

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th June, 2010.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Igan Hayati – Baha'i Faith

Sue Elbrow – Free Churches

Committee 2 – Church of England

Andrew Allen

Alan Bignell

Christine Isles

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillors Bains, Basharat, Maclsaac and Mann

Also Present: Shabana Kauser (Clerk)

Apologies for Absence: Lynda Bussley, Jo Osborne, Jo Fageant and Annie Keighley.

PART I

1. Election of Chair

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Reverend Alan Bignell was elected as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 10th February, 2010

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 February 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

Slough Religious Studies Centre

The Chair reported that membership to the RE Centre had been steadily declining for a period of time. It was reported that a telephone enquiry was due to be carried out to ascertain what the needs of the users were and whether these were being adequately catered for by the Centre.

4. Application for a Renewal of Determination for Godolphin Infant School

Members were advised that a request for a renewal of a determination granted to Godolphin Infants School on acts of collective worship had been received. It was reported that the Senior Adviser, Standards and Achievement

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had visited the school in May 2010, following which it was recommended that the determination be extended.

Whilst endorsing the application for renewal, Members expressed their surprise that there were so few festivals celebrated in the school assemblies in light of the comments made by the Headteacher to the Senior Adviser following her visit in May 2010.

In the subsequent discussion it was also raised that the minutes of the Governing Body submitted within the agenda, did not refer to the approval for the determination by the governors.

Resolved – That the renewal for determination for Godolphin Infant School be approved subject to a copy of the minutes being submitted showing the approval for the determination by the Governors.

5. Reports on Determination visits for Montem Primary School and James Elliman Primary School

Members were reminded that at the meeting of SACRE in February 2010, applications for renewals of determinations for James Elliman Primary School and Montem Primary School were approved subject to a satisfactory visit taking place by the Senior Adviser, Standards and Achievement. Following visits to James Elliman Primary School in May 2010 and Montem primary School in March 2010, the Officer's recommendation was for the determinations to be extended.

6. Feedback from the QCDA NASACRE Conference

Christine Isles updated Members with regard to her attendance at the QCDA /NASCARE Conference in March 2010. A detailed session was held with regard to the new primary curriculum which was due to be implemented in September 2011. However, it was brought to the meeting's attention that this had been rescinded by the new Education Secretary.

An overview relating to the new RE guidance was provided which clarified the relevant legislation and explained the duties of SACRE.

It was reported that the conference had been very informative and had provided an opportunity to share experiences with other SACRE bodies. It was agreed that information relating to the conference would be included in a future newsletter.

7. AOB

Art In Heaven Project

Members were provided with a copy of a letter that had been circulated to all Headteachers regarding participating in a local version of the Art In Heaven project. It was noted that the closing date for entries was 22nd July 2010 and it

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was anticipated that a community exhibition would be held in the autumn term.

Recent Publications

Copies of the OFSTED Executive Summary on RE and Religious Education in English Schools: Non Statutory Guidance 2010 were provided to Members.

Joint SACREs Conference

The Clerk reported that any member wishing to attend the Joint SACREs Conference needed to have confirmed their attendance by 15th June 2010. Sue Elbrow and Christine Isles indicated that they would be attending the conference and would confirm acceptance direct to Jo Fageant.

SACRE Members Handbook

Sue Elbrow informed Members she had recently attend a SACRE meeting and had received a handbook for SACRE Members and commented that the handbook would be an invaluable introduction and guide to the work of the SACRE for new members. It was agreed that the Clerk would purchase 10 copies of the booklet for distribution to members at the next meeting.

8. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 13th October 2010 and that the venue was to be confirmed.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.15 pm and closed at 5pm)