

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on
Wednesday, 6 November, 2019**

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Sue Elbrow, Julie Siddiqi (Chair), Ashpreet Singh Nainu and Hardip Singh Sohal

Committee 2 – Church of England

Rev Andrew Allen, Christine Isles and Andrea Sparrow

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Lynda Bussley (In part)

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillors Basra, Qaseem, Gahir and Smith

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Brooker and Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan, Waqar Bhatti and Guzari Lal Babber

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Nominations were sought for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair for the next SACRE year.

Ashpreet Singh Nainu was proposed and seconded to serve as Chair and this was agreed unanimously.

Lynda Bussley was proposed and seconded to serve as Vice-Chair and this was agreed unanimously.

Resolved that:

- i) Ashpreet Singh Nainu be elected as Chair for the 2019/20 SACRE year.
- ii) Lynda Bussley be elected as Vice-Chair for the 2019/20 SACRE year.

CHAIR OF THE MEETING

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Julie Siddiqi was nominated, seconded and appointed as Chair for the duration of this meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 26 June 2019

Resolved - That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 June 2019 be approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

Replace the word 'SARCRES' with 'SACRE' in Minute 33, last paragraph.

(Councillors Qaseem and Basra joined the meeting).

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3. Matters Arising

It was noted that Hershel Grammar School had responded to the invitation for school media departments to participate in the Westfield Project, a campaign to promote religious education (RE) in schools.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

4. SACRE Membership Update

(Ashpreet Singh Nainu joined the meeting).

Introductions were made and members provided a brief outline of previous experiences and prior knowledge of the work of SACRE. During discussion, the need to increase efforts in filling vacancies was acknowledged, particularly Committee 3, the Associations Representing Teachers, which had a high level of vacancies. Members expressed the view that membership in this category should be considered more widely and include RE teacher representatives at primary and secondary level.

As part of the drive to promote greater awareness of the work of SACRE in schools, it was proposed that a regular SACRE News Briefing circular be developed and distributed to all schools in Slough. The news briefing would not only help strengthen engagement with school leaders and teachers, it may possibly increase the chances of filling a number of the long-standing vacancies.

The Senior School Effectiveness Officer advised that the SACRE News Briefing circular could be distributed to schools via TheLink, the education news platform for schools in Slough. Awareness raising of the work of SACRE and RE teacher membership would also be raised at Primary and Secondary Headteachers meetings.

Resolved that:

- i) The update be noted.
- ii) The Senior School Effectiveness Officer in collaboration with the SACRE Professional Adviser would develop the SACRE News Briefing circular for schools in Slough and arrange circulation to schools via TheLink.

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

No updates were provided.

6. Minutes of the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub Meeting held on 17 July 2019

Christine Isles provided an update on the Pan-Berkshire SACRE Hub meeting held on 17 July 2019. The minutes of the meeting were noted. Progress was on-going on the Key Stage 3 Guidance materials.

In relation to the Westfield Community Grant Bid funding that had been secured to help promote RE, it was reported that filming was taking place at a Jewish Synagogue in Maidenhead and the next filming would be taking place at the Hindu Temple in Slough. The films would be developed as materials for use in classrooms to assist teachers to help bring learning RE alive.

The date and venue for the SACRE Hub summer conference had yet to be confirmed.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

7. SACRE Action/Forward Plan 2019 - 2020

(Lynda Bussley joined the meeting).

David Rees, the SACRE Professional Adviser provided an update on the Action Plan for September 2019 – August 2020. The Action Plan had been set out into three areas for ease of reference namely:

- A) Core Business – To enable SACRE to be supportive and proactive and enjoy the benefit of a full and well informed membership.
- B) To provide support to teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in schools.
- C) To support the Pan-Berkshire Hub and the support materials for the Agreed Syllabus.

Members were advised that with regards to supporting teachers of RE, it was difficult to run network meetings due to the challenges of teacher attendance. However, attendance at network meetings would not only be useful for teachers, it would demonstrate that schools were supporting RE.

During discussions it was acknowledge that whilst the majority of schools in Slough were academies, academies without a religious character were required to follow an Agreed Syllabus for RE but could choose which Agreed Syllabus they followed.

Members agreed that an introductory SACRE News Briefing circular should be sent to schools before the end of the summer term with the SACRE Newsletter following there after. It was noted that the first network meeting would be held on Thursday 27 February 2020 from 4pm – 5.30pm at Slough and Eton CE Business and Enterprise College. The meeting would be cross-phased in order to promote RE. Notification would be sent to RE Leads/Co-ordinators and all schools via TheLink.

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Resolved that:

- i) The SACRE Action Plan for September 2019- August 2020 be noted.
- ii) A SACRE News Briefing circular be sent to schools at the end of the Summer term followed by circulation of a regular SACRE Newsletter.
- iii) The first network meeting would be held on Thursday 27 February 2020.

(Councillor Smith left the meeting).

8. Draft Annual Report 2018 - 2019

Members discussed the draft SACRE Annual Report 2018-19. It was a requirement for the SACRE to produce a document summarising its activity during the year.

The final GCSE data would usually be included but it wasn't yet available and would be appended separately. It was confirmed that the SACRE Professional Adviser would submit a copy of Annual Report to the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE).

Resolved – That the SACRE Annual Report 2018-2019 be approved.

9. Religious Education (RE) Resources Catalogue Project Update

Members received an update on the ongoing work on the resources catalogue project. The Chair of SACRE would write (in collaboration with Waqar Bhatti) to St Mary's CE Primary (St Mary's) School to formally arrange for the final completion of the photographing process. This would be followed by a visit to the school by the Chair and Vice-Chair for a further review of the resources with Rachel Bullard and Rachel Cross. St Mary's would be invited to retain resources that were no longer required by SACRE.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

10. Information Items:

NASACRE

The Clerk would circulate the NASACRE log-in details when they are received.

Interfaith Week – Sunday 10 – 17 November 2019

Rev Andrew Allen reported that Year 6 pupils from St Mary's CE Primary School would be visiting war graves on 11 November 2019. Year 6 pupils visited war graves each year during this period.

Members noted the updates.

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11. Date of Next Meeting - 4 March 2020

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 4 March 2020.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.30 pm and closed at 6.28 pm)