

Minutes of the meeting of the East Sussex SACRE, held on 12 October 2006

Present: Rev D Bastide (C of E), Ms J Bell (NUT), Mr B Devaux (NASUWT), Councillor J Garvican, Mrs C Gravestock (external RE consultant), Mrs C Hughes (School Improvement Service), Mr M Lloyd (C of E), Rabbi V Silverman (Jewish Community), Mrs R Stutters (Baha'i Faith Community), Dr B Vance (URC)

	Action
1 Election of Chairman	
1.1 Charlotte Gravestock reported that Councillor Garvican had been re-elected unopposed by his local authority colleagues on SACRE, and welcomed Councillor Garvican as Chairman for the year.	
2 Welcome and Apologies for Absence	
Charlotte welcomed colleagues and thanked them for attending, especially Connie Hughes, Senior Primary Adviser for the School Improvement Service, and a former headteacher of a Church Primary school. Connie would attend as and when she was available.	
Apologies were received from Kevin Fossey (Buddhist Community), Peter Frere (Unitarian Church), Maureen Hughes (Diocese of Arundel & Brighton), Linda Lee (Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University), Pat Lock (C of E), Councillor Roy Martin, Janet Ottley (NAHT), Martyn Relf (New Churches), Richard Saunders (C of E), Councillor Richard Stogdon and Alex Tindall (Religious Society of Friends).	
3 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2006	
3.1 Matters arising	
3.1.1 Item 3.2 – Update on Faith Communities Partnership project	
In response to a request for a further update, Charlotte Gravestock reported on the school visit undertaken by Rebecca Stutters and a member of the Quakers. The theme of the visit had been 'the responsible use of money'.	
Reports on further visits would be made to the next meeting. Charlotte referred to the challenge of finding the right people to contribute to the project.	CG
3.1.2 Item 7 – Update on the Racial and Religious Hatred Act	
Councillor Garvican reported that there had been no further progress on the Act. Once the guidance was published, there would be further discussion at SACRE.	
3.2 The minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting.	
4 Presentation by Mark Chater	
4.1 Mark Chater, Principal Subject Officer for RE at the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, was welcomed to the meeting. It was clarified that the QCA had published the non-statutory national framework for RE.	
4.2 Mark highlighted the role of the QCA in monitoring and looking after the curriculum as a whole, and gave a presentation on RE at the heart of the	

curriculum, focusing on Key Stage 3. (The full detail of the presentation is appended to the minutes.) Following the presentation there was an opportunity for questions and comments.

- 4.3** Connie Hughes referred to the emphasis on a skills-based approach to the curriculum, and reported that this was already happening at Key Stages 1 and 2 in East Sussex. Connie also highlighted the good networking practice in the county. Mark referred to the funding opportunities which were available for innovative projects, and undertook to provide further details.

- 4.4** In response to a concern that was raised regarding schools who are not provided with local support from a SACRE, Mark confirmed that the QCA has the power to act to ensure that support is available. He also drew attention to the support available nationally through SACRE workshops.

5 Local update

5.1 Buddhism Awareness event, 9 November 2006

Charlotte drew colleagues' attention to the invitations to the event which were available. Members were encouraged to attend and, where possible, bring someone with them.

5.2 Self-evaluation in RE – school visits

- 5.2.1** Charlotte referred to the reports on the three visits to schools, for the purpose of helping them with their RE self-evaluation process. She emphasised that the visits are not inspections, but rather are intended to be supportive and non-threatening. The school is provided with a toolkit of questions in advance of the visit, and part of Charlotte's role is to help the school to develop the areas it has identified.

- 5.2.2** As well as being of benefit to schools, the visits would assist SACRE in its monitoring role by providing a source of rich information. Charlotte reported that she hoped to have undertaken ten visits by the end of March. The reports of visits would also be shared with the schools' contact advisers.

- 5.2.3** In response to a query, it was confirmed that the Diocese also reported on Controlled and Aided schools, and that Section 48 reports (reports on denominational education) were made available to the local authority. Martin Lloyd stated that the Diocese would be happy to provide these reports to SACRE. Charlotte said that this had already been happening and that these reports, too, would form part of the picture of RE and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in East Sussex schools.

6 SACRE constitution

- 6.1** Members were asked to consider the draft constitution which had been revised in the light of the points made at the last meeting (shown in italics).

- 6.2** Members present agreed that the wording in italics should be adopted. It was also agreed that it would be helpful to amend the constitution so that a quorum would be one quarter of the total membership, including at least one representative from each of the four groups.

ALL

6.3	As the meeting was not quorate according to the current constitution, both of these recommendations would be brought back to the next meeting, together with a proposal from the Baha'i representative relating to short-term membership of the Co-opted group.	
6.4	The suggestion that the term 'chairperson' in the constitution be substituted by 'chairman' was also agreed.	
6.5	Concern was expressed at the poor attendance at the meeting, and it was emphasised that, without sufficient members present, important decisions could not be made.	
7	SACRE budget	
7.1	Charlotte referred colleagues to the budget situation outlined in the paper circulated with the agenda. The estimated costs for 2006/07 and 2007/08, including support for school self-evaluation, were within the annual budget of £4,300. Charlotte expressed the view that this would seem to indicate that SACRE would not be justified in seeking a budget increase.	
7.2	Attention was drawn, however, to the increased costs of supply cover, and it was agreed to propose an increase of £200 to allow for this, thus bringing the budget to £4,500. Councillor Garvican undertook to take this proposal forward.	JG
8	Agenda items for next meeting	
8.1	<p>The following agenda items were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fostering sound RE in looked after children (Pat Lowne to approach Helen Davies, the Deputy Director responsible for the service) - SACRE constitution, including consideration of short-term membership of the Co-opted group - Faith Communities Partnership project - Report on Buddhism Awareness event - Report back from Mark Chater <p>It was confirmed that the meeting would start with a talk from Alex Tindall on his new book.</p>	PL
9	Any other business	
9.1	<p>Child Protection support in schools</p> <p>Clarification was sought on the support available in schools to children suspected of abuse. It was clarified that child protection issues are the responsibility of a designated member of staff, and that clear child protection procedures are in place. From a Primary school perspective, Connie Hughes reported that, as staff know their pupils well, any changes in behaviour would soon be evident to them.</p>	
9.2	<p>SACRE meetings in February and June 2007</p> <p>The next meeting was confirmed for the afternoon of 26 February 2007 at Uckfield Civic Centre.</p> <p>It was agreed that the venue for the June meeting would be confirmed at the next meeting.</p>	