

Minutes of SACRE meeting 6 March 2007
Held at Mayfield C.E. Middle School

The business meeting was preceded by a welcome by the Headteacher, Mr Gary Booth, who also gave a brief history of the development of RE in the school. Mrs Helen Snow, RE coordinator, then described how the school decided on the curriculum content and its management in the school. She explained that pupils may have had unfortunate previous experiences in RE, the school therefore re-labelled the subject "Cultural Studies"! Arising from the lively discussions, SACRE was made aware that perhaps a "Directory of Local RE Resources" is required. Thanks were expressed by the Chairman for its hospitality and for the stimulating presentation.

Chairman Joy Buckley

Attendance The Venerable Caroline Baston (CE); Reverends Mike Exell (CE) and Malcolm Stinton (Free Churches); Mesdames Janet Tedman (CE); Lynn Churchill-Slough (Teacher), Ann Lane (Teacher); and Mr Ralph Hodd (RC)

In attendance Harry Kirby (Clerk/Consultant); Lillian Weatherley (RE Consultant); Lionel Alexander (Isle of Wight Jewish Society); Kelly Levett (Student)

Apologies Mrs Pat Goodhead

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Caroline Baston and Malcolm Stinton to their first SACRE meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Any matter arising from the minutes were agenda items

4. Correspondence

- Details of NASACRE Annual meeting
- NASACRE Newsletter

5. Agreed Syllabus

A residential conference had recently taken place to move this forward. Sessions had been led by Graham Langtree who has recently been involved in writing the new Agreed Syllabus for Dorset. It was agreed to use his expertise and input to take advantage of the work already carried out on that document. Attention had also been given to incorporate the need for 10% curriculum time for RE in Roman Catholic Schools, compared to 5% in other schools. There will be a meeting with Graham Langtree next week to make decisions on the Agreed Syllabus.

6. SACRE Development Plan 2006-2007

It was decided to hold a development session, lasting half-a-day, for the setting of SACRE new development plan.

7. Reports from Members attending Conferences/Meetings

Harry Kirby gave brief details of a conference "Strong SACREs, Good RE" organised jointly by QCA and NASACRE.

8. Annual report

Members considered how to overcome the poor attendance at the Annual meeting. Suggestions included :- Report completed Autumn Term, presented Spring Term, incorporating pictures; publicity on non-white sheets; ensure Clergy informed; meet earlier, say, 1600; County Press advert; invitations direct to Governors (Chair or Governor responsible for RE); early notice of meeting.

Matters arising from this discussion :-

- At the Annual meeting an elected member was concerned that until now he had been unaware of the existence of SACRE! It was therefore agreed that the Clerk/Consultant should write to Elected Members explaining the existence and role of SACRE
- It was also decided to hold a training session, Headteachers and Governors invited, clarifying roles and responsibilities concerning Worship and RE
- To help facilitate SACRE's monitoring role, Church schools would be asked to forward a copy of Section 48 reports to SACRE
- Incorporate "Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education" in SACRE's letterhead

9. Any Other Business

- The matter of the contact re Orthodox Church contact was raised and clarified
- Budget sub-group would meet next week – 13th March, 1600hrs at the Education Centre
- SACRE members expressed concern that in the restructuring of the Education Service on the Island, issues over continuity of the RE curriculum and lack of specialist teaching may not have been considered. The Chairman would raise these concerns, in the form of a question, at one of the Roadshows

10. Future Meetings

- 12 June 2007 Venue: High school to be identified (Carisbrooke?)
- 9 October 2007 Venue: St George's School
- 19 February 2008 Venue: St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School

All meetings at 1600 unless otherwise notified