

NOTICE OF MEETING

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Thursday 8 March 2012, 5.00 pm

Council Chamber, Fourth Floor, Easthampstead House, Bracknell

To: The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Gordon Anderson, Church of England (Chairman)
Susan Burrow, The Free Churches
Paula Ridgway, The Free Churches (Vice-Chairman)
John Baildam, The Free Churches
One Vacancy, 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
Ranjit Bilkhu, Sikh Community
David Fawcett, Church of England
Julie Mintern, Church of England
Mark Olney, Church of England
Councillor Andy Blatchford, Bracknell Forest Council
Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Bracknell Forest Council
Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes MBE, Bracknell Forest Council
Councillor Peter Heydon, Bracknell Forest Council
Councillor Clifton Thompson, Bracknell Forest Council
Felicity Allen, Associations Representing Teachers (NASUWT)
Madeline Diver, Associations Representing Teachers (VOICE)
Colin Hickson, Associations Representing Teachers (NUT)
Samantha Hunt, Associations Representing Teachers (ATL)
Maria Soulsby, Associations Representing teachers (NAHT)
One Vacancy, Associations Representing Teachers (ACSL)
Kathy Hadfield, Co-opted Member
Rev Michael Bentley, Co-opted Member
ALISON SANDERS
Director of Corporate Services

EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSTRUCTIONS

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- 4 Do not re-enter the building until told to do so.

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Bracknell

AGENDA

	Page No
1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence (prayer to be led by Madeline Diver)	
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 November 2011.	1 - 6
3. Matters Arising	
4. SACRE Membership	
5. NASACRE News and AGM - 23 May 2012 (London) SACRE Members are asked to consider if they would like to attend the NASACRE AGM, the SACRE budget could cover the costs of the attendance of one member.	
6. Syllabus Launch and Joint SACRE's Conference	
7. Resources Centre and Artefacts Update	
8. Teaching of R.E - Newspaper Article (Information Item)	7 - 8
9. Any Other Business	
10. Dates of Future Meetings 5 July 2012, Education Centre, Easthampstead Conference Centre 8 November 2012, Council Chamber	



**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.

CHAIRMAN

MPs form group to protect teaching of religion

By Richard Garner
EDUCATION EDITOR

The future of religious education in schools is under threat as a result of government reforms, MPs claim.

A new all-party parliamentary group is being set up to safeguard the subject, amid fears it is being sidelined after its omission from the list of subjects recognised by the Government's new English baccalaureate.

The new body, which will be supported by all the country's leading religious groups, as well as the British Humanist Association, follows a poll by religious education teachers showing that 30 per cent of schools had cut the time for RE since details of the new baccalaureate had become known.

This is despite warm words by David Cameron and - this week - the Queen, about the central importance of faith to today's society.

Speaking at a multi-faith reception alongside the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Queen said that she believes the concept of the established Church is "commonly under-appreciated" and "occasionally misunderstood".

Earlier this week Baroness Warsi, the Conservative party chairwoman, warned of the danger of "militant secularists" downgrading the importance of religion in public life.

On the subject

Religious education is a statutory subject for all pupils to learn up to the age of 16.

However it has a unique place in the curriculum because what is to be taught is not laid down as part of the national curriculum.

In practice it is down to Standing Advisory Conferences on Religious Education (SACREs) in local areas to determine the nature of the curriculum locally. The content has changed markedly over the years so that pupils now study a wide range of comparative religions and their

According to a 2011 survey, 53.5 percent of Britons identified themselves as Christian, while 39 per cent said they believed in "no religion".

i NEWSPAPER 17 FEBRUARY 2012

She also derided the way in which across Europe and in the United Kingdom, "spirituality is suppressed and divinity downgraded".

RE has soared in popularity as a subject at GCSE level since the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York.

The number of students studying it has increased from 113,000 to 460,000 in the past 15 years.

Stephen Lloyd, Liberal Democrat MP for Eastbourne and Willingdon, who will chair the new all-party parliamentary group, said: "It is clear that pupils find it a rewarding and fulfilling subject." RE is a statutory subject on the syllabus for five to 16-year-olds, but it is not included as part of the national curriculum.

Local RE bodies have been given the task of interpreting how it should be taught in schools in their areas. Under the new English baccalaureate, students will qualify for it if they achieve five A* to C grade passes at GCSE in English, maths, science, a foreign language and a humanities subject. However, the humanities are restricted to history and geography with no mention of RE and art. The Religious Education Council, which includes 50 different religions, will provide professional support for the new group.

origins (although Christianity must be given a high focus)

In addition, a survey of 80 SACREs by the British humanist associations revealed that 62 of them included mention of humanism in their curriculum.

A typical GCSE syllabus for a religious studies exam includes topics on God, death, human relationships, poverty, and wealth, prejudice and discrimination, religion science and the environment, sanctity of life and war and peace.

Richard Garner

The Queen with the Archbishop of Canterbury, spoke about the role of the Church at a multi-faith reception in London last



week
REUTERS