

A G E N D A

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
(SACRE)**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Kent Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education will be held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 20th March, 2007 at 10.00 am

- NB:**
1. Group pre-meetings 9.45 am in meeting room
  2. Development Plan Steering Group on the rising of the SACRE meeting

*Refreshments will be available from 9.30am inside the meeting room*

**UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

*(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)*

1. Apologies for Absence/Substitutes
2. Membership:
  - (i) to note the appointments of Mrs Julia Watts, St Paul's C of E Junior School, Rusthall – C of E Group 2, Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, and Mrs Ushma Williams, Hindu Representative on Group 1
  - (ii) to note the resignation of Mrs Lulla Michael – Greek Orthodox – Group 1
3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)
  - (i) Minutes of the Final Conference to Produce and Recommend the Agreed Syllabus for RE – 23 November 2006
  - (ii) Minutes – 23 November 2006
  - (iii) Matters Arising
4. Budget Issues
5. Development Plan - Steering Group Report
6. NASACRE - AGM, Tuesday 8 May 2007, Birmingham  
Keynote Speakers: Professor Brian Gates and Rev Nims Obunge  
Nominations:-
  - (i) Delegate (x2)
  - (ii) Executive Committee Members (x2)
  - (iii) Vice Chair
7. Bi-Annual RE Awards - Strategy Group Report

8. Overview of National and Local Developments
  - (i) ReACT – Sikhism Transition Unit publication
  - (ii) Conference Report – Strong SACREs, Good RE 28/11/07
  - (iii) Curriculum Review QCA – [www.qca.org.uk/secondarycurriculumreview/](http://www.qca.org.uk/secondarycurriculumreview/)
  - (iv) Introduction of The Agreed Syllabus to Kent Schools
  - (v) Faith Response in the event of a Major Emergency – 26 June 2007
9. Dates of future SACRE meetings:

Thursday, 12 July 2007 – Thanet & District Reform Synagogue  
Friday, 2 November 2007 – Guest Speaker – Dr Mark Chater, QCA  
Tuesday, 11 March 2008  
Wednesday, 9 July 2008  
Thursday, 6 November 2008 – Guest Speaker – Mr Inderjit Singh
10. Member Presentation - Rajvinder Singh Gill
11. Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent

### **EXEMPT ITEMS**

*(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)*

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**Monday, 12 March 2007**

*Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers maybe inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.*

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
(KENT)  
CONFERENCE TO PRODUCE AND RECOMMEND THE AGREED  
SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

MINUTES of SACRE Conference meeting held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 23 November 2006.

PRESENT: Mr R Bristow (Chairman), Mr A R Bassam, Ms K Burke, Rabbi C Cohen, Mrs V Corbyn, Mrs P Fairchild, Miss T Kelvie, Ms S Kendall-Seatter, Mr G Lancaster, Miss S Malone, Mrs L Michael, Mr S Platnauer, Miss E Pope, Miss S Shaw, Canon J Smith, Mr J Viner, Miss J Webb, Mr A M Weinberg and Mrs N Younosi.

GUESTS: Miss S Carey, Lead Member Education and School Improvement; Mrs J Davies, Chairman Medway SACRE; and Mrs P Draycott.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Foster (Adviser for RE), Mrs L Miller (CFE Directorate), and Mrs C Wade (Democratic Services).

**1. Minutes**

- (1) Resolved that the Minutes of the Conference held on 29 September 2006 were approved as a true record.
- (2) The Conference noted that no decision was made on 29 September 2006 because the meeting was inquorate and unable to record a vote.

**2. ReACT, Kent Agreed Syllabus 2006**

- (1) Allan Foster led the discussion on the final version of the Kent Agreed Syllabus. He agreed to consider members views on final changes adding Jan Thompson's name to the membership list of the working group which would be alphabetical in groups, using full names. He reiterated his aim to print the document in 2006 and disseminate early 2007.
- (2) A query was raised about the impact of a possible change to a 5 term school year. Miss Carey explained there was no intention on the part of the Local Authority to do this, and members agreed in this eventuality a working group could be convened to produce simple appropriate guidance if required.
- (3) Canon Smith questioned the 15 hours over 2 years allocation of time for 6<sup>th</sup> form students, and Ms Burke confirmed this is mirrored in national guidance.
- (4) All 4 SACRE groups voted in favour of endorsing the syllabus and pledging their support for its adoption by the Authority.
- (5) Mr Bristow congratulated the working party and Mr Foster for their hard work and thanked all concerned for their enthusiasm, which was unanimously endorsed.

**3. Launch Arrangements – Programme for Dissemination**

- (1) Mr Foster tabled his timetable for the initial implementation of the Kent Agreed Syllabus 2006 targeting Headteachers, Governors, subject co-ordinators and leaders, the proposed attendance at half day conferences being held in various venues across Kent. He

would outline the statutory requirements, highlight the underpinning principles and explain the structure of the syllabus and non-statutory guidance materials.

(2) An invitation to attend one the sessions was extended to all SACRE members.

(3) Canon Smith raised the issue of on-line publication and interactive on line-forum. Mr Foster responded that there was a trial of 'Blogs', and the review of its success would largely determine if this line was pursued. Concern was voiced about the ability of some small schools to access clusterwebs etc.

(4) Miss Kelvie confirmed she would be running a seminar (under the auspices of Special Schools and Academy Trust) for RE teachers to cover the transition units, followed by a teachers' visit to a Gurdwara in order to support school staff.

#### **4. Working Group**

It was noted the Conference had completed its work and would now be disbanded. The working group would continue to meet in order to complete the work on guidance complementing the Syllabus.

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IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Foster (Adviser for RE), Mrs L Miller (CFE Directorate), and Mrs C Wade (Democratic Services).

## **UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

### **11. Agreed Syllabus**

The SACRE meeting opened by accepting the recommendation of the Agreed Syllabus Conference of adopting the Agreed Syllabus and recommending its adoption by the Local Authority.

### **12. Membership**

(1) Rev A Seymour: A silence had been observed at the previous conference meeting to note the sad passing of Rev Alan Seymour. Mr Bristow reported a service of thanksgiving had taken place in Folkestone, and that he would send a letter of condolence to Alan's widow.

(3) The resignations of: Mr C Meigh, Association of Teachers and Lecturers, Mrs L M Watts, National Association of Headteachers (Group 3), and Dr E A H Tresidder, Free Church (Group 1), were noted. Mr Bristow agreed to write to members thanking them for their valuable service.

(4) The appointment of Mrs P Fairchild, Association of Teachers and Lecturers (Group 3) and Miss J Webb, Baptist representative (Group 1), were noted, and members welcomed them to the meeting.

### **2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2006 were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

### **3. Budget**

(1) Mrs Miller reported the current budget was fully committed, and budgets for next year would be set by the LA after Christmas.

(2) Mrs Miller was pleased to confirm £7000 extra had been agreed as a contribution towards the printing costs of the Agreed Syllabus, which would be matched by the Advisory Service budget.

#### **4. Development Plan**

##### *Steering Group Report*

(1) Members had received a paper on progress to date and Mr Viner confirmed that the requirement to change the style of future Annual Report would be taken on board.

##### *Conference on RE – July 2007*

(2) Members considered the previous suggestion that SACRE hold a conference in July 2007 to coincide with the launch of the Agreed Syllabus. On the recommendation of the working group it was agreed that the INSET and dissemination arrangements were sufficient, and SACRE might consider holding a Conference on a future occasion.

(3) In line with the agreed principal that one meeting per year should be held at an alternative venue, Rabbi Cohen offered to host the July 2007 meeting at the Thanet and District Reform Synagogue. There was a show of hands indicating members' willingness to travel and attend. Mrs Miller confirmed teacher supply cover would be met.

(4) Mr Foster informed members a Conference on Spirituality across the curriculum, with a primary focus (not just RE), was taking place on Friday, 2 February 2007 (amended to 2 May 2007) at the Ashford International Hotel. Details on clusterweb or from Mr Foster/Mrs Draycott.

#### **5. NASACRE**

Mr Bristow stated he had found the Autumn newsletter very informative and urged all members to read their copy.

#### **6. Bi-annual RE Awards**

(1) Mr Lancaster was pleased to confirm he had secured support in principle for a £1000 contribution from the St Gabriel's Trust on condition that they receive assurances of sufficient continued funding from the LA to continue the award in future years.

(2) Mrs Corbyn reminded members it had been agreed in order to encourage school participation; the minimum awards would need to be £1000 secondary sector and 2 x £500 primary sector.

(3) Mr Foster explained that whilst the SACRE budget currently had no provision for the award, this was because all funds had been used on the additional and considerable expense of producing the Agreed Syllabus, and funding the working group expenses in order to complete the work. The budget itself had not been cut.

(4) Mrs Miller was concerned that the award could be seen as taking 20% of the budget for the benefit of 1% of schools, on a function which might be construed as not essential to SACRE carrying out its legal requirements.

(5) Mr Lancaster voiced his opinion that it was SACRE's role to encourage RE in schools, and members had previously agreed to continue with the Awards.

(6) Mr Bristow urged members to try and secure matched funding from outside sources and Mr Bassam commented that caution needed to be exercised, but he would speak to Mr Chard.

(7) It was agreed that the strategy group would meet to formulate a proposal for presentation at the next meeting, and application for the St Gabriel's Trust grant would go ahead subject to discussion with the LA.

## **7. Annual Report 2005 - 2006**

(1) Mr Foster was congratulated on a comprehensive report, and members were proud to note the upward trend in academic performance of Kent RE Students.

(2) Mr Platnauer voiced concerns about member details being accessible on the internet. Mr Foster confirmed he had requested all previous personnel information be removed from Clusterweb – current practice was to list members' names only in the Appendix to the Annual Report.

## **8. Overview of National and Local Developments**

### *Ramadan*

(1) Mrs Younosi thanked Mr Foster for publicising guidance to schools on Ramadan, and in particular reference to children fasting. He agreed to continue the practice every year, taking account of the changing date.

### *Young Inter-Faith Projects – the NASACRE / Westhill Awards 2007/08*

(2) Applications were invited by 31 March 2007 for the next round of awards.

(3) Mr Bristow asked for volunteers to prepare a bid and it was agreed the Development Plan Steering Group would work up a suggestion for presentation to the March meeting.

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

(4) An invitation was extended by Mr Lancaster to attend the evening service on 27 January 2007 at Chapter School, Strood commencing at 7.00 pm.

### *Membership Directory – Confidential*

The clerk would amend and circulated the directory at the next meeting.

**9. Dates of Future SACRE Meetings**

- (1) Tuesday, 20 March 2007 - Sessions House, Maidstone
- (2) Thursday, 12 July 2007 – change of date – Thanet and District Reform Synagogue, 293A Margate Road, Ramsgate.
- (3) Friday, 2 November 2007 – Sessions House, Maidstone – Guest Speaker Dr Mark Chater QCA

**10. Annual Lecture – Mrs Pamela Draycott – RE Today and Tomorrow**

- (1) Mr Bristow welcomed Mrs Draycott, both as the guest speaker and to her new post as Curriculum Adviser RE and Citizenship assisting Mr Foster from January 2007.
- (2) Mrs Draycott was thanked for her lively thought provoking visual presentation, and the challenge to all to encompass the 'every child matters' theme.