

**AT A MEETING of the
HAMPSHIRE AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE
held in the Ashburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester
on 15 November 2016**

PRESENT

Chairman

p Councillor R Chadd (Hampshire County Council)

Vice-Chairman

p Councillor C Choudhary (Hampshire County Council)

a Councillor Mrs Fiona Mather	-	Hampshire County Council
p Councillor David Simpson	-	Hampshire County Council
p Councillor Anna McNair Scott	-	Hampshire County Council (substitute)
Mr Mohammed Ansar	-	Muslim
p Miss Margaret Boyne	-	United Reformed Church
Mr Harmeet Singh Brar	-	Sikh
p Ms Amanda Cawood	-	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
p Rev Seishin Darren Clark	-	Buddhist
a Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato	-	Muslim
p Mr Colin How	-	Methodist
p Mr Chris Hughes	-	Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
p Mrs Elizabeth Jenkerson	-	Baha'i
a Mrs Jo May	-	Baptist Union
a Mr Richard Moss	-	Buddhist
p Ms Sushma Sahajpal	-	Hindu
p Mr Danny Sullivan	-	Roman Catholic
p Mrs Lisa-Marie Taylor	-	Buddhist (deputy)
p Mrs Heather Thorpe-Tracey	-	Society of Friends
a Mr. Michael Zeffertt	-	Jewish
p Mrs Sue Bowen	-	Church of England
p Ms Caroline Welch	-	Church of England
a Mr Richard Wharton	-	Church of England
p Rev Jeff Williams	-	Church of England
p Rev Howard Wright	-	Church of England
p Mrs Maureen Barnes	-	Teachers' Association
p Mr Paul Bristow	-	Teachers' Association
p Mr James Dye	-	Teachers' Association
a Mrs Patrizia Timms Blanch	-	Teachers' association

	Mrs Su Banwell	-	Secondary School – Co-opted
a	Mrs Pam Brown	-	Special School – Co-opted
p	Mrs Gill Heron	-	Academy – Co-opted
p	Miss Chris Robinson	-	Humanist – Co-opted
a	Mrs Rhiannon Love	-	Higher Education Rep – Co-opted
	Dr Alasdair Richardson	-	Higher Education Rep – Co-opted
p	Ms Karen Stubbings	-	Primary School - Co-opted
	Miss Antigone Storey	-	Private School – Co-opted
p	Dr Patricia Hannam	-	Support Officer
p	Mrs Justine Ball	-	Support Officer

Mrs U Topp

Also present was Ms Jane Whittington from the Guildford Diocese.

Owing to personal circumstances and the potential need to leave the meeting at short notice, Councillor Chadd proposed, and members agreed, that the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Choudhary should chair the meeting on this occasion.

<Councillor Choudhary in the Chair>

8. BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Rhiannon Love, Michael Zeffertt, Alasdair Richardson, Pam Brown, Patrizia Timms Blanch, Richard Moss, Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato, Cllr Fiona Mather, Richard Wharton, Jo May.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

There were no declarations of interest made by Members under this item.

11. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 9 March 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman welcomed new SACRE members Amanda Cawood, Danny Sullivan and Sue Bowen and Jane Whittington from the Guildford Diocese.

13. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made under this item.

14. THE REVISION OF LIVING DIFFERENCE

The Agreed Syllabus Conference considered the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) which summarised the background to the Agreed Syllabus review and recommended amendments for approval in order to produce a revised syllabus to distribute to schools in December 2016.

Members were given a brief synopsis of the work done towards this revision where the aim had been to amend and develop the current Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference revised 2011 in the light of current educational thinking, not to rewrite it. Pat Hannam and Justine Ball, the Inspectors for Religious Education, gave a powerpoint presentation (slides attached) which explained the similarities and changes.

It was emphasized that bringing more clarity to the process of enquiry and in its explanation and advice had been a key element in the review. Teachers had been fully involved, throughout the period of the review. It was highlighted that the revised syllabus now links with the language of other National Curriculum subjects, including the age-related expectations that must inform planning and progress. It was shown that Ofsted values the enquiry approach which is at the heart of the Hampshire syllabus. It was explained that the syllabus would only be available as a download with free access to all.

The four key changes – the re-emphasis that enquiry begins from a child's experience, the recognition of the distinctions between Abrahamic and Dharmic religious traditions, the more straightforward planning of a sequence of enquiries into concepts, and the close link between the current age-related expectations for progress and the progression model recommended in Living Difference III – were detailed.

During discussion and questions it was stressed that there was no intention in the RE syllabus to persuade young people to adopt a religious belief or to change their beliefs. Members commented that they valued the way the syllabus respected the integrity of the pupil in the way it presented both

religious and non-religious views, providing pupils with a framework and skill set to be able to evaluate these. They felt that the concepts were valuable and meaningful whether a pupil comes from a religious or non-religious background or not. Attention was drawn to the final, 'evaluate' step in the cycle which made children consider why the 'concept' they have been studying is important for a particular religion and whether it could make a difference to their own life.

In answer to a question regarding the involvement of academy schools in the process, it was stated that it was difficult for teachers to get time off, but they had been kept informed, and the Dioceses had involved all their schools.

After group discussions a vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to adopt the revised Agreed Syllabus.

The Vice-Chairman, on behalf of all the members of SACRE, gave thanks to all those who had put in a lot of hard work on the revisions to produce a well-written document, giving special mention to Pat Hannam and Justine Ball.

RESOLVED:

That the Agreed Syllabus Conference approved the revised Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference III and that it is launched on 8 December 2016 and made available to schools from this point.