

## Minutes of the meeting of the East Sussex SACRE, held on 12 October 2007

**Present:** Ms J Bell (NUT), R Brinkman (Religious Society of Friends), Mr B Devaux (NASUWT), Councillor J Garvican, Mrs C Gravestock (RE consultant), Mr M Lloyd (C of E), Councillor R Martin, Mr R Saunders (C of E), Rabbi V Silverman (Jewish Community), Councillor R Stogdon, Mrs R Stutters (Baha'i Community), Dr B Vance (URC), Mr C Whitburn (CfBT) (substituting for Mrs C Hughes)

### Action

#### **Talk by Elizabeth Peirce on multi-faith and Christian Primary school assemblies**

Councillor Garvican welcomed Elizabeth Peirce, a friend and author of books, notably 'Multi-Faith Activity Assemblies'.

Elizabeth explained that her five books had been the result of a painful learning process over many years, starting as a Deputy Head of a large Primary school when she had been required to take school assemblies. Elizabeth's talk – illustrated with songs, sound effects, and puppets and visual aids – showed how, by involving pupils through the use of puppets, masks, pupils' art work, and story books, she had "got it right".

Charlotte Gravestock commended Elizabeth for her range of unusual stories, which was a very rich resource, and reported that a copy of Elizabeth's book was in the Resource Centre in St Leonards and could be borrowed by teachers.

#### **1 Welcome and apologies for absence**

- 1.1 Councillor Garvican asked colleagues to spend a few moments in reflective silence, and asked them to think especially about the injustices of everyday life, including the situation facing the monks in Burma.
- 1.2 Councillor Garvican welcomed back Rebecca Stutters to SACRE after her illness, saying that she had been very much in colleagues' thoughts. A welcome was also extended to Ruth Brinkman, who had replaced Alex Tindall as the Quaker representative. Ruth, a former RE teacher, stated that she was glad to be joining SACRE.
- 1.3 Apologies for absence were received from Rev D Bastide (C of E), Kevin Fossey (Buddhist Community), Connie Hughes (CfBT), Pat Lock (C of E), Janet Ottley (NAHT) and Martyn Relf (New Churches).

#### **2 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2007**

##### **2.1 Matters arising**

###### **2.1.1 Item 3 – National update**

An update was requested on the national review of the Key Stage 3 curriculum. Charlotte reported that Dave Francis had been appointed as the lead subject adviser for RE, together with a total of 32 regional RE advisers, including 3 for the South-East. The advisers would be developing a training programme for Secondary school teachers over the next six months.

<p>There would be a conference for teachers in the South-East, although Charlotte highlighted that if this were not held near East Sussex it might prove difficult for our teachers to access. In view of the lack of information available to date, it was agreed that Charlotte would e-mail the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) on behalf of SACRE to request the latest information.</p>	CG
<p><b>2.1.2 Item 3.4 – Debate on RE as a National Curriculum subject</b>  In response to a request for an update, Charlotte reported that no further information had been received. She stated that the position seemed to be somewhat confused, as schools were now being encouraged to follow the National Framework even though it was non-statutory. Charlotte’s advice was that schools should continue to use the East Sussex Agreed Syllabus. In the meantime, Charlotte undertook to seek further clarification on the position in her e-mail to NATRE.</p>	CG
<p><b>3 Discussion on draft Community Cohesion guidance for schools</b></p>	
<p><b>3.1</b> Charlotte reported that the draft guidance was open to comment until the end of October, when it would be finalised in preparation for the governors’ ‘Awareness’ events in November.</p>	
<p><b>3.2</b> It was clarified that promoting community cohesion was now a statutory duty for schools, and that Ofsted would be looking for evidence of this in schools from the Autumn 2008. It had been agreed at the last meeting that SACRE could help schools in their understanding of the concept of ‘shared values’, and the SACRE guidance had been produced by Charlotte following comments from and discussion with several SACRE members.</p>	
<p><b>3.3</b> Following a full discussion on aspects of the document, colleagues were asked to suggest any amendments or additions, in particular in relation to the shared school, social and human values listed in the document. It was emphasised that the guidance was intended for the range of schools in East Sussex, whether Church schools or secular, and that it was important, therefore, for it to be helpful to all schools.</p>	
<p><b>3.4</b> A number of suggested amendments were proposed, which Charlotte undertook to incorporate in the draft. The document would be re-circulated for further comment by 31 October.</p>	CG PL
<p><b>4 National and local update</b></p>	
<p><b>4.1 Schools’ self-evaluation in RE</b></p>	
<p><b>4.1.1</b> Charlotte referred to the self-evaluation reports which had been circulated for information, and reported that schools welcomed the reports on her visits.</p>	
<p><b>4.2 SACRE award</b></p>	
<p><b>4.2.1</b> Charlotte referred colleagues to SACRE’s decision to have an award for schools, consisting of a certificate and a small monetary award.</p>	
<p><b>4.2.2</b> Charlotte would be notifying schools and governors about the award, and it was agreed to invite schools to submit a piece of work from one of the</p>	

following suggested areas:

- Assessment
- Developing skills in RE
- Contribution to community cohesion
- Creativity in the planning or delivery of RE

However, schools would also be free to choose their own area if they preferred.

**4.2.3** Work towards the award would commence in January 2008.

**4.3 2007 'Awareness' events**

**4.3.1** Colleagues were reminded that the two events were being held from 6.00-9.00 pm at Cooden Beach Hotel, Bexhill, on 14 November, and at County Hall on 15 November. The aim of the events was to promote awareness among school governors of the importance of RE.

**4.3.2** Charlotte reported that there had been a good response to both events, to which Martin Lloyd and Kevin Fossey would be contributing. SACRE colleagues were encouraged to attend.

**5 Discussion on future distribution of SACRE meeting papers**

**5.1** Views were sought on whether it would be useful, where possible, to receive meeting papers electronically in future. There was general agreement, however, that paper copies should continue to be received.

**6 Any other business**

There was none.

**ALL**

**PL**