

MINUTES OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
31 January 2005

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. Ibrahim (Muslim Educational Trust), Mr Alli (North London Islamic Trust), Rabbi D Lister (Board of Deputies of British Jews), Ms O. Thoma (Greek Orthodox), Ms B. Parsons (Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's), Vacancy (North London Buddhist Centre), Mr K. Ranganathan (Hindu (Shiva) Temple Trust), Vacancy (United Reformed Church), *Rev. R. Allaway (Baptist Churches), Ms Rosemary Dinnage (Quaker), Ms M Huntley (Methodist) Vacancy (Seventh Day Adventists), *Peter Adeniyi (Pentecostal Churches)

Group B: Church of England:

*Mr E. Griffith, Mrs J. Jamieson, *Mr G Mariner, two vacancies

Group C: Professional Associations:

Ms N. Parmar (NUT), Mr N. Bradley (HTA) *Ms J. Arrowsmith (NUT) Ms J Stonhold (NUT), *Mr A Yarrow (SHA) and two vacancies (NASUWT) and (NAHT).

Group D: Local Education Authority Group:

*Cllr Haley, *Cllr Aitken, *Rabbi J. Baaden, *Jennifer James, Livinius Emmanuel Onyearugbulem

Co-opted Non-Voting Member:

Mr *N. Bacrac (British Humanist Association)

Also Present: *Denise Chaplin (R.E. Consultant), *Dan Warner (School Improvement Officer, Primary ICT)

SUMMARY OF PRE-MEETING ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The members endorsed the booklet with the the following comments which would be fed back by Jennifer James:

- P64 – “These three Natures or Persons are yet one God”. (bottom of page)
- Strictly speaking, the Doctrine is that “God is Three Persons with one Nature”
- P68 – The Apocrypha “Some versions of the Bible include them in the Old Testament whilst others keep them separate “ – actually nearly all Protestant Bibles in Britain leave them out altogether!
- P70 – Birth Customs and Naming Ceremonies. “Where a new Christian is a baby or young child....” But no reference is made to the case of adult believers who are the ONLY candidates for baptism in some denominations (eg. Baptist, Pentecostal) and are seen as the primary sort of Baptism, even in churches that merely baptise infants.
- Nothing is said about Church Government, which is the main reason for division amongst Protestants.
- It is wrong to equate African-Caribbean with Rastafarian and why a chapter on this and one on Mixed Race when others are on religions. The African Traditional Religion has been left out.
- Rabbi Baaden challenged the section on Judaism.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Were received from Mr Alli, Mr Ranganathan, Ms Parma, Ms Thoma and Mr Bradley

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2004 and the notes of the Inquorate Meeting on 16 December 2004 be agreed and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Noted that Rev Allaway was present at the meeting on 9th September 2004

3. URGENT BUSINESS

None

4. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY UPDATE

Denise Chaplin reported back to members on the daytime events, which had covered a range of topics, from bullying to genocide. Jennifer James fed back on the Bruce Castle event, which had representatives from a range of faiths and included poems and readings. The events were collectively described as uplifting and moving and the Board of British Jews had thanked Haringey for hosting the event. It was noted that the publicity budget had been reduced in the last year but leaflets had been distributed in public areas and information had been posted on the London Grid for Learning since before Christmas.

5. UPDATE ON SACRE MEMBERSHIP

Item noted.

6. EVALUATION ON THE WORK OF SACRE (group working exercise)
This item collectively covered items 8 and 9 on the agenda

Denise Chaplin introduced this item and explained the Self Evaluation tool which was produced by the HMI's. It was suggested that 3 break away groups form to look at the areas of:

- Monitoring and improvement of the standards, quality and provision for RE
- The Partnership between SACRE, the LEA and other key stakeholders
- The contribution of SACRE to the promotion of social and racial harmony

Groups would then feed back to the meeting on each key area, stating whether they felt it was under development, established or advanced and quoting examples which backed up their judgements. The feedback from this session would form the basis for the SACRE Development Plan for 2005/06.

Cllr Aitken asked for his view to be recorded in that exercises such as this were more valuable when members had the opportunity to take them away and then feed back.

Several points of interest arose from the feedback sessions:

- Links between RE teaching and Council Bodies have not been raised in Scrutiny Reviews of Education. It was suggested that the Director and Lead Member be invited to the next SACRE meeting.
- A series of awards for students and departments who could show examples of best practice from the Ofsted Reports. It was agreed that proposals for this be brought to the next meetings
- Members noted that Peace Alliance was not just about gun and knife crime but parenting, education and community issues. It was suggested that a Peace Alliance Representative be invited to the next meeting and they be sent a copy of the Annual Report. The Clerk to SACRE would arrange this and also investigate whether the Faith Forum would like a SACRE representative.

7. ANNUAL REPORT

After the last inquorate meeting on 16 December this was sent to the QCA by the deadline. Confirmation of safe receipt was received by the Clerk to SACRE. The changes made at the inquorate meeting were confirmed by members. It was noted that the report is also on the SACRE page of the web site.

All schools receive a copy of the report, the LEA and external bodies. It was agreed that data from exam results would be explored at the next meeting.

10. NON STATUTORY NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Item noted

11. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on 31 March 2005, which would fall within the Easter Holidays. It was therefore agreed that the meeting be moved to 12th April 2005 and be held at Fortismere School.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:30pm.

Cllr E Griffith
Chair

