

# Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Monday 24 November 2008

## PRESENT:

Mrs Martin, in the Chair.

Councillor Stark, Vice Chair.

Mrs Abubakar, Mrs Armitage, Councillor Mrs Aspinall, Mr Basquill, Mr Blackler, Mrs Bowness, Rev. Chave, Mr Dragden, Councillor Drean, Councillor Mrs Foster, Councillor James, Dr Hamon, Mr Lyddon, Miss McVicker, Ms Mitchell, Ms Razey (substitute for Mrs Hill), Dr Saha and Mrs Shelmerdene.

Apologies for absence: Mrs Briggs, Mr Grainger, Mrs Hill and Dr Lee.

Also in attendance: A Donkin, J Marshall and R Watson.

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.30 pm.

## 45. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Resolved that Mrs Martin and Councillor Stark continue in their respective roles as Chair and Vice-Chair until next autumn (2009) and, in the meantime, a sub-group comprising the following SACRE members be convened to consider the terms of reference including length of term for Chair and Vice-Chair appointments:

- Group A – Kelsang Dragden
- Group B – Mrs Patricia Martin
- Group C – Ms Teresa Griffiths
- Group D – Councillor David Stark.

## 46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Member of SACRE declared an interest –

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Minute no. and subject</b>                                | <b>Reason</b>                            |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Mrs Cathy Bowness | Minute no. 49<br>Holocaust Memorial Day –<br>27 January 2009 | Education Officer for<br>Holocaust Trust |

## 47. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2008 were submitted for approval.

Resolved that –

- (1) the attendance list be adjusted as follows –
  - delete Mrs Hendley;
  - add – also in attendance: P Aley, A Donkin, J Marshall and R Walker;
- (2) the following resolution be added to minute 42, The Plymouth Children and Young People's Trust Plan –

Resolved that concern be expressed that SACRE, a statutory body, had not been consulted on the Plan;
- (3) PAT (Professional Association of Teachers) be requested to nominate a replacement for Mrs J Hendley who had not attended SACRE meetings for a considerable time.

## **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

### **48. Welcome New Members**

The Chair welcomed the following SACRE Members to this meeting –

- Mr Louis Basquill – Roman Catholic Church Representative, Group A
- Mr Tony Blackler, (Plymouth Association of Governors) – co-opted representative;
- Ms Denise Vasey, substitute for Mrs Liz Hill.

### **49. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY - 27 JANUARY 2009**

A briefing paper was circulated (see agenda supplement pack, [www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy) ). Rev. Peter Chave, Mrs Cathy Bowness and the Education Adviser (Inclusion) advised that –

- the Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony was to be held on 27 January 2009 at the memorial tree in the English Garden, Mount Edgumbe at 12.30pm;
- on the same day, an evening meeting for reflection on this year's theme 'Stand up to hatred' would be held in the Lower Guildhall at 7.00pm;
- the national event would be held in Coventry next year and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event would be held in 2010 in London;
- it was hoped that Plymouth could host the event in 2012 as that would be the year of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a synagogue in Plymouth;
- tenders for hosting the national event required to be submitted by Councils the year before the event and a resolution from the Council would be required 18 months before the event;
- new resources were being published today, including a communities pack and an education pack free to all schools;
- a commemorative book was published every year and schools could have their names mentioned in it if they did anything relating, e.g. reference in school assembly;
- teachers were being provided with the tools to improve understanding and the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust could help with training, but only if they were invited to;
- this issue came within the wider community cohesion context of (i) reducing bullying in and out of school, and (ii) supporting young people to make a positive contribution.

Resolved that –

- (1) an email be forwarded to secondary schools encouraging attendance at the event on 27 January;
- (2) feedback on the event be provided at the next meeting;
- (3) a news item be included in the bulletin regarding SACRE and schools;
- (4) a regular item be included on the SACRE agenda regarding the Holocaust national event bid for 2012.

(Mrs Cathy Bowness declared a personal interest in the above item.)

(This item was moved up the agenda in order to facilitate good management of the meeting.)

### **50. MEMBERSHIP ISSUES**

The Religious Education Advisor reported that, as stated in the Draft Annual report which had been circulated at this meeting, Groups A, B and D were complete. Group C now included Liz Hill

as PAPH (NAHT) representative and other Primary Heads and special schools had been contacted for nomination.

Discussion took place regarding the involvement of young people with SACRE –

- the possibility of inviting members of the youth parliament to be co-opted members should be explored;
- attending daytime meetings might be a difficulty for students;
- developing a SACRE link with the young people's faith forum was a possibility;
- some local authorities had Youth SACREs and consideration should be given to this idea.

Resolved that the sub group which was to be set up to consider the constitution should also consider the issue of a Youth SACRE.

#### 51. **'COMMON GROUND'**

A group of four Christian and Muslim young women from the Youth Interfaith Group attended the meeting and presented an extract from a DVD which had been produced by the group. SACRE heard from the group about their aims and what they had learned from the experience of meeting together.

Resolved that –

- (1) the members of the Youth Interfaith Group be thanked for their attendance and for their interesting DVD;
- (2) the young women be requested to provide feedback to SACRE on how they thought other young people could be encouraged to take part in the Youth Interfaith Group.

(This item was moved up the agenda in order to avoid causing delay to the young people in attendance.)

#### 52. **DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Religious Education Adviser submitted the Plymouth SACRE Development Plan 2008-2011 for approval. Regarding paragraph 2 of the Development Plan, the Religious Education Adviser informed those present that he would be producing a format to monitor the impact and integration of the new Agreed Syllabus. This would need to be done in conjunction with the Devon RE Adviser.

Resolved that the impact of the Agreed Syllabus 2008-2011 be monitored at every SACRE meeting.

#### 53. **SACRE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Religious Education Adviser circulated a draft Annual Report 2007/08 for consideration (see agenda supplement pack [www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy) ).

Resolved that –

- (1) comments on the Annual Report be forwarded to the Religious Education Adviser before the end of term;
- (2) a copy of the 'Making Sense of Religion' document be forwarded to all SACRE Members.

#### 54. **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATES**

The Religious Education Adviser advised that –

- he was waiting to hear back from PASH regarding SACRE's request to have the opportunity to address PASH on their concerns regarding Key Stage 3 integrated curriculum model;
- the Ofsted document of 2007 'Making Sense of Religion' made the following points regarding religious education within the context of the 21<sup>st</sup> century –
  - (i) Religious Education (RE) cannot ignore diversity within each faith;
  - (ii) RE cannot ignore controversy;
  - (iii) RE cannot ignore social reality of religion;
  - (iv) RE cannot ignore its role in community cohesion and teaching of diversity.
- A toolkit was available to schools from the Department for Children, Schools and Families – "Learning together to be safe – A toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism" and in essence, schools were encouraged to consider how to –
  - (a) build resilience in young people to resist extremism;
  - (b) build capacity within organisations;
  - (c) provide effective support to those who are being targeted;

The Religious Education Advisor reported that his role would be changing. He would be remaining at the Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity but would be concentrating more on advising on RE and community cohesion. At present, the Director/RE Adviser of the Centre continued to be funded by the Local Authority.

#### 55. **RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT POST 16**

Miss Caroline McVicker (AST Secondary) circulated a note and action plan on Post 16 Subject Networks Plymouth Local Authority (see agenda supplement pack [www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy) ).

SACRE members were informed that –

- it was disappointing that only five schools were represented on the Network;
- the subject needed to be on the Council's website;
- a guest speaker suggested was the Chief Examiner from OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations).

#### 56. **PLYMOUTH CENTRE FOR FAITHS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

The Religious Education Advisor submitted a Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity newsletter for September to December 2008. He advised that the Centre was beginning to be seen as a model of good practice. He circulated a Calendar of Religious Festivals for information.

#### 57. **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of SACRE would be held at 10am on Monday, 9 March 2009, in the Council House.