

AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held in Conference Room A, Civic Offices, Portsmouth on Wednesday 17 November 2010 at 5.30 pm.

Present

Peter Davies, the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (In the Chair)

GROUP A REPRESENTATIVES

Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union
Marilyn Leggett, Salvation Army
Ephrat Miller-Foroughi, Baha'i Representative
Reverend Jackie Case, Methodist Church
Sue Vigar-Taylor, Buddhism Representative
Christine McMillan, United Reformed Church Representative

GROUP B REPRESENTATIVES

Brian Hay, Church of England

GROUP C REPRESENTATIVES

Gemma Self, Early Years Representative
Christine Liddle, Primary Teacher Representative
Sandra Gibb, Headteacher, St George's Beneficial Primary School
Beverley Millsom, Special School Representative

GROUP D REPRESENTATIVE

Taki Jaffer

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Johns, Local Authority Adviser
Georgina Mulhall, former Local Authority Adviser
Clive Erricker, RE Adviser
Teresa Deasy, Democratic Services

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Patrick Quirke, secondary school representative
Ruth Guyer, Judaism
Sue Ganter, co-opted member

Reverend Trevor Reader, Church of England representative
Paula Withers, secondary teacher representative
Gill Parmee, primary teacher representative
Councillor David Horne
Ruth Richmond, Roman Catholic Church
Councillor Malcolm Hey
Councillor David Stephen Butler

3 Minutes – 29 March 2004 (AI 3)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2004 be agreed as a correct record.

4 Matters Arising (AI 4)

There were no matters arising.

5 Deputations (AI 5)

There were no deputations.

6 The Revision of Living Difference (AI 6)

(TAKE IN REPORT ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE REVISED
AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND
ACCOMPANYING REVISED AGREED SYLLABUS DOCUMENT
ENTITLED “LIVING DIFFERENCE”)

Clive Erricker introduced his report and the revised syllabus. He explained that there were a number of revisions to the document which were set out in Appendix 1 to the report. RE teachers had a considerable involvement in the revision of the Agreed Syllabus and had contributed significantly to its redesign. He commented that this tri-authority document was very exciting compared to those produced by other SACREs. Georgina Mulhall commented that the majority of teachers involved in the revision of the Agreed Syllabus were advanced skills teachers in the three authorities.

In reply to a question about whether other local authorities were interested in adopting “Living Difference”. Clive explained that many local authorities tended to retain an Agreed Syllabus if they believed it worked for them. There were other local authorities which tended to take a simpler route in going for a document that would serve the legal purpose given the implications of cost and the requirement to support the document. There had been some interest but that does not always result in other local authorities picking up and running with “Living Difference”.

Brian Hay enquired whether the Ofsted report had sparked local authorities into action with regard to their Agreed Syllabuses. Clive reported that this tended to be the case if Ofsted inspections translated into action.

Mike Johns reminded SACRE members that the Agreed Syllabus would remain as the RE syllabus for Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton for the next five years.

Brian Hay asked whether a new advanced skills teacher in RE would be appointed in Portsmouth to replace Georgina Mulhall, as she had been appointed deputy headteacher at Flying Bull Junior School. Georgina explained that there were no plans to appoint another new advanced skills teacher in RE. She was working with Clive Erricker on the Agreed Syllabus until the launch. The launch of the Agreed Syllabus would take place on 19 January at the Dame Judith Professional Centre between 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference agreed to accept the recommendations.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the recommended amendments ratified in order to produce a revised syllabus to distribute to schools in January 2011.

The meeting concluded at 5.55 pm.

TMD/DMF
23 November 2010
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