

HARROW AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 25th MARCH 2015

Attendance:

Group A: (Religious traditions and Christian Churches)

~ Mr Zia Baig
A Ms Mercedes Afnan
A Mr Mike Bishop
* Dr Julie Crow (Chair)
~ Mrs Phiroza Gan-Kotwal
* Mr Vijay Hirani
A Ms Varsha Dodhia
A Mr Asad Omar
~ Ms Beverley Wilson

* Mr Neville Ransley
A Ms Ciara O'Flaherty
* Mrs Gill Ross
A Mrs Doreen Samuels
A Mr Paramjit Singh-Kohli
~ Ven Sumana Sramaner
* Mr Zafar Khalid

Group B: (Church of England)

* Mrs Mary Abbott (Vice-Chair)
* Rev'd Philip Barnes
* Rev'd Matthew Stone

Group C: (Teachers' Associations)

* Mrs Manju Radia
* Mrs Alison Stowe

Group D: (Local Authority)

Councillors:
* Ghazanfar Ali
A Sasi Suresh
* Camilla Bath

Reserves:
A Kareema Marikar
A Margaret Davine
A Manjibhai Kara

Officer

*Patrick O'Dwyer (Education Professional Lead & Adviser to SACRE)

Clerk

*Vivian Wright (Clerk to SACRE)

Observers

Nadeem Hussain
David Cryer

** denotes presence*

A denotes absence with apologies

~ denotes absence without apologies

- 1. Welcome and introductions:** the Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting especially observers Nadeem Hussain and David Cryer. Members introduced themselves.
- 2. Changes to SACRE Advisory Support:** Paddy O'Dwyer explained that he has taken over from Rachel Bowerman who will no longer be the LA Advisor to SACRE. Rachel wished to be remembered to the committee. Members expressed their regret that Rachel cannot continue and a card was passed round for members to sign. Paddy O'Dwyer explained that he had previously been advisor to SACRE.

3. Apologies for absence:

RESOLVED: To note apologies for absence from Mrs Gill Ross, Mr Mike Bishop, Ms Mercedes Afnan, Ms Ciara O'Flaherty, Ms Varsha Dodhia, Mr Paramjit Singh-Kohli, Mrs Phiroza Gan Kotwal, Mr Asad Omar, Cllrs Sasi Suresh, Karimar Marikar, Margaret Davine and Manjibhai Kara.

Ananda Caitanya Das has resigned from the committee.

The following members were also absent:

Group A: Mr Zia Baig, Ven Sumana Sramaner and Ms Beverley Wilson

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th September 2014 (*previously circulated and available at the meeting*)

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

p. 2. Item 4. The Role and Responsibility of an Agreed Syllabus Conference:

Review

"The vote is very formal and all members of each group should be present": in answer to a question from the Chair, Paddy O'Dwyer explained that it is an expectation that all members of each group should be present for the vote, but not compulsory. Groups must agree separately and then come together for the vote.

Another member asked if there is separate quorum for each group. Paddy O'Dwyer will check this.

Action: Paddy O'Dwyer

p.3. Item 4. The Role and responsibility of an Agreed Syllabus Conference:

Statutory Requirements

The Chair of SACRE will circulate the previous agreed syllabus to members, together with the schemes of work.

Action: Alison Stowe, Chair of SACRE

p.3. Item 6. Religious Education: a National Curriculum Framework

The Chair pointed out that the page numbers correspond to the papers circulated for the meeting but do not correspond to the page numbers in the RE Council report. **This was noted.**

p. 4. Item 6. Religious Education: a National Curriculum Framework

Subject content – requirements and examples

After the exercise in small groups, the committee had given feedback and suggestions for the Agreed Syllabus. Paddy O'Dwyer agreed that these would be taken forward. He would like to set up a small group to work on the administration and time scale for the Agreed Syllabus.

It was agreed that the Chair's group with the addition of Julie Crowe and Mary Abbott as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ASC would be able to take this forward. The Chair's group comprises representatives from each group as follows:

Group A: Mike Bishop and Vijay Hirani

Group B: Matthew Stone

Group C: Manju Radia

Group D: Camilla Bath

The Chair of SACRE will email contact details of the Chair's group to Paddy O'Dwyer and Julie Crow.

Action: Alison Stowe, Chair of SACRE

It was agreed that the ASC conference might be expanded to include additional faith representatives and teachers.

6. Update on the Harrow Agreed Syllabus Conference

Funding

The Chair reported that she has met with Paddy O'Dwyer. She is pleased to inform the committee that the £12,000 allocated for the ASC can be carried over into the next financial year. Members are very grateful to Paddy O'Dwyer for his good offices both in allocating the money (a generous allowance compared with many LAs) and in allowing it to be carried over.

Outside agencies and teachers

This funding will allow SACRE to bring in professional expertise as well as covering the other costs associated with writing and printing the Agreed Syllabus.

Rachel Bowerman had started work on extending the exemplars discussed at the last ASC meeting to cover other faiths and stages, but expert help will be needed to take this forward.

Rachel Bowerman had a list of interested teachers who can be contacted.

Academies

In response to a question about involving the academies, Paddy O'Dwyer undertook to contact them and seek their input. Members felt that it was important to ensure that academies were included in the process. At present, they all follow the agreed syllabus.

CPD (Continuing Professional Development)

As well as drawing in teachers through its programme of CPD, SACRE will be in a position to seek out teachers and pay their school to release them, so that they can contribute to the Agreed Syllabus.

SACRE can approach teachers from a range of faiths.

Quality of Teaching and Learning in RE

Teaching of RE is highly regarded in Harrow, as is SACRE. It is important to deliver a high quality syllabus.

7. Dates of Future Meetings of the ASC: to be confirmed.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed:

(Chair)

(Date)