

**MINUTES of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held at the Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Tuesday 18th March, 2003 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillor J. Stone (Chairman)

Cllr A.J. Allen, The Rev P. Barlow, Mrs. J. M. Brown, Sister M. Gallagher, Dr. M. Goodman, Mrs A. Mundy, Mrs. R. Privett, Mr J. Rendall.

**33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Ms. K. Mayglothling, Mr M. Rollnick, Revd. I. Terry, Councillor Mrs. J. H. Thomas.

**34. NAMED SUBSTITUTES**

There were no named substitutes.

**35. MINUTES**

In relation to minute No 23 – Evaluating Religious Education – the Head of Inspection, Advice & School Performance Service (IASPS) suggested that, due to administrative issues with using the inspection team to undertake interviews, Mr M Carter, a former education inspector, be approached to undertake the work. He also reported that the questionnaire, referred to in minute No 29 – Review of Revised Agreed Syllabus, would be despatched soon.

Mr Rendall reminded members that the GSUS LIVE trailer, referred to in minute No 24, was currently at The Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School and was well worth a visit.

**RESOLVED:** That subject to the above amendment or comments the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December, 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**36. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

No written questions from members of the public had been received.

**37. PRESENTATION – “GROWING UP AND LIVING AS A SIKH**

Navinder (Navi) Gill, a Marches Consortium trainee teacher gave a talk on growing up and living as a Sikh.

Navinder spoke about Sikh family life in and around the Birmingham area and gave an insight into the difficulties her parents had encountered when they arrived in the Country. She spoke about her difficulties at school and the problems she had faced in doing homework when her mother hadn't spoken English. Navinder spoke openly about the expectations placed upon her by her family and talked about the caste system in relation to marriage.

She commented that while not being made to attend Sikh Temple as a child, she had learned the teachings from her father and family. Since teaching RE herself, she had had to step back and question her knowledge of Sikhism. She outlined the Sikh philosophy of being hard working, independent; inquisitive and proud people. Sikhs were considered to be diplomats and respected other religions.

In response to a question regarding her key to success she commented that through pressure from her family to perform, she had seen education as the key to self-betterment. She had, through her own determination, attained a Science Degree. She commented that people seemed to have difficulty in separating religion from culture and that this only heightened racial issues.

SACRE appreciated the value of inviting people talk about their faiths which helped SACRE to appreciate the wide spectrum of faiths.

The Chairman thanked Navinder for her fascinating and frank talk and wished her the best of luck with her training at Heywood High School, Hereford and her future career.

**RESOLVED: That the talk on 'Growing up and living as a Sikh' be noted.**

### **38. DIOCESE OF HEREFORD: SECTION 23 INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS**

Mr Rendall reported upon the Diocese of Hereford: Section 23 Inspection of schools and circulated at the meeting copies of a report on the inspection of Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled Schools. He highlighted the latest inspections at Holmer VC, Leintwardine VA and Little Dewchurch VC schools and commented that the whole report affirmed the excellent RE teaching and valuable contributions made to school life in the County.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted**

### **39. SACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE - UPDATE**

The Consultant for RE reported on the planning for the SACRE Annual Conference 2003.

She reported that the planning was proceeding well and commented upon a number of minor amendments to the programme. She further reported that a speaker for the Christian workshop was still required. She requested member's views on a suggestion that SACRE members be assigned to act as host to workshop speakers.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (a) **the report be noted and SACRE Members be assigned to act as host to workshop speakers and;**
- (b) **Mr Rendall discuss with the RE Consultant a possible speaker for the Christian workshop.**

### **40. THE ANNE FRANK COMMUNITY EXHIBITION 2003 – UPDATE**

**The Chairman agreed to take agenda item 8 – The Anne Frank Community Exhibition 2003 – Update – as the first item of the meeting.**

SACRE received an update report on the Anne Frank Exhibition at the Hereford Cathedral, October 2003.

Annie Morphy, Consultant to the Hereford Anne Frank Exhibition explained that it was a touring National Exhibition about the life of Anne Frank intended to combat prejudice and racism by inspiring compassion, tolerance and justice. She explained how the exhibition would be organised within the Cathedral and the financial support for the event. She highlighted that the exhibition would appeal to a wide adult audience and to children aged 10 and above. Work with schools was an important part of the focus of the exhibition and she showed examples of material for classroom use.

SACRE noted that associated events would be organised at the Courtyard Theatre and City museum and that other 'fringe events' would also be run.

**RESOLVED: That the update report on the Anne Frank Exhibition be noted.**

#### **41. TERMLY TEACHERS MEETING**

The Consultant for RE reported that the next termly teachers meeting for RE subject leaders would be held on Monday 24th March, at the Education Centre, Blackfriars Street, Hereford. The focus of the meeting would be RE and SEN and would be an open forum to share experience and ask questions led by Janet Brown (Blackmarston School) and Melanie Mellor (Ashfield Park School Ross on Wye) (members of the RE SEN working party)

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

#### **42. NASACRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

SACRE were invited to consider a) nominating a delegate to attend the NASACRE AGM in Birmingham on Wednesday, 7th May and b) nominating a candidate to serve on the NASACRE Executive Committee.

SACRE noted that Mr Tristram Jenkins had served, until his retirement, on the NASACRE Executive Committee and that such an appointment required a great deal of commitment due to the number venue of meetings.

**RESOLVED: That**

(b) **Subject to no other nomination Bridget Knight, General Inspector, IASPS, be nominated to attend the 2003 NASACRE AGM and;**

(b) **no nomination be made to the NASACRE Executive Committee.**

#### **43. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS**

SACRE received an update report on the development of Collective Worship Guidance for schools.

Mr Rendall reported that limited finance had been made available from the LEA and the first two tasks, detailed in the discussion paper issued at the meeting, had been completed. Work would now commence on the third task namely to gather together

a working group to draft up the guidance. It was expected that draft guidance would be presented to SACRE by December 2003.

The Head of IASPS reported that budgets for 2003/2004 would be tight. However, he hoped that resources could be found within the SACRE/education budgets to support this work.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

#### **44. VALUES EDUCATION**

SACRE received a presentation by Bridget Knight, General Inspector, on Values Education.

Ms. Knight reported that the purpose of Values Education was to:

- help the school and the community think about and reflect upon positive universal values and the practical implications of expressing them in relation to themselves, others, the community and the world and;
- to inspire individuals to chose their own personal social moral and spiritual values and be aware of ways of developing and deepening them as citizens of the world.

She added that the school was a microcosm of the world. What was created in schools today could provide a glimpse of how our world could be tomorrow.

She outlined the background to Values Education which, at its root, were three basic assumptions:

- universal values teach respect and dignity for each and every person;
- each child cares about values and has the capacity to create and learn positively when provided with opportunities;
- students thrive in a values-based atmosphere in a positive, safe environment of mutual respect and care – where students were regarded as capable of learning to make socially conscious choices.

As a former Headteacher in Oxfordshire she outlined the Headteacher's perspective to this approach to education and gave examples of how it translated into school life.

One of the primary ways it was taught was through the modelling of expected pupil behaviour. Equally important was that these values were moddled by the school staff in a way that would reach parents and the wider community.

SACRE noted that two schools in the County were already embracing this teaching model. It was reported that plans were being made for a seminar to be run for teachers on this subject.

The Head of IASPS commented that while this could involve major changes in a schools attitude, it proved that this sort of change could achieved.

It was suggested that this subject could be linked to citizenship at next years SACRE Conference and that a further report be made to a future meeting.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted and a further report be made to a future meeting.**

#### **45. RELIGIONS IN HEREFORDSHIRE**

SACRE received an information report on the outcome of the 2001 Census in relation to religions in Herefordshire as at 2001 and were invited to consider the membership of SACRE.

The Committee Administrator (Scrutiny) reported that over the years, SACRE had occasionally enquired as to the range of religions present in the County. Following release by the Office for National Statistics of the 2001 Census information, appendix 1 to the report indicated the statistics obtained. The report also advised in relation to the composition of Committee A in relation to 'Other Faith' representation on SACRE.

SACRE noted the statistics and agreed that, due to the importance of the issue and to allow sufficient time for full debate, the issue of the membership of 'Committee A – Other Faith representation' be deferred to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED: That the report on Religions in Herefordshire be noted and the issue of 'Other Faith' representation on SACRE be the first substantive item on the next agenda.**

#### **46. NEXT MEETING**

SACRE discussed the date of the next meeting and noted that the Consultant for RE was unavailable on the suggested date of 2nd July.

**RESOLVED: That the next meeting be held on Tuesday, 1st July, 2003 at Brockington, Hafod Road, Hereford.**

The meeting ended at 4.18 p.m.

**CHAIRMAN**