

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th July, 2022.

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) and Christine

Committee 3 – Teachers (Representing Primary, Secondary & Special Schools)

Munsoor Malik – Primary

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillors Akbar, Bal, Basra, Brooker, and Smith

Apologies for Absence:- Karen Appleby, Rev Gordon Briggs, Andrea Sparrow, Priya Lamba, Ian Sharpe and Robin Launder

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Robert Harrap and Momade Faizal who were both attending as observers.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 9 March 2022

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

(Lynda Bussley joined the meeting)

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. SACRE Summer Term 2022 RE Newsletter

The SACRE Summer Term 2022 RE Newsletter was noted. It covered local as well as national issues. Members were invited to submit items for inclusion in the autumn term publication to be received by the end of August 2022.

(Sue Elbrow was experienced IT issues and had difficulty joining the meeting).

Resolved – That the SACRE Summer Term 2022 RE Newsletter be noted.

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4. Update on Response from Schools to purchase Artefacts from RE Online Catalogue by 31 March 2022

The SACRE Professional (Adviser) reported that there had been no uptake from schools on the offer of purchasing artefacts from the Online Catalogue by the deadline of 31 March 2022.

The Group Manager for School Effectiveness (GMSE) confirmed that no invoices had been received from RE Online.

The Chair suggested that a template for requesting RE resources should be sent to all schools to encourage teachers to bid for funding for resources. It was also acknowledged that a template should be attached to the Newsletter as this would be an effective way of enabling teachers to submit requests.

(Shujah Hamid – dipped in & out of the meeting)

5. Draft SACRE Action Plan 2022-23

The Adviser provided an update of the Action Plan for 2022 and highlighted the following:

- The SACRE 2020-21 Annual report had previously been provided in draft.
- He had attended the NASCRE AGM in May 2022.
- As well as other actions undertaken, considerable work had been undertaken to support the SACRE Hub.
- It had not been possible to hold a Hub conference for teachers in 2022, but anticipated that a conference would be held in 2023, as having a conference would be very helpful for teachers.

In response to a question about the possibility of visiting schools in relation to collective worship, it was noted that there was still an on-going debate about this issue, but meanwhile, a Collective Worship Guidance document had been co-produced with another borough, which provided advice and guidance in relation to visitors to schools. The Adviser would seek permission to circulate the document to SACRE members to review. Response relating to the guidance would be expected from senior leadership, and not RE teachers or co-coordinators.

The SACRE discussed that a simple survey could be conducted to get feedback from senior leaders in schools in Slough and their details could be found on the schools' websites. In addition, consideration could be given to promoting the survey as part of schools' enrichment days.

Resolved:

- i) That the update be noted.

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- ii) That the Professional Adviser conduct a survey on collective worship.

6. SACRE Finance Update

The GMSE provided a Finance update and advised that the under spend of £3,000 from 2021 could not be carried over into 2022-23 financial year. The SACRE was urged to consider future expenditure and for funding to be allocated at an early stage to avoid the issue of unspent funding arising.

It was suggested that consideration could be given to including the SACRE allocated funding as part of the Hub Contribution (via the Oxford Diocese) from which SACRE could draw down expenditure. The GMSE would make enquires and feedback to the SACRE once a response had been received.

During discussion, it was highlighted that collect worship was of a Christian nature and this had not changed, but was now of a broadly Christian worship.

In respect to costings it was agreed that the following should be included in the costings:

- One day for survey analysis
- Set up a half-day session for a questions and answer for senior leadership teams from schools
- Set up a further half-day for the SACRE Professional Adviser to give advice
- Invite schools to bid for funding for resources to support RE teaching.

It was highlighted that additional network meetings had taken place during the pandemic and the SACRE agreed that the increased network meetings should continue. A teacher commented that she had found the network meetings very useful.

After reviewing the costings, the GMSE advised that £2.5k was remaining and consideration should be given as to how the money should be spent. The Chair added that schools should be invited via the autumn term newsletter to bid for help with funding for needed resources to support RE teaching.

Resolved;

- i) That the update be noted
- ii) That the additional costing listed above be agreed.

7. SACRE Membership Update

The Clerk confirmed that Karen Appleby had been officially appointed to the SACRE as a member representing Judaism.

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Through the Chair, Mr Faisal provided further details about himself and explained that he was the Head of IT at Ditton Park and had taught privately. He had also been a manager at the JMIC Slough Islamic Centre (Stoke Poges Mosque) for over 5 years and visited and made presentations to teachers at many schools.

The Chair reported that he had invited Mr Harrap to attend this meeting as an observer during a visit at his school. The SACRE heard that Mr Harrap had been a member of SGI Buddhism for over 35 years and had been the director at SGI Taplow since December 2013. It was noted that there were many members who lived in Slough and Mr Harrap would welcome the appointment of a member who lived close to Slough as a co-opted member in the future.

When asked whether there were any centres in Slough and the number of people who attended from Slough, Mr Harrap explained that the nearest centre was based in Taplow with approximately 150 people attending from the whole of Berkshire. It was noted that between 30-40 people from Slough attended the SGI – UK National Centre in Taplow. It was confirmed that enquires about the centre had been received from a school Burhan Grammar) in the past.

Resolved – That the updates be noted.

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

The Chair reported that he had met with Waqar Bhatti and Momade Faizal on the previous day to discuss services that could be offered to their schools. Through the Chair, Mr Faizal explained that he had visited many schools to provide support in relation to Islam and noted that schools had limited materials. This often meant that teachers purchased resources from their personal budgets, and may sometimes not be certain that the information being referred to was correct.

From the meeting, it was proposed that PowerPoints would be made for teachers to ensure that the information being provide was in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus as well as providing ideas to help teachers, free of charge. It was expected that SACRE members and teachers would be involved in the process.

During discussion, it was noted that the information should be included in the Crossing the Bridges Directory, as well as the SACRE newsletters.

The Vice-Chair reported that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee party which took place in June 2022 had been a great success as a wider community event. Councillor (Cllr) Akbar reported that she had also attended the event, which brought the community together. She suggested that a similar event should be arranged around Ramadan.

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Members were encouraged to submit details regarding any event that they wished to promote, to be sent to the Adviser.

Cllr Brooker reported that he had been re-elected as Church Warden at his Church.

The Chair reported that he was undertaking the Department for Education (DfE) funded SKE programmes (at the University of London), which included RE for teachers who wished to increase their subject knowledge.

It reported that the Jo Curd (GMSE) was attending her last meeting as she would be moving on to pastures new.

Lynda Bussley announced that this too may be her last meeting, as she was planning to move to Summerset but this was yet to be finalised.

Resolved – That the updates be noted.

9. Equality and Diversity - Resources

The Adviser reported that equality and diversity resources were regularly reviewed, and updates were provided via links in the SACRE newsletters. Updates were also provided in the NASACRE – SACRE Briefings.

Resolved – That the updates be noted.

10. Information Items: Latest News and Updates from NASACRE - SACRE Briefing Issue 31

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

11. Date of Next Meeting: 3 November 2022

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 3 November 2022.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.30 pm and closed at 6.01 pm)

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