

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BRACKNELL FOREST  
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HELD AT  
EASTHAMPSTEAD PARK MANSION ON  
15 JUNE 2006  
(5.00 - 6.20 pm)**

Present:

Free Churches:  
Reverend Michael Bentley  
Mrs Paula Ridgway  
Mrs Irene Robinson

Roman Catholic Churches:  
Mrs Louise Birley  
Mrs Anne Gibbons

Other Religions:  
Dr Kathy Hadfield

Church of England:  
Mr Gordon Anderson  
Mrs Julie Mintern

Bracknell Forest LEA:  
Councillor Cliff Thompson

Co-opted members:  
Mrs Gill Ledsham

Associations Representing Teachers:  
Mr Colin Hickson

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Mrs M Beadsley, Mr D Fawcett, Mrs J Graham, Councillor  
Mrs D Hayes, Mrs C Nugent, Councillor Mrs J Ryder and Mrs K Trikha

In attendance: Mr Nasir Sabir

**23. Welcome and apologies for absence (prayer to be led by Mrs Anne Gibbons)**

The Chairman, Mr Gordon Anderson, welcomed all those present at the meeting. Mrs Anne Gibbons read the "Prayer for Peace" by Bishop George Appleton.

**24. Minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 7 February 2006 (enclosed)**

The minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 7 February 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**25. Minutes of the Agreed Syllabus Conference meeting held on 30 March 2006 for approval (enclosed)**

The minutes of the Agreed Syllabus Conference meeting held on 30 March 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**26. Matters arising from the SACRE minutes**

Minute 11 – Welcome

The meeting was advised that Mrs Julie Mintern and Mrs Irene Robertson had officially been appointed to the SACRE by the Executive Member for Education.

**27. Artefacts review and report (enclosed) – Nasir Sabir**

The meeting was advised that there had been a slight drop in the use of the artefacts last term, which was probably attributable to the fact that this was the main term for preparation for examinations. However, there were now a number of requests to use artefacts in the coming weeks. The meeting discussed how to increase the use of the artefacts and agreed the following actions:

- (i) to contact the RE Co-ordinators for schools which had not so far used the artefacts as a reminder of their availability.  
**(Action: Nasir Sabir)**
- (ii) amend future artefacts reports to include only completed term and to provide comparative figures for usage over the previous year.  
**(Action: Nasir Sabir)**
- (iii) to consider the potential for a SACRE display at possible future cultural events.  
**(Action: Gordon Anderson/Cllr Cliff Thompson)**
- (iv) to make copies of the artefacts catalogue available at the launch of the Locally Agreed Syllabus on 7 July.  
**(Action: Nasir Sabir)**

The meeting commented very positively on the artefacts display both in terms of layout and situation at the entrance to the Education Centre. It also wished to record its thanks to Bonnie Ruskin for the work done with the artefacts and the report provided.

**28. Draft SACRE Development Plan 2005 – 2009 (enclosed)**

The meeting was advised that this had been compiled and included costings for the SACRE activities listed. Such costings were as accurate as possible, which was important to show that the SACRE budget was being used effectively and needed to continue at similar levels to that provided in previous years. The meeting thanked the working group which had put the Development Plan together. The meeting commented that the Plan was helpful both in terms of identifying the achievements of the SACRE to date and focussing on the work yet to be done, which would be further helped by an annual review of the Plan. The meeting was reminded of the advisory nature of its remit, so Council would need to agree to anything before it went to the Borough's schools.

**29. New Agreed Syllabus update and launch on 7 July 2006**

The meeting was advised that the final print draft of the Bracknell Forest Locally Agreed Syllabus looked very good and included colour photographs. It expressed its thanks to Jo Fageant and all who had contributed, as this had been a substantial piece of work, which had been very successful. The front cover for the Bracknell Forest version was very similar in format to that used by the other Berkshire areas

except that the Bracknell Forest logo had been enlarged in relation to those of the other authorities. A humanist section had been supplied, however this was felt to be in need of some changes before it could be included and it was anticipated that the finalised version would be an appendix to the main Syllabus.

In terms of the launch, the meeting was told that the available dates across Berkshire had gone out to teachers, with the joint Wokingham and Bracknell Forest launch being held at Easthampstead Park Mansion on 7 July 2006, which would consist of a full training day. Copies of the Syllabus would be given out on the day.

30. **Berkshire SACREs' conference held on 6 June 2006**

The meeting was advised that the key speaker was Dave Francis, who had provided a presentation which detailed the toolkit he had created to help schools self evaluate their teaching of RE. Whilst this was acknowledged as a very useful facility for schools, the meeting expressed concern as the Self Evaluation form would not normally be available to SACREs and therefore could not easily assist the SACRE in its monitoring role.

The Church of England Diocese SIAS self evaluation scheme and Roman Catholic Diocese equivalent were cited as good examples of effective school self evaluation tools which were useful to SACREs as the final document was public. Jo Fageant had attended the conference and it was agreed that the notes written by Ms Fageant would be circulated to SACRE Members.

**(Action: Gordon Anderson)**

The meeting was advised that the Chairman was currently working on a draft model policy for collective worship in schools for the Oxford Diocese, which would hopefully be offered to Bracknell Forest schools by the SACRE when completed.

31. **NASACRE AGM 4 May 2006 - report by David Fawcett and Nasir Sabir (enclosed)**

The meeting was advised of the details of the NASACRE AGM held in London in May 2006. David Fawcett and Nasir Sabir attended and provided a written report of the day, the highlights of which were:

- Young People's Faith Forum – this was an exciting project funded by the Westhill Trust which had provided support to Bristol, Hounslow, Hull and East Riding, Portsmouth and Solihull. Examples of the very positive work done were provided and awards would be made to different authorities for this year.
- RE self evaluation forms were to be produced by Culham, however there was a fee and the information produced would be on a national rather than local level.
- The National Council for RE was to receive more funding to produce a national strategy for RE, to improve teacher training and to build the capacity of SACREs.
- HMI Subject Inspections – general details were provided of the outcomes which highlighted the differences in approach and achievement along gender lines, as well as feedback on the process of being inspected.
- QCS Report – given by Mark Charter who explained that the DFES and QCA were to revise the Key Stage 3 curriculum, though the National Framework for RE would be unchanged. There was also to be a re-evaluation of the provision of RE for 14-19 year olds. Additionally, the first 10 units of schemes of work were in the final stages of production and due to be put out on the website in late July.
- The Keynote Speech – given by Mick Walters, Director of Curriculum Division at QCA who discussed his vision of creating a curriculum that met the needs of the

community, by enlisting all of the stakeholders into the process. He also detailed the challenges facing SACREs to raise their profiles and monitor and improve standards.

32. **Any other business**

- Colin Hickson advised that he was aware of a potential NAS/UWT representative and would pass these details onto the Chairman.  
**(Action: Colin Hickson/Gordon Anderson)**
- Gill Ledsham raised the issue of a level of cynicism about the teaching of RE in schools. It was felt that this could be as a result of a misunderstanding of what teaching RE meant, namely to promote spiritual understanding and respect for others. It was agreed that this be an agenda item for discussion at the next SACRE meeting, as well as the need to raise and improve the profile of SACREs.  
**(Action: Tina Stevenson)**
- Louise Birley expressed her thanks on behalf of all SACRE members for the work done by the Chairman, Gordon Anderson on the Locally Agreed Syllabus and the Draft Development Plan.

33. **Proposed dates of next meetings:**

Tuesday 14 November 2006

Wednesday 7 March 2007

Thursday 21 June 2007

**CHAIRMAN**