

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th March, 2022.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Sue Elbrow, Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan, Waqar Bhatti and Hardip Singh Sohal

Committee 2 – Church of England

Lynda Bussley (Chair), Rev Gordon Briggs and Christine Isles

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Priya Lamba – Primary

Ian Sharpe – Secondary

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillors Basra, Begum, Brooker, Kaur and Smith

Apologies for Absence:- Ashpreet Singh Nainu

WELCOME

Karen Appleby was welcomed as a prospective member on SACRE representing Judaism. Her membership would be officially approved at the next Council meeting.

55. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 6 October 2021

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2021 be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- i) Lynda Bussley and Sue Elbrow had not been present at the meeting due to technical issues.
- ii) Lynda Bussley had been appointed as Vice-Chair in her absence.
- iii) Minute 48 – SACRE Finance – 4th para – should read ‘March 2022’.

56. Matters Arising

Lynda Bussley agreed to acceptance her appointment as Vice-Chair of SACE for 2021-2022.

In response to a query raised at the last meeting, David Rees, the professional (PA) adviser confirmed that faith schools were required to follow an agreed syllabus but the schools could determine the points they wanted to teach.

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(Cllr Basra joined the meeting – 16.36pm)

57. Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2021

Christine Isles provided an update on the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub meeting held on 13 December 2021 and reported that a further had taken place on 7 March 2022.

It was highlighted that additional filming programmes had been undertaken at a Catholic Church, Sunni Mosque and Orthodox Synagogue. The notes for Key Stage (KS) 1 and 2 had been completed, but those for KS3 were still ongoing.

(Hardip joined the meeting – 16.40pm)

In relation to the Agreed Syllabus review, 56 responses had been received following consultation with teachers in the whole area. There had therefore been discussions as to whether to convene an agreed syllabus conference (ASC) in each local authority or to postpone to 2023 in the spring, summer or autumn, which was the latest time that an ASC could be legally convened.

The approximate sum of £5,000 still remained in the Hub budget, but £1200 had yet to be deducted for the cost of the four additional films, as well as a further cost for writing the notes. Local authorities would be invoiced for their contribution of £900 for 2022-2023. It had been suggested that the money could either be held over to provide up-front funding for the review of the Agreed Syllabus, or to provide training for teachers in preparation.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

58. Pan-Berkshire Hub Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 March 2022

This item was covered in the minute 57 above.

59. SACRE Membership Update

The clerk advised that the membership groups would be updated to include Karen Appleby as a Jewish representative member on SACRE following her appointment by the Council.

Resolved - That the update be noted.

60. SACRE Spring 2022 RE Newsletter

The professional adviser invited members to submit details of any forthcoming event that they may wish to be included in the SACRE Spring 2022 RE Newsletter by the end of March 2022.

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Members commended the termly newsletters which they considered to be very informative and believed provided useful and helpful information and resources to support teachers in schools.

It was explained that information included in the newsletters were steered by the NASACRE, NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) and feedback that could be shared from various RE groups as well as the Slough RE Network group. Teachers could also contact the professional adviser on the email address included in the newsletters.

Resolved – That the SACRE Spring 2022 RE Newsletter be noted.

61. Draft Slough Annual SACRE Report 2020-2021

Members received the draft Annual SACRE Report for 2020-2021 set out in the template recommended by NASACRE.

The professional adviser highlighted that NASACRE had advised that a year should be allowed to enable the new SACRE Annual report framework to be embedded in the new format but needed to be agreed by the SACRE.

The report was required to be sent to NASACRE in December but the deadline had been extended due to Covid-19.

It was noted that there would be additional cost in the preparation of the report due to the level of details/information that was now required to be included. Further details were yet to be included in the report.

Resolved – That further work was on-going on the initial draft and would be reported to the next meeting.

62. SACRE Action Plan - February 2022

The professional adviser presented the 2021-2022 draft Action Plan updated in February 2022.

It was highlighted that the NASACRE annual conference would be held virtually in 2022 and further details were yet to be provided. The next termly RE Network meeting would be held on 17 March 2022 and further details relating to Strictly RE would be included on the agenda.

On-going work continued to be supported such as revisiting the Crossing the Bridges project, which was anticipated would restart post Covid-19. Also proposed (subject to further discussion) was arranging an in-house RE Teachers' Conference drawing on the expertise available within the Pan-Berkshire Hub membership.

Members were reassured that there was sufficient funding available to support the various actions set out in the Action Plan.

Resolved – That the SACRE Action Plan – February 2022 be noted.

63. SACRE Finance Update - February 2022

The group manager for school effectiveness provided an update on SACRE finance. Oxford Diocese had been requested to submit an invoice for the remaining £450 from the 2021-22 contributions. There would also be an under spend of approximately £3,000 of the 2021-22 SACRE budget, which would be required to be spent by the end of March 2022.

Members discussed various ways that the surplus budget could be spent including:

- Purchasing artefact to support teachers when teaching RE and drafting support guidance materials. Schools in Slough that taught RE would be invited to place an order from the RE Online Catalogue for the sum of approximately £80 to purchase support materials of relevance to their teaching. Invoices to be made to the Council for payment to be made from the SACRE budget. The professional adviser would explore the proposal to see how it could be progressed before the end of March 2022, and the group manager for school effectiveness confirmed that the RE Online Catalogue would be sent by email to headteachers in Slough.
- Begin preparation for written materials the proposed RE Teachers' conference.

It was stressed that any sum over £2,000 would require approval by the Finance Committee.

Also discussed was the suggestion that given the Council's current financial situation, any surplus money could perhaps be given back. It was noted that the SACRE budget was derived from the education and the DSG budget, all of which were closely being monitored as part of the financial management control.

Resolved:

- i) That schools in Slough be invited to order up to approximately £80 worth of RE artefacts from the RE Online Catalogue before the end of March 2022
- ii) That any unspent surplus remaining by the end March 2022 be absorbed by the Council.

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

Lynda Bussley (Vice-Chair) reported that St Mary's Church was hosting a Queens Jubilee Lunch at Upton Court Chalvey on 5 June 2022. It was noted that 5 June was also a Thank You Day and a walk had been organised by faith groups for schools.

Resolved – That the updates be noted.

65. Equality and Diversity - Resources

The SACRE noted that teaching diversity at KS1 in schools had been recommended in the Strictly RE newsletter. The professional adviser would provide further details when they become available.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

66. SACRE Members' Attendance Record

Resolved – That the Members' attendance record be noted.

67. Information Items (for noting)

Resolved – That the NASACRE latest news and update: SACRE Briefing Issue 31 be noted.

68. Date of Next Meeting - To be confirmed

The date for the next meeting would be circulated when the dates for the municipal year are agreed at the next Council meeting.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.30 pm and closed at 5.58 pm)