

HARROW AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 25th JUNE 2015

Attendance:

Group A: (Religious traditions and Christian Churches)

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

* Mr Neville Ransley
A Ms Ciara O'Flaherty
* Mrs Gill Ross
* Mrs Doreen Samuels
* 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 *until 8.15pm*
* Kareema Marikar
* Camilla Bath

Reserves:
A Chika Amadi
A Margaret Davine
A Manjibhai Kara

Officer

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

Clerk

*Vivian Wright (Clerk to SACRE)

Observers

*David Cryer

For the presentation

Nina Will Head Teacher of Stag Lane Infants School and Nursery

In the event there was no presentation due to technical problems with the equipment. Nina Will left the meeting at 7.30pm.

** denotes presence*

A denotes absence with apologies

~ denotes absence without apologies

1. **Welcome and introductions:** Julie Crow as the Chair of the ASC welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Nina Will from Stag Lane Infant and Nursery school and observer David Cryer. Members introduced themselves. It had been hoped to open the meeting with a presentation from Nina Will on British Values. Unfortunately the equipment was not working so the presentation was postponed. Nina Will left the meeting at 7.30pm.

2. Apologies for absence:

RESOLVED: To note apologies for absence from Ms Ciara O'Flaherty. Ms Varsha Dodhia gave retrospective apologies.

The following members were also absent:

Group A: Mr Zia Baig, Mr Asad Omar and Ms Beverley Wilson

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th March 2015 (*previously circulated and available at the meeting*)

p.2. Item 3. Apologies for Absence

Mrs Gan Kotwal gave her apologies for the meeting.

Mrs Gill Ross was present and Mrs Doreen Samuels was absent.

With these amendments the minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

p. 2. Item 5. Matters arising from the minutes

(p.2. item 4. The Role and Responsibility of an Agreed Syllabus Conference)

Paddy O'Dwyer has checked whether there is a separate quorum for each group. He will email the answer.

Alison Stowe has circulated the previous syllabus and supplied the details of the Chair's group to Paddy O'Dwyer and Julie Crow.

5. Lesley Prior: nomination as Adviser for the development of the Agreed Syllabus

Members agreed that Lesley Prior's *Curriculum Vitae* makes her a very suitable candidate to act as Advisor for the development of the Agreed Syllabus. Paddy O'Dwyer has met her and Ven Sumana Sramaner was trained by her.

Agreed: Members of the ASC agreed unanimously to Lesley Prior's appointment as Advisor to the ASC.

Paddy O'Dwyer has arranged a meeting with her tomorrow at 3.30pm. Members of the ASC are welcome to attend this meeting.

Paddy O'Dwyer has sent Lesley Prior a copy of the previous Agreed Syllabus and he will provide the information that she needs in order to be employed as a consultant. He will talk through with her the principles of the ASC to be agreed this evening. *See item 6 below.*

6. Update from the Working Party Meeting 23.4.15

Principles for the Development of the Harrow Agreed Syllabus 2016 (*previously circulated*)

Julie Crow as Chair of the ASC talked members through the principles:

- 1. National framework:** the first principle is to follow the non-statutory guidance of the Religious Education Council (October 2013) as a broad template.
- 2. Proposed content of the AS 2016**

a) Faith Descriptions: to develop an exemplar for consideration by the ASC

b) Assessment: to enter into discussion with the Heads of local High Schools. Doreen Samuels, a representative for Judaism, informed the meeting that the Inspection Service for Jewish Faith Schools will have models for assessment: she offered to investigate this.

Action: Doreen Samuels

Members agreed that the working party will seek advice from Lesley Prior on assessment. Paddy O'Dwyer will take this forward.

Action: Paddy O'Dwyer

c) Fundamental British Values: there is now a requirement to include FBV in the syllabus. A representative for Judaism informed members that the Board of Deputies has prepared a consultative document on how faiths connect with British Values.

Members agreed to send any such relevant documents to Paddy O'Dwyer.

A representative from the Teachers' Associations commented on the link between character building and RE. Useful units of work have been developed on the characters of religious leaders.

d) Balance of Faiths/Beliefs by Key Stage: the working party had agreed that the three monotheistic religions should be included in the EY and in each Key Stage. There was some discussion about this and whether other major faiths should be included in the EY. It was agreed that all faiths represented in the previous AS would be included in the new syllabus. It was important that children should develop awareness of other faiths. The committee agreed that this was an appropriate area on which to seek advice from Lesley Prior.

e) Time Allocation: the principles recommended one hour a week for RE in the EY and KS1, 2 and 3. At KS4 to use the examination requirements as in the text of 2008.

f) Enquiry based learning: members of the working party agreed to promote enquiry based learning.

g) Publication: It was agreed that photographs of children in Harrow Schools would enhance the AS. It would be necessary to obtain permission to use these.

Members agreed the principles for the Development of the Harrow Agreed Syllabus

3. Timeline

Members would keep the dates 9 December 2015 and 20 January 2016 as possible ASC days.

7. Any other business

There were no items of any other business

8. Dates of Future ASC meetings

The next meeting of the Working Party was scheduled for 9 July 2015.

The Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed:

(Chair)

(Date)