

**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 6th 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.