

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -
19 JUNE 2003**

Group A: Christian Denominations and other Faiths represented in Haringey:

*Mr B. Haylock (Salvation Army FCFC), Ms S. Berkery-Smith (Diocese of Westminster (RC)), Mr M. Usamah (Muslim Educational Trust), Mrs A. Kennard (Board of Deputies of British Jews), *Mr M. Ibrahim (Muslim Educational Trust), *Ms O. Thoma (Greek Orthodox), *Ms B. Parsons (Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's), Dharmachari Kulamitra (North London Buddhist Centre) *Mr K. Ranganathan (Hindu (Shiva) Temple Trust) and Miss A. Campbell (United Reformed Church).

Group B: Church of England:

*Mr E. Griffith, Mrs J. Jamieson, Ms C. Goymer, Mr J. Seabrook and Mr A Johnston.

Group C: Professional Associations:

Ms N. Parmar (NUT), David Ferguson (NUT), Mr C. Cahill (SHA), Mr N. Bradley (HTA) *Ms J. Arrowsmith (NUT) and two vacancies

Group D: Local Education Authority Group:

Councillor Bloch, *Councillor Haley, Mr J. Baaden, *Mr B. Oakley and one vacancy

Co-opted Non-Voting Member:

Mr N. Bacrac (British Humanist Association)

*Members present

Also Present: Denise Chaplin (R.E. Consultant), Jenny Stonhold (LEA Education Effectiveness) and Nick Evans (Clerk to SACRE).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR:

AGREED:

That the Eddie Griffith be appointed Chair for the Municipal Year 2003/04 and that it be that at this point the position of Deputy Chair will not be appointed to.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Mrs Kennard, Ms Goymer, Mrs Huntley, and Mr Bradley.

3. CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE:

AGREED:

That the Constitution and Terms of Reference be agreed as amended and presented to the next meeting for information.

4. MINUTES:



AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2003 be confirmed.

5. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY:

This item was deferred for consideration at the next meeting by which time it was anticipated a timetable for the planning of events would have been drawn up.

6. NON STATUTORY FRAMEWORK FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND PROPOSALS FOR A NATIONALLY AGREED SYLLABUS:

SACRE considered the report of the feasibility study carried out by QCA on a non-statutory framework for religious education. Also circulated was a letter to the Secretary of State for Education sent by the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the Free Churches calling on him to introduce a new national statutory RE syllabus. This had been sent without any reference to any of the other faith communities or professional bodies and was not welcomed by SACRE. The strength of the locally Agreed Syllabus was that it balanced the faiths in a local area and was structured to meet the needs of the local communities. There would be no "ownership" of a national syllabus and SACREs would be left with merely a monitoring role which could see them dwindle.

SACRE agreed for the Chair to send a letter to the Secretary of State voicing its opposition to the proposal for a national syllabus and highlighting a number of particular concerns whilst expressing support of the proposals of QCA in relation a non-statutory framework.

AGREED:

That SACRE endorse the approach of QCA in respect of the development of a non statutory framework for RE and that the Chair write to the Secretary of State in response to the proposals of the three churches for a national Agreed Syllabus.

7. RE IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS:

SACRE received the OFSTED reports on Religious Education in Primary and Secondary schools. In relation to Primary it was noted that generally the picture was improving with RE being well taught. It was noted that an important improvement which could be made related to the improvement of the means of assessment to make it less onerous for teachers.

In terms of Secondary schools it was clear that the use of short courses needed to be encouraged in Haringey schools and it was agreed that a working party meet in advance of the next scheduled meeting of SACRE to discuss the reluctance of schools to run short courses and the difficulties vis-à-vis citizenship. It was acknowledged that the lack of specialist teachers for RE was hampering the further development of the subject.

8. INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

SACRE received the AREIAC short course research and noted the letters which had been sent to the schools which had presented their applications for a determination to the meeting held on 15 May.



Minutes of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
19 June 2003

The PSHE & Citizenship School Improvement Officer reported on the REASE Project 'The School and its Communities' an RE & Citizenship Project. This involves 3 Secondary Schools and 4 primary schools. The teachers on the working group and Broadwater Farm Primary School have had a very successful visit to the London Islamic Cultural Society Mosque in Wightman Rd. Resources are being developed for schools to use.

N. Bradley

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EDDIE GRIFFITH
Chair



