

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Thursday, 3rd November, 2022.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Ashpreet Singh Nainu (Chair), Sue Elbrow, Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan, Shujah Hamid, Momade Faizal and Karen Appleby

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
Ian Sharpe - Secondary

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillors Akbar, Bal, Basra, Brooker and Smith

Apologies for Absence:- Waqar Bhatti, Priya Lamba and Robin Launder

PART 1

WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. A warm welcome was also extended to the following:

- Momade Faizal who had formerly been appointed by the Council as a member on SACRE representing Islam
- Naresh Saraswat Pandit and Nagina Ali, who were attending this meeting as observers.

12. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 July 2022

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2022 be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

Item 6 – SACRE Finance Update – third para, delete '*but was now of a broadly Christian worship*'.

Item 7 – SACRE membership Update – last para, replace '*Burham*' with '*Burnham*'.

Item 8 – SACRE Membership update date – para 7, replace '*University of London*' with '*University of East London*'.

13. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

14. Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2022

The SACRE noted the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2022.

Sue Elbrow and Christine Isles highlighted the following:

- filming was still on-going.
- As part of the Pan- Berkshire Agreed Syllabus review, a proposal to create a concept chart with the current Agreed Syllabus questions had been proposed. The chart would be sent to each participating SACREs, to be circulated to Group A and B members. These members would be asked to complete the chart with their thoughts and to give feedback in relation to the content that pupils would need to have knowledge of, in order for them to be able to fully explore the Agreed Syllabus questions.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

15. Draft SACRE Action Plan 2022-2023

David Rees, the Professional Adviser (Adviser) presented the SACRE action plan updated to September 2022.

Members were advised that the budget allocation of £5,000 was expected to be confirmed in April 2023 and would adequately fund the actions set out in the action plan. The full allocation was expected to be spent.

The Adviser highlighted that the budget would also cover the annual contribution of £900 to the SACRE Hub. It was noted that there were proposals by the SACRE Hub to set up some training that SACRE members could attend. Further details would be circulated in due course.

(Nagina Ali joined the meeting as an observer).

In response to a query raised about the issue of monitoring and offering guidance to schools on Collective Worship, the SACRE Adviser reported that some SACREs had attempted to monitor Collective Worship by conducting school surveys. Although this was an option that was open to SACRE, it was noted that often, engagement on such issue in schools tended to be difficult.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

16. Autumn Term 2022 RE Newsletter

(Cllr Smith joined the meeting – 16.52pm)

Members received the RE Newsletter for the Autumn term. The Adviser reported that it will be circulated to schools, as well as the current list of RE Leads and Co-ordinator's on the database.

It was noted that there had been an increase in teacher engagement and greater feedback from teachers as a result of the termly circulation of the RE Newsletters.

Members were urged to submit items for inclusion in the next newsletter directly to David Rees by end of December 2022.

During discussion, it was noted that developing an easily accessible site for teachers, like Box Blog, where items and information could be uploaded would be helpful. It was acknowledged that whilst such a site would be helpful to teachers, the resources required to maintain the site was currently unavailable. The SACRE Hub was continuing with the exploration of this issue.

The Chair suggested that schools should be encouraged to apply for the RE Quality Mark (REQM) awards, which could be partly funded using surplus money in the SACRE budget to contribute towards the cost of £475 to gain the award.

All schools that express an interest in pursuing the REQM awards would be reported to the SACRE for funding to be agreed.

Resolved that:

- i) The Autumn Term 2022 RE Newsletter be noted.
- ii) That all expression of interest seeking contribution towards the cost of funding the Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) award be reported to a SACRE meeting for the amount to be approved.

17. Draft Slough SACRE Annual Report 2020-2021

Members were asked to agree the final version of 2020-2021 SACRE Annual Report, which was drafted using the new annual report template for SACREs.

During discussion, the issue of monitoring schools to ensure that they were teaching RE in accordance with the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus was raised. It was noted that all maintained schools were required to follow a locally agreed syllabus, but academies and free schools could choose to either follow their locally agreed syllabus, or make their own provision for teaching RE.

Although RE was offered as an exam subject at Key Stage 4 and 5, the subject was less likely to be selected as an option at 'A' level, as students

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could only choose one subject from option blocks. Additionally, RE was less likely to be selected by students, as it was not an EBacc (English Baccalaureate) subject.

The Adviser reported that this issue was currently being debated in Parliament and would keep SACRE members updated of any new developments.

Resolved – That the 202-21 Annual report be approved.

18. Collective Worship Document and Monitoring Update

The Adviser reported that permission had been granted by Bournemouth & Poole SACRE, Collective Guidance for Slough SACRE to follow a similar framework of their collective worship guidance.

The document had previously been circulated to SACRE members to review and consider which aspects could be extracted and followed by schools in Slough. Alternatively, the SACRE could consider drafting a similar document following the same format, which once finalised, would be circulated to schools.

Members commented that devising a document with a similar structure would be helpful to teachers.

It was agreed that the Adviser would draft a reduced version (including relevant updates) to be circulated to schools, together with the current survey being carried out in relation to the review of the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus.

Resolved:

- i) That the SACRE Professional Adviser draft a reduced version of Collective Worship and Monitoring Update document.
- ii) That the Collective Worship and Monitoring Update document be circulated to schools together with the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus survey.

19. Equality and Diversity - Resources

The SACRE was informed that awareness raising was on-going in relation to equality and diversity. Arising issues were being included in the SACRE newsletters on an ongoing basis.

It was noted that Momade Faisal would create slides to promote various annual celebration of events and projects to support schools.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

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20. SACRE Membership Update

The Clerk advised that the Council had appointed Momade Faisal (representing Islam on Slough SACRE).

Resolved – That the update be noted.

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

Councillor Brooked advised that he was the Vice-Chair of Governors at St Mary's Farnham Royal School.

Momade Faisal advised that he had been appointed as a Co-opted Governor at Stoke Poges School. He also maintained the Learn Islam website, which could be accessed by all at www.learn-islam.co.uk.

Resolved – that the update be noted.

22. SACRE Members' Attendance Record

Resolved – That the Members' attendance record be noted.

23. Information Item: Interfaith Week 2022: 13 - 20 November 2022

Resolved – That the circulated information on Interfaith Week 2022:, from 13 – 20 November be noted.

24. Date of Next Meeting: 15 March 2023

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 15 March 2023.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.30 pm and closed at 5.40 pm)