

NOTES OF AN INQUORATE MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -

11 February 2004

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), Dharmarchari Kulamitra (North London Buddhist Centre) *Mr K. Ranganathan (Hindu (Shiva) Temple Trust), Miss A. Campbell (United Reformed Church) and *Rev. R. Allaway (Baptist Churches).

Group B: Church of England:

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

Group C: Professional Associations:

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

Group D: Local Education Authority Group:

Councillor *Fabian, 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), *Su Shaw (LEA Inclusion Strategy Manager), *Jenny Stonhold (LEA School Improvement Officer), *Nick Evans (Clerk to SACRE) and *Roy Wade (Representative Services Management)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Ms Berkery-Smith, Dharmarchari Kuamitra, Mssrs. Cahill and Bradley.

2. MINUTES:

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2003 be confirmed subject to an amendment to Minute 6 to denote "Hindu Temple at Neasden" and to the website address reading "www.mcec.org.uk".

3. MATTERS ARISING:

NEWSLETTER:

In response to a question raised it was confirmed that the Newsletter had not been posted on the web because of "teething problems" and the Clerk confirmed that hard copies could be sent out if requested.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Clerk reported that he had placed round the table a letter from the QCA dated 8 January 2004 acknowledging receipt of the Council's Annual Sacre report 2002/2003.

4. MONITORING STANDARDS - OFSTED REPORTS

The Ofsted reports together with the summary of the R.E. Consultant in respect of the following schools Bounds Green Infants School, Stamford Hill Primary School and Stroud Green Primary School were considered.

In respect of Bounds Green Members were pleased to note the strengths identified in the bullet points and especially that the effectiveness of the school was good and that results were improving faster than those in other schools.

The report for Stamford Hill noted the efforts of the Head Teacher and the management Team to further improve standards and that there had been satisfactory improvements since the last inspection in 1999. Members were reminded that there various issues still to be addressed such as revisiting the 8 level scale and the need to discuss and agree a syllabus.

5. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

The Members had regard to the summary notes of the Holocaust Memorial Day Working Group of the 8th January 2004 which set out the progress being made for the events being held to mark the Memorial Day for 2004.

There was a discussion on whether a collective worship service could be arranged to which the members of Sacre could be invited. Members also asked whether further and on-going consideration could be given to the plight of the population of people in Rwanda and the advisors to Sacre undertook to look at these matters.

6. SELF REVIEW FOR R.E DEPARTMENTS

The Members discussed the process for self review for R.E. departments as a means of raising GSCE achievement. The members noted the standard had been raised and that it was in an appropriate format for distribution to schools and furthermore that it would be placed on the web site as soon as practicable.

7. DIRECTORY OF PLACES OF WORSHIP

The Clerk reported that the response to the request for information for the preparation of the directory had been disappointing and that continuing efforts were being made to further this project. Reference was made to the assistance that the web would bring to the directory once it was operational and it was noted that the issue would be kept under review.

8. REASE PROJECT

The LEA School Improvement Officer set out the actions that had been taken to put in place this project and submitted photographs of educational visits that had taken place and those visits being organised. Day courses were being held including a course in Hinduism and members of Sacre would be invited to attend any course they may wish to take part in.

9. SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Clerk reported on the Development Plan for 2003/4 and made particular reference to Objective 1 "Monitoring Standards of RE and Collective Worship in Haringey Schools" and Objective 2 "Raise Standards in the provision of Collective Worship". The Clerk reported also that there had been some problems in the mechanism to review the agreed syllabus but that progress was being made which should ensure that the standards are raised.

It was agreed that

- 1) to visit the Hindu Temple at 202A Archway Road on Wednesday 14 July and that before the visit "twilight" for the teachers would be held; and
- 2) the next meeting of Sacre would be held to consider the process of consultation on 10 May 2004 at the Civic Centre.

10 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The Clerk reported on the progress achieved and made reference to further information placed round the table at the commencement of the meeting and that the development actions currently being developed would be submitted to the next or July meeting of Sacre.

Time concluded: 8.10p.m.

INFORMAL MEETING

At the conclusion of the meeting the Chair, Eddie Griffith, announced that the Clerk to Sacre, Nick Evans, had resigned to take up an appointment with Cumbria County Council. Eddie paid tribute to Nick for his dedicated service to Sacre over many years and to the initiatives that Nick had been instrumental in bringing to fruition and to the high regard he was held in by both members and his colleagues.

Nick responded to the kind comments and said that he had enjoyed his stay in Haringey and particularly his involvement with Sacre and to close working relationship he had established with Eddie, Denise and Jenny.

There then followed a presentation to Nick.

Time concluded: 8.20p.m.