

STATUTORY CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

13th JULY 2006

PRESENT: Councillor P Harrand (Chair)
Deacon D Carnelley- Orthodox Church
Mr M Davies - Humanist Society of West Yorkshire
Mrs M Wicks - Baptist Church
Mr K Torode - Governor Representative
Mrs M Newton - Methodist Church
Mrs A Nicholl - Diocese of Ripon & Leeds
Miss J Warner - NASUWT (Teacher)
Mrs F Beevers - Diocese of Ripon & Leeds
Pastor A Lenton - Pentecostal Church
Mr A Tunick - Jewish Community
Ms S Moody - NUT

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs E Guild - SACRE Consultant
Mr J Grieve - Legal & Democratic Services

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Harker, Councillor McKenna, Miss Burdon, Mrs Coltram, Mr Hayward, Mr A Key, Major Lawson and Mrs Plant

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr Davies referred to the meeting of the 23rd March 2006 and an item dealing with the general issue of timing of SACRE/ ASC meetings. Mr Davies said that Members agreed, as a first step, to send a questionnaire to all Members seeking views on the best time to hold meetings. The decision was not recorded in the draft minutes of 23rd March 2006 and at the following meeting on 24th May 2006, Mr Davies pointed out that the draft minutes were incorrect because they omitted the agreed decision

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings held on 23rd March and 24th May 2006 be amended to reflect the agreed decision

3 Matters Arising

(There were no issues raised under matters arising)

4 The Identification of the Religions to be Studied in the 2006 Agreed Syllabus

Members received a report on the identification of the religions to be studied in the Leeds Agreed Syllabus 2006. The report set out the legal requirements and national guidance for Agreed Syllabus on Religious Education.

A draft copy of the relevant sections of the new syllabus formed an appendix to the report as a working draft.

In passing comment on the Key Stage 2 section, Mrs Newton suggested that the term “meaningful encounter” be included throughout the section

Members also suggested revised wording at the section “lower Key Stage 2”

Mr Davies questioned the wording contained in DFE Circular 1/94, Para 33 commenting that it did not seem to read correctly. In the discussion that followed it was accepted that wording had been transposed incorrectly.

Speaking on the report Liz Guild drew Members attention to the following suggested options the SACRE should consider:

- (a) The Agreed Syllabus can identify and require schools to follow specific religions at each Key Stage
- (b) The Agreed Syllabus may recommend which religions could be studied at each Key Stage
- (c) The Agreed Syllabus may prefer to leave the choice to schools, but should specify the number to be covered at each Key Stage

In commenting on the report Mr Davies said the proposed options were too limited and were not sufficient to guide school. In the discussion that followed it was suggested that the options be expanded to include:

- (i) Schools should be required to cover all 6 principle religions
- (ii) Schools should be allowed to choose the religions to be taught at some Key Stages
- (iii) Schools should be able to decide the religions to be taught according to the local environment

RESOLVED – That the report be amended to reflect the views of Members and be brought back to the next meeting for further discussion

5 Leeds Agreed Syllabus Writing Groups

Members received a report providing a resume of the Leeds Agreed Syllabus Writing Group held on 21st June 2006

The report listed the main discussions items covered within:

Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1/ Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

The report provided an example of an overview plan. It was explained that the purpose of the plan was to show to RE teachers how the 1996 Leeds Agreed Syllabus linked with the new agreed syllabus, under the following categories:

- Themes
- Experience & Opportunities
- Broad Objectives

RESOLVED - That the report be received with thanks

6 Any Other Business

There were no issues raised under any other business

7 Date and Time of Future Meetings

RESOLVED – To note that the next meeting of the Statutory Conference on Religious Education will take place on Thursday 21st September 2006 at 4.15pm in the Civic Hall, Leeds