

SACRE Meeting
Wednesday, February 10, 2011
County Hall

Present:

Cllr Allen Clarke
Cllr Rev Tom Irvine
Stephanie Smart
Gail Brockway
Suresh Gunputrao
Michael Groves
Hafiz Mohammed Muntazir
Helen Wyton
Julia Kurcin
Naomi Posner
Graham Jennings
Arthur Summerfield
Rev Ken Johnson
Hilary Craik
Alison Fawley

Representing:

Nottinghamshire County Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
ATL
Secondary teacher
Hindu
Roman Catholic
Muslim
Baptist
Buddhist
Jewish
United Reformed Church
British Humanist Association
Secretary to SACRE
LA Adviser
NCC (minutes)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Lynn Sykes, Anne Lumb, Rev Terry Nowell, David Maddison and John Heard

2. Presentation

Dr M Hussain gave a presentation on universal values/moral values championing interfaith working (Dr Neil Hawkes).

Dr Hussain was thanked by the Chair for his interesting presentation and for the hospitality of the Nottingham Islamia School in hosting the meeting.

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes from the meeting held November 3, 2010 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

- Membership update:
 - Quakers are considering the request for a representative and the secretary is hopeful of a favourable response
 - NAHT have not yet responded.
 - Bahais have expressed an interest in joining SACRE and the secretary suggested that they are invited to attend the autumn term meeting
 - A second Roman Catholic is required. The secretary will contact the Catholic Education Service regarding a nomination.

- Annual report.
The Chair has written the introduction and signed the report. It was agreed that the report should be distributed electronically.
- Leave of absence for religious occasion:
In response to a query raised by the Jewish community, the secretary reported back that schools should grant leave of absence for religious observance.

5. Review of British Humanist Association membership

Arthur Summerfield presented the case on behalf of the British Humanist Association to the meeting.

Ken Johnson clarified the voting procedure. Each group met individually to consider the request.

The results of the vote for granting full membership to BHA were recorded as:

Group A – No

Group C – No

Group D – No

The result of the vote for co opting the BHA to SACRE for a further 2 years were recorded as:

Group A – Yes

Group C – Yes

Group D – Yes but with conditions

The observations and feelings of Group D were that, despite a warning when the matter was discussed last year, the effect of the BHA representative's presence at meetings is disruptive and an undue amount of time is spent on matters raised by him. The group felt that the criticisms he makes are his perceptions of RE in schools rather than reality.

It was agreed that the BHA be co opted for a further period of two years and that the BHA representative is to be helped to arrange accompanied visits to schools to observe good practice and to attend NASACRE training for new SACRE members (The Secretary to confirm if this is still available).

Arthur Summerfield thanked the panel and requested that a note be made of the review period (February 2013) since previous review periods had not been adhered to. He also gave his thanks for the opportunity to visit schools. Hilary Craik suggested that the visits be coordinated by the newly appointed AST for RE.

6. SACRE Effectiveness Plan

Ken Johnson explained that the purpose is for a working group to review the plan for the academic year starting September 2011. Members were asked to consider for the next meeting if a one year plan is the most effective or should the time span be longer , for example up to the next review of the Agreed Syllabus.

7. National developments in RE

- The RE handbook is to be available online.
<http://re-handbook.org.uk/>
- RE in humanities in EBACC is discussed on pages 4 & 5. The Secretary agreed to send a letter to the Secretary of State.
- Cuts in services & SACRE – Members were asked to read the information. Hilary Craik is leaving the LA on 31 March and a replacement has been assured.
- NASACRE AGM and elections to be held may 11, 2011. Members were asked to let the Secretary know if they wished to attend.

8. SACRE and Academies

This is an area of concern for some teachers. Hilary Craik informed the meeting that if schools opt out, SACRE cannot do anything. An offer could be made to those schools but it was unclear as to who would do this as RE is not part of the core offer and there may be capacity issues within the LA.

9. Faith experiences in County schools

Information was circulated regarding the faith experiences offered to children since September. Hilary Craik confirmed that an Advanced Skills Teacher (AST) for RE has been appointed.

10. Training dates

Details of future training events were circulated.

11. Group inter change of news

Ken Johnson requested that members email him with details of events for inclusion on the “What’s on” page of the website (www.rsresources.org.uk)

Individual groups informed the meeting of events happening within their groups.

12. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at Kneesall Primary

13. Councillor Clarke closed the meeting and thanked members for their attendance.