

Consortium of Gujarati Schools (SE England)

**Notes of the Special Meeting held at Kadwa Patidar Samaj (KPS) Centre
on Sunday, 26th February 2017 at 2.00pm.**

Present ; Vijyaben Bhanderi; Madhuben Kalaria, Rekhaben Patel; Rekhaben Shah and only 12 teachers / organisation members from some organisations were present.

Apologies received: Apologies were received from 4 committee members and 6 teachers / organisation members from some organisations

1. Welcome

In the absence of CGS Chairperson's absence due to family circumstances, the Secretary Vijyaben Bhanderi welcomed all those present.

2. Update and Report from the Committee

The members accepted the Report after some questions and discussion.

Vijyaben presented the report outlining all of the activities undertaken by CGS in saving the OCR GCSE in Gujarati; and the events such as various meeting and training sessions organised by CGS since the last General Meeting in October 2015.

She mentioned that any information received from OCR and information received from EdExcel/Pearson regarding recruitment of examiners, experts, reviewer etc is emailed to all those on our emailing list. CGS will continue to do same in the future.

She stressed that as Gujarati community we need to work hard towards increasing the number of children learning Gujarati in supplementary and mainstream schools.

3. Matters Arising

Website – Vijyaben gave brief information about the CGS website. She requested those present to email their school's flyer or information about their schools which can be added to the website.

4. Questions & Suggestions for the future

Q. – what will happen before OCR GCSE exams stop?

Vijyaben explained that the final OCR GCSE and AS/A level Gujarati exams will be in Summer 2019. Candidates will be able to only retake AS/A level in summer 2020, but **not GCSE**.

Pearson is working on the new Specification and sample material for both GCSE and AS/A level exams and CGS will advise everyone once they have more details.

5. Suggestions

There was a suggestion from one of the members that mainstream school Avanti House Schools should offer Gujarati as it is a Hindu School.

Perhaps posters could be made by Gujarati schools for the group work activities to make lessons more interesting.

Those parents who do not know Gujarati should be encouraged by Gujarati schools to join Adult classes so they can assist their children.

All Gujarati schools should have uniform syllabus and use uniform resources.

Pravinbhai Bhuvra said that he uses story books and similar resources from Gujarati for teaching his pupils. He has also prepared a grid to teach Gujarati alphabet. He will email this to Vijyaben. He also said that OCR vocabulary list does not have all the difficult words incorporated in the reading and listening exercises in exams.

Vijyaben explained that the OCR vocabulary list is only a basic list. Whilst teaching various topics and also using past papers numerous difficult words are covered and often the candidates read the questions carefully, they can understand the meanings of some of the difficult words.

Hansaben Teli said that when using dictionary for Writing, pupils often select incorrect English words which are not appropriate in particular context. Pupils should be made aware that one Gujarati word can have more than one meaning.

Website suggestions – We should have a bank of teachers to be made available for member schools to access for supply teachers who are willing to work on weekends. Website could be used for notices of any programmes of Gujarati schools.

Madhuben suggested a conference/mela of all schools to share information.

Future Training

Most members present suggested that CGS should organise a workshop based training for where each school can present their best practice for each level. It could be called 'Teaching Gujarati Showcase'. Teachers from different Gujarati schools can present and share their best practices in given time slot. They can also display their resources.

Veljibhai Vekaria said SKLPC Centre in Northolt can be made available, however Vijyaben felt that may be too far for those who use public transport. Veljibhai said he could ask Kingsbury Temple for their premises once the training is finalised.

The training would be a full day training and tentative date suggested was 3rd September.

Another suggestion was made to arrange a meeting of all the Gujarati head teachers. Vijyaben mentioned that there may be a Leadership and Management training in either 23rd July or 12th November 2017 where all head teachers will be invited to attend. Nothing had been confirmed to-date.

Kokilaben from Crawley Gujarati School explained how she liaises with mainstream schools where Gujarati teachers go in the mainstream schools for one day to observe how other modern foreign languages are taught.

Teachers could also be sent for a training day in ordinary schools to learn how language is taught.

Vijyaben mentioned that Jayantbhai had approached Alperton Community school for similar observation, however we are still waiting for a response from them. She added that many mainstream school may be willing to allow such observations.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Close

Vijyaben thanked Kadwa Patidar Samaj for their generosity in hosting the Special meeting.

The meeting closed at approximately 4.30 pm.