

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Minutes of Meeting, 13 September 2010

ACTION

1 Welcome

- 1.1 New members from the Muslim Council and the Hindu Community were welcomed to the meeting. All members of SACRE should consider joining at least one of the working parties.
- 1.2 Betty Richmond, a key member of the ASC has announced her retirement from SACRE but would like to continue working ex officio with the Collective Worship group. Although members of working parties will normally be members of SACRE, there is provision for her to do this under Section 10.2 of the Constitution.

2 Faith Makes a Difference – Paul Davies

- 2.1 Paul demonstrated some of the resources that supplement the new agreed syllabus. These can be found at www.faithmakesadifference.co.uk which is an open website and will be linked to the ASC website. Fifteen dispositions were identified for supporting material at KS2 to be used to stretch pupils, or for pupils to access independently or for group work. In each unit parts of the *Faith makes a difference* films are used demonstrating pupils and others speaking about the impact of the disposition on themselves. This is followed by an interactive quiz based on the responses of 100 pupils from two Birmingham schools and links to further resources.
- 2.2 The meeting found Paul's examples to be a great interactive resource and wondered how the website might be used and even expanded, perhaps by asking the same questions of more pupils during RE week in March next year. It would be useful to know the number of hits and how long people had then stayed on the website. The website might also be demonstrated at the Digital Conference at the ICC on 18 October. The IT committee will oversee links to the ASC website.
- 2.3 The meeting felt the interactive resource on the website contained a lot of useful material and Paul and Television Junction should be proud of their work. Letters of thanks will be sent to the pupils of the two schools involved (Somerville, St John's B11).

Simone

3 Minutes of meeting, 6 June

- QCDA Conference, 2.3: sentence to read *John Keast also explained why government guidance may not have come out **in** the way some had hoped.*

- RE at BASS, 4.2.2: *There is concern about the way in which Christianity is taught ...*
- **Relationships and Sexual Health, 5.7**

4 **Matters arising from meeting of 9 June**

4.1 **Birmingham City of Culture, 2.2.** The city's bid to become City of Culture 2013 had failed, to general disappointment.

4.2.1 **Agreed Syllabus, 3.3.** The website is a product of its time and it was generally agreed that it is now time for it to be refreshed. Originally it was intended for internal use but usage has widened so it needs to be more versatile in its appeal and applications. There is now a better understanding of the way different aspects mesh.

4.2.2 Paul agreed to submit proposals to include the experiences of people involved in the original site. There are two target audiences: teachers preparing lessons and those wishing to have a wider understanding of the syllabus. Governors and parents were also consulted about the original brief and they should again be included as should the IT and Finance committees.

5 **RE at BASS**

5.1.1 Additional copies of the DVD *Faith makes a difference* have been sent to all schools. Copies of the KS1 and Early Years DVDs have also been sent to schools as appropriate. Schools were also sent guidance on parents' right to withdraw pupils from collective worship and RE and on school visits to places of worship. Copies will be included with the minutes.

5.1.2 Rabbi Arkush asked for clarification of the request for information about abbreviations on the website: their nature and the response.

5.1.3 Further information was also sought on Somali parents requesting withdrawal from collective worship. Simone explained that requests are increasing from parents for full or partial withdrawal from RE. Schools are advised to talk to parents about the syllabus and the dispositions.

5.2 **Ofsted Inspections.** The perception of RE teaching in the city based on these reports is that it is good. SACRE asked Simone to write again to Ofsted requesting more comment on RE as such rather than through the medium of community cohesion. Attention was drawn to the RE subject inspection report on James Watt Primary School which received good comments on its flexible approach to RE.

5.3 **Early Years work.** Mapping the dispositions against areas of

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learning has been completed and two practitioners are now looking at developing a few of these through case studies.

- 5.4 **Monitoring and evaluation of the syllabus.** Six primary and three secondary schools took part in the pilot study. Responses are to be analysed and the questionnaires adapted before being sent to additional schools in a wider study.

6 **Reports from Working Parties**

- 6.1.1 **Collective Worship.** A group discussion to come to an agreement on common terms was deferred to the next meeting.
- 6.1.2 Sior explained that normally the Collective Worship Group would bring decisions to SACRE for approval but on this occasion they wanted agreement on common terminology within SACRE. They had therefore prepared a series of statements for discussion within SACRE. A discussion on Collective Worship will have priority at the next meeting.
- 6.1.3 If possible, Guy and Marius will attend the next meetings in order to help with the discussion document.
- 6.2 **Finance Group** will be meeting soon. The budget for next year has not yet been agreed. Working groups may bid for funding to support their work.
- 6.3 **Publicity group** has to meet and elect a Chair.
- 6.4 **Curriculum group** will be looking at schemes of work and elements of KS1.
- 6.5 **IT group** is urgently looking for additional members. Rabbi Arkush thought that it was time to work on pulling together the IT aspects contained within all working groups.
- 6.6 **Pupil-related projects.** The group is developing support for an event next March.
- 6.7 **Relationships and Sexual Health.** Next meeting is 12 October.
- 6.8 **Humanism.** Next meeting has to be arranged.

7 **Determination: Canterbury Cross Primary School**

The re-application for a whole-school determination was agreed. Committee B was concerned for the small minority for whom the determination would not apply. They asked that when reviewing the application form for determinations, the Collective Worship Group include a question for Governing Bodies concerning how

Next
meeting

the interests of such groups will be met.

9 **Celebrating Religious Education, 24 March 2011**

The focus has changed to developments in Birmingham schools. The Chairs' group will be the working group for this.

10 **Development Plan** – deferred to November meeting

11 **Any other business**

11.1 **Agreed Syllabus.** Interest in the Agreed Syllabus has been received from several Local Authorities, particularly Ealing who are considering using it as a basis for theirs.

11.2 Guy thanked everyone for their congratulations on the award of his MBE. He believed this was recognition of the work on the ASC and of SACRE.

Dates of future meetings:

- Thursday 25 November, 1.00-4.00 pm
- Tuesday 15 February, 1.00-4.00 pm
- Thursday 16 June, 6.00-9.00 pm
- Monday 19 September, 6.00-9.00 pm

SACRE Attendance, 13 September

Organisation	Name	Surname	
Spiritual Assembly of the Bahais	Val	Johnston	Present
Heart of England Baptist Association	Sior	Coleman	Present
West Midlands Buddhist Council	Tony	Lister	
Council of Black Led Churches			
Council of Black Led Churches			
Birmingham Churches Together	Gareth	Davies	
Duke Street Chapel	Janet	Hopton	Present
Churches Associated with the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches			Present
Hindu Community	Sue	Fearon	
Hindu Community			apologies
Hindu Community	Ravi	Ladwa	Present
International Mahavia Jain Mission	Arvinder	Jain	apologies
Representative Council of Birmingham and Midland Jewry			Present
Representative Council of Birmingham and Midland Jewry	Shmuel	Arkush	
Methodist Church District	Loretta	Cohn	
Muslim Liaison Committee	Peter	Bates	Apologies
Muslim Liaison Committee	Zahida	Hussain	Present
Muslim Liaison Committee	Malik	Hussain	Present
Muslim Liaison Committee	Yusuf	Ahmed	apologies
Muslim Liaison Committee	Abdlkarim	Hussein	Present
Muslim Liaison Committee	Badr	ul-Haque	
Muslim Liaison Committee	Tahir	Alam	Present
Greek Orthodox Church	Kosmas	Pavlidis	
Rastafarian Community	Jennifer	Moses	
Roman Catholic Church	Mary	Baines	
Sikh Community	Jagbir	Jhutti-Johal	Present
Sikh Community	Gopinder	Kaur	Present
United Reform Church	Marius	Felderhof	Present
ATL	Christine	Tanquee	Present
ATL	Bethan	Ruth	Present
NAHT	Sue	Baker	apologies
NAHT	Sandra	Bailey	Present
NASUWT			
NUT	Lucretia	Fields	Present
NUT			
ASCL	Ronald	Skelton	Apologies
Church of England	Jill	Stolberg	Present
Church of England	Gillian	Beale	apologies
Church of England	Rachel	Jepson	Present
Church of England	Toby	Howarth	apologies
Church of England	Tricia	Wick	apologies
Church of England	David	Isiorho	
Birmingham City Council	Susan	Axford	Present
Birmingham City Council	Stuart	Clarkson	
Birmingham City Council	Paulette	Hamilton	Present
Birmingham City Council	Jon	Hunt	apologies
Birmingham City Council	Mohammed	Fazal	
Birmingham City Council	Gurdial	Atwal	
Birmingham City Council	Guy	Hordern	Present