

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Ashpreet Singh Nainu (Chair), Sue Elbrow, Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan, Waqar Bhatti, Shujah Hamid and Hardip Singh Sohal

Committee 2 – Church of England

Lynda Bussley (Vice-Chair), Rev Gordon Briggs, Christine Isles and Andrea Sparrow

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Munsoor Malik – Primary

Priya Lamba – Primary

Ian Sharpe - Secondary

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillors Basra (To 4.45pm), H Cheema, Gahir, Qaseem and Smith

Apologies for Absence:- Julie Siddiqi

17. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 4th November 2020

Resolved - That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 November 2020 be approved as a correct record.

18. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2020.

19. SACRE Membership Update

The Clerk advised that there were 5 membership vacancies in Group A and 3 in Group C remaining to be filled.

SACRE discussed the issue of enabling the co-opted Humanist representative to be appointed to full membership.

The Professional Adviser (Adviser) reported that a number of local authorities had broadened their SACRE membership to include full membership of Humanist representatives. This was possible because the local authority was responsible for deciding which bodies were represented in each group. The Chair highlighted that Humanism was currently being taught at Key Stage 3 at his school.

At the conclusion of the discussion, SACRE recommended that Humanism be included in Group A.

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A formal review of SACRE membership, which was approved by Council, would be required to amend the prescribed bodies in Group A. However, this would not prevent the engagement of the Humanist co-opted member from being involved in SACRE.

Resolved:

- i. That the SACRE membership update be noted.
- ii. That the SACRE recommend the widening of Category A to include Humanism, subject to the formal process being undertaken by Officers.

20. Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub Update

Christine Isles presented the minutes of the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub meeting held online on 2 February 2021.

It was highlighted that some of the latest films from the Real People, Real Faith project had been viewed and notes to accompany the films had been produced. The films would be presented at the online conference this year. Funds were being held in reserve for the production of additional resources to accompany the Real People, Real Faith films.

The films would be launched on 28 April 2021 via Zoom, and would be available on the NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) website.

SACRE was also informed that the £900 subscription to the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub would not be required for 2020-2021.

Resolved – That the minutes of the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub meeting held on 2 February 2021 be noted.

21. Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub Blog

The Chair announced that the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub Blog had been developed as a central point for teachers to place links with information on various subjects including RE. The blog would enable teachers to share resources.

Teachers who wished to share their resource could contact David Rees, Professional Adviser or Mark Laynesmith, Reading SACRE Chair who administer the blog.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

22. SACRE Newsletter

The SACRE noted the Winter Term 2021 RE newsletter.

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It was noted that items for the Summer Term newsletter should be sent to the Adviser by 9 April 2021.

Resolved – That the Winter Term 2021 RE newsletter be noted.

23. SACRE Action/Forward Plan 2020-2021

The Adviser presented the draft Action Plan for September 2020 – August 2021.

Members noted that as previously mentioned; subscription to the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub had not been collected for the 2020 – 2021 financial period. It was anticipated therefore, that this money could be carried over to 2021-2022.

The autumn term SACRE network meeting had been arranged for 18 March 2021 to be held via video conferencing.

It was highlighted that the NASACRE conference was taking place on 24 May 2021 and SACRE members wishing to attend should notify the Clerk. The conference would be publicised in the Autumn Term newsletter. Funding may be available to pay for supply cover for some teachers. The Chair would attend the conference if other SACRE members were unable to.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

24. SACRE Finance Update

The Senior Effectiveness Officer advised that £1,300 funding relating to the 2016 purchase of RE resources had now been resolved.

Funding remaining from April 2020-March 2021 was noted at £2,182. A creditor's schedule had been submitted but not yet confirmed.

The SACRE budget of £5,000 for 2021-22 was expected but also had yet to be confirmed.

The Adviser suggested that schools would find it useful to be provided with a copy of 'Making Every RE Lesson Count' by Louise Hutton and Dawn Cox (a practical guide to RE). Fifty one copies for all schools would be at a cost of £650. The Adviser would send further details to the Chair to review and ascertain whether the book would be appropriate for all schools.

During discussions about ways that the £1.300 sum of money could be used to support schools, the following comments/ suggestions were made:

- Invite Robin Launder to provide a training session on Humanism (Details to be publicised in the SACRE newsletter once date has been confirmed).
- Revisit the Crossing the Bridges project.

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Resolved - That the Budget update be noted.

25. SACRE Membership News (An update from members regarding activities undertaken since the last SACRE meeting)

There were no updates provided.

26. Equality and Diversity - Resources

The Adviser reported that at the Strictly RE Conference held on 21 January 2021, at which over 300 teachers had attended; a session was held on anti-racist RE. A link to available resources to support teachers in this area had been included in the Winter Term 2021 RE newsletter for information.

Decolonising the Curriculum; this involved a review of the curriculum in terms of inclusivity to incorporate the diversity of religious and non-religious world views. At the conclusion of the review, resources would subsequently be produced to support schools. Details would be signposted in forthcoming RE newsletters, and circulars would be sent to the Clerk to be circulated for information.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

27. SACRE Members' Attendance Record

Resolved – That the Members' attendance record be noted.

28. Date of Next Meeting - 16th June 2021

The next meeting scheduled on 16 June was changed to 17 June 2021.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.33 pm and closed at 5.58 pm)