

Minutes of the Miscellaneous Meetings Meeting held on 9 July 2014

Present: Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf (Chairman)

Sue Blackmore	Muhammad Parekh
Tricia Budd	Barrie Scott
Diana Cutler	Bill Walley
Peter Davies	Conor Wileman
Susan Devereux	Liz Williams
Terry Finn	Caroline Wood
Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal (Vice-Chairman)	

Also in attendance: Emma Jardine and Helen Phillips

Apologies: Sonia Andjelkovic, Mick Dwyer, Colin Hopkins, Liz O'Brien, Sam Phillips, David Williams and Rosemary Woodward

PART ONE

1. Minutes of the 12 February 2014 Agreed Syllabus Conference

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 12 February 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. Agreed Syllabus Conference - Syllabus Review

At their meeting of 12 February Members had felt that a complete review and re-write of the syllabus was required to take account of the wide ranging changes within RE. However sourcing the funding for such a review had been problematic and did not appear to currently be available from either Entrust or the County Council. This may mean that the Conference will need to consider a less radical re-write within the limited funding available to them.

Members remained concern that the significant changes in RE should be reflected within the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus. The last revision of the Syllabus was issued to schools in 2009 and since then a number of major changes had taken place in education which had a direct impact on religious education, including:

- from September 2013 a new curriculum was introduced to all schools (Key Stages 1-4), with a clear focus on slimming down the curriculum to allow for more cross curriculum dimensions and inter-disciplinary studies and the removal of levels of attainment. Religious education needed to take account of these changes on order to play a full and active role in the new curriculum;
- in 2012 the Religious Education Council (REC) completed a review of the current National Non-Statutory Framework for Religious Education. SACRE's must take account of the document, which was referred to in all national documentation relating to RE, including examination syllabuses and the SACRE self-evaluation materials produced by Ofsted

SACRE had hoped that the revised syllabus would be available for use by schools in September 2014 in order to make best use of the momentum generated by the implementation of the changes in the curriculum. In reality, however, the review was likely to be a 12 month process from start to finish.

SACRE considered a number of options available to it, including choosing to undertake a much smaller review. The Councillor Members present felt that in the first instance they would like to discuss this issue with Mr Ben Adams, Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills, prior to SACRE making a decision on the type of review undertaken.

RESOLVED – That a decision on the type of review undertaken be deferred until Councillor SACRE Members have discussed this issue with the Cabinet Member.

Chairman

Documents referred to in these minutes as Schedules are not appended, but will be attached to the signed copy of the Minutes of the meeting. Copies, or specific information contained in them, may be available on request.