SACRE members expressed their satisfaction for the positive results.

**10. Curriculum Review and EBacc Developments - Update**

It was reported that it was now clear that R.E would not be included in the Ebacc. The Chairman reported that he had written to his MP on this matter. It was reported that there was a facebook group titled 'Keep RE as part of the Ebacc group', members were encouraged to support this group to continue the campaign.

**11. SACRE Annual Report**

Jo Fageant reported that the Annual Report would be submitted to the Secretary of State and to NASACRE. Whilst there was a legal obligation to produce these reports, there was no formal requirement to submit the report anywhere. In the past reports had been submitted to QCDA, which no longer exists.

It was acknowledged that the reports were very useful to local schools.

There was no formal deadline to finalise the report however Jo Fageant asked that members read through the report and submit any comments to the Chairman by the end of November. SACRE delegated authority for approval of the final report to the Chairman. A finalised report would be sent to all members.

It was noted that the report was not yet complete, a number of areas needed to be completed such as exam results and clarification about NASACRE subscription.

**12. RE Trails in Bracknell Forest - Update**

It was confirmed that whilst there were a number of places of interest in Bracknell, it would not be possible to create a trail for school children due to the large distances between the places of interest.

**13. Any Other Business**

It was agreed that SACRE had a clear mandate to monitor the provision of RE in the Borough and members agreed that whilst community cohesion could be viewed in

some instances to be based upon or influenced by faith, it was not considered to fall directly under the remit of SACRE.

14. **Dates of Future Meetings**

Thursday 8 March 2012 in the Council Chamber

Thursday 5 July 2012 in the Education Centre, Easthampstead Conference Centre

Thursday 8 November 2012 in the Council Chamber

**Addendum**

***The Words of a Teacher – Clifford Jones***

Though I speak with authority in the assembly hall and teach with skill in the classroom, though I lecture brilliantly on a wide variety of educational subjects, though I have appeared on a television panel of education and written a best selling textbook on the subject, if I have no love for my pupils it is not enough.

If I have a first-class honours degree, a diploma in education, or a distinction in education in my college course, if I am in close touch with the latest trends in education and heartily approve the newest ideas, if I have no love for my pupils it is still not enough.

Love makes the teacher very patient, very kind; a teacher who loves his pupils is never sarcastic, never rude, never bears a grudge, is never unfair. A teacher's love never ends.

Teaching techniques will soon be out of date, for our present ideas on education are only partial and that which is only partial will vanish when all education is seen in its wholeness.

There are three things in education which endure - faith in the ultimate value of education, hope in the future of education, and the love of teachers for their pupils, and the greatest of these is the teacher's love.

## **BRACKNELL FOREST AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE (ASC)**

### **1. Confirmation of Nomination and Appointment of Members**

The clerk confirmed that letters had been sent to all nominating bodies to ask if they had any objection to SACRE members being appointed as members of the ASC. It was confirmed that no objections had been received. In addition, the Executive Member had agreed that elected members be appointed to the ASC.

### **2. Election of Chairman**

It was agreed that Gordon Anderson chair the Agreed Syllabus Conference for 2011-12.

### **3. Coordinated Working Groups – Report on Progress**

Jo Fageant reported that the current syllabus was being used as a basis for revisions. The meetings to date had generated lots of good ideas and there had been great enthusiasm from all involved. The quality of discussions had been very good, however it was noted that Bracknell Forest had only been represented at Key Stage 2.

Jo Fageant reported that at the last syllabus review, key parts of the syllabus were turned into questions. These questions would remain unchanged and would essentially become the syllabus and all the remaining detail would be put into appendices to the syllabus. This would address the request from teachers that the syllabus be thinner and clearer, yet the appendices would still provide the detail and support for those that needed it.

Foundation Stage – the introduction and questions had been sharpened up. Requirements remained unchanged.

Key Stage 3 – had also been sharpened up.

Key Stage 4 – the requirement to sit an accredited exam had remained unchanged.

Jo Fageant reported that all changes to the syllabus had been around methodology and ways to make it clearer for teachers to plan RE. The content of the syllabus would be left unchanged, for faith groups to define.

Members thanked Jo for all the work she had undertaken to enthuse teachers and expressed disappointment that Bracknell Forest teachers were not represented except at Key Stage 2, despite being encouraged to attend and supply costs being reimbursed.

### **4. Confirmation of Approval Process and Timing**

There would need to be a meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference before the meeting of SACRE on 5 July 2012 to approve the revised syllabus being put forward for approval by the Executive Member at Bracknell Forest Council. It was hoped that this meeting could take place on 15 May 2012. The revised Agreed

Syllabus would then go forward to be approved by the Executive Member in June 2012, allowing the Syllabus to be rolled out in schools in September 2012.

**5. Date of Meeting for Final Approval of the New Agreed Syllabus**

Agreed Syllabus Conference, Tuesday 15 May 2012 at 5pm in the Council Chamber.

**CHAIRMAN**