

APPENDIX**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING CONFERENCE FOR THE HARROW AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HELD ON 10 MARCH 2005**

Present: See the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 10 March 2005.

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

RESOLVED: That Mike Bishop and Mary Abbott be appointed Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

(Note: The above appointments were agreed unanimously).

2. Minutes

RESOLVED: That (1) the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Conference for the Harrow Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education held on 9 December 2004 be signed as a correct record of that meeting subject to the following amendment:

Minute 145, paragraph 2, first sentence: replace 'tha' with 'that';

3. Introduction

The Chair explained that there was no national syllabus for Religious Education but that each SACRE prepared local guidelines, reviewed every 5 years.

In 2004 national guidelines had been published for the first time by the Government in order to help Local Education Authorities set up their own syllabuses. This Conference had been set up in order to review Harrow's own guidelines in the light of the Government document and as part of its 5-yearly review.

A paper outlining items for discussion was tabled. It was noted that Nursery/Reception children followed the Foundation Stage.

4. Format of Agreed Syllabus

The current agreed syllabus consisted of two elements: a booklet outlining Harrow's agreed syllabus, which was statutory, and schemes of work, which were optional. There was some discussion about the format of the documents.

RESOLVED: That it be agreed unanimously by all groups voting that the two elements of the current agreed syllabus should remain.

5. Documentation Reflecting Phases in Education

There was some discussion regarding the relative merits of reflecting the ages of children in Harrow Community Schools and the Key Stages in the documentation. It was noted that SACRE was responsible for devising the syllabus for children between the ages of 16-19 who attended college. There were moves to consider changing the admission criteria of Harrow schools to reflect Key Stages, and bring the schools into line with most neighbouring boroughs.

RESOLVED: That further discussion was needed before a decision could be taken on the issue of documentation reflecting phases or key stages.

6. **Discussion on the Non-Statutory National Framework**

Members discussed the Non-Statutory National Framework in their Groups, establishing the suitability of different portions in the Harrow syllabus. Notes of their findings were forwarded to the Chair of SACRE for compilation and further discussion.

7. **Special Educational Needs**

It was noted that Special Educational Needs were not addressed in the National Framework although an addendum was expected.

RESOLVED: That the Special Educational Needs elements of statutory syllabuses should be considered, and Special Educational Needs teachers be invited to take part in discussions about the formulation of the Harrow RE Syllabus.

8. **Further Meetings**

It was agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Conference and the Chair of SACRE would meet together with invited teachers to draft a revised syllabus based on members' recommendations, for tabling at the next meeting. There would be a mixture of day conferences and 5pm to 10pm sessions, with refreshments, to devise the programme of study. It was noted that as much notice as possible should be given.

9. **Number of Religions Depicted on the Covers of the Harrow Syllabus and the National Guidelines**

It was noted that only six religions were depicted on the cover of the national document.

RESOLVED: That (1) SACRE write to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to point out that the design for the cover was inappropriate as it should include more than six religions;

(2) Members would seek to choose a comprehensive cover for the revised Harrow document.

[Note: The Standing Conference meeting closed at 9.30 pm].

(Signed) MIKE BISHOP
Chair

[Note: Mike Bishop was initially in the Chair for this meeting, for the items at Minutes 1 to 3 above, prior to the meeting of the Standing Conference being adjourned (see the Note under Minute 147 of the SACRE meeting on 10 March 2005). Upon the meeting of the Standing Conference reconvening, and in the absence of Mike Bishop, the chair was formally taken by Mary Abbott, Vice Chair].