

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Thursday 16th June 2022 at 4.15pm**

Present: Aga Cahn (AC), Cllr Alex Bulat, Becky Palmer (BP), Becky Layfield (BL), Catherine Watts (CW), Caroline Vinall (CV), Dr Shirley Hall (SH), Julia Ewans (JE - SACRE Chair), Moira Middleton (MM), Susan Scholan (SS), Liz Bassett (LB), Laura Penrose (LP), Raj Shah (RS), Tony Reynolds (TR), Phil Stevens (PS), Sejad Mekic (SM), Wilf Jones (WJ)

Apologies:

In attendance

Laura Corcoran, SACRE Clerk
Amanda Fitton (AF, SACRE Adviser),

No	Agenda Item	Action
1	Welcome and apologies for absence	
1.1	JE welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Phil Stevens as Ely Diocese representative (committee B).	
1.2	Apologies had been received from Reverend Robert, Shirley Hall, Philippa Slatter and Dennis Johnson.	
2.0	Minutes of the previous meeting of 5/2/22 and matters arising not elsewhere	
2.1	The minutes were agreed as a true record.	
2.2	<p><u>Matters arising</u> -Obtaining information and documents from secondary schools – AF explained that as all Cambs secondary schools are now academies, be mindful that they are not obliged to provide any information. We are able to send a polite request however this would be done through Schools News and not directly - for further discussion. Determination and the change from Christianity to multifait – who has the responsibility to ensure Christianity is taught? Is there a balance to ensure that Christianity doesn't disappear? AF explained that whilst Ofsted rarely look at collective worship or comments on it, they will go into an assembly and this is a good indicator. There is a chance that AF may be able to support with this matter as part of her role with school improvement – for further discussion.</p>	
3.0	SACRE Membership / Recruitment strategy	
3.1	<p>JE advised that the vacancies are predominantly in committee A. The clerk had again made contact with the Buddhist centre and the Orthodox / Methodist church. JE invited members views on whether to retain the 3 representatives. JE raised the important matter of being constitutionally quorate within each committee and of ensuring there is the correct representation of faith groups.</p> <p>A discussion followed about the remit of committee A. The clerk referred members to the constitution and terms of reference which is in the appropriate sub folder Teams. The chair said it would be helpful if members familiarised themselves with these documents prior to attending their first meeting, once issued by the clerk..</p>	
4.0	Correspondence and updates – NASACRE / DfE etc	
4.1	<p>The clerk had circulated the following documents to all members: NASACRE insights report NASACRE document - Reviewing the RE Curriculum in the light of a National Statement of Entitlement and Big Ideas for RE.</p>	

	<p>The clerk advised that she had circulated guidance to all members from NASACRE following the recent cyber security attack and associated phishing emails. The clerk advised members not to respond to out of the ordinary emails from her.</p>	
5.0	Short report on the new SACRE and RE system adopted by the Welsh government	
5.1	<p>JE advised that the <u>The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act</u> received royal assent in April 2021 and will come into force from September 2022. It sets new curriculum requirements for all learners aged 3 to 16 in maintained or funded non-maintained including nursery education.</p> <p>The new curriculum is designed to include more emphasis on skills and experiences as well as knowledge. The curriculum groups education into six "Areas of Learning and Experience" with the intention of helping teachers draw links between subjects and teach topics in a broad way although traditional subjects will still be taught.^[19] The areas are Expressive Arts, Health and wellbeing, Humanities, Science and technology, Maths and Numeracy, Languages, Literacy and Communication. Within a basic framework of goals and learning areas, it gives schools freedom to develop their own curriculum to suit the needs of their pupils. Other changes include a greater emphasis on the history of Wales and ethnic minority groups.</p> <p>The four purposes should be the starting point and aspiration for schools' curriculum design. Ultimately, the aim of a school's curriculum is to support its learners to become:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives • enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work • ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world • healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society <p>The name of the subject of 'religious education' (RE) will be changed to 'religion, values, and ethics' (RVE), to reflect this broader scope.</p> <p>The Act has not gone as far as imposing a national syllabus for RVE. It remains a locally written syllabus in the 22 local authority areas.</p> <p>The Act means that, in line with the Human Rights Act 1998, humanism will be taught on an equal footing with religions in the school curriculum and clarifies that humanists may sit on the bodies that oversee and develop the syllabus.</p> <p>In addition to the changes to RE, the Act will introduce an array of other sweeping reforms. These include objective age-appropriate relationships and sexuality education (RSE) for all pupils aged 3-16, with no parental right to withdraw. Schools will also have a legal duty to promote knowledge and understanding of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Parents whose children attend voluntary aided faith schools will also be given the right to have them taught objective RVE lessons in line with the inclusive syllabus taught in other schools, rather than faith-based lessons.</p> <p>From September there will be no parental right to request withdrawal from religion, values and ethics (RVE) in respect of all learners up to and including year 6. From September 2023 there will be no right to withdraw for years 7 and 8 learners.</p> <p>Is it the Welsh initiative who drives this? There is a national curriculum, but the schools have more flexibility than formally. Writing an agreed syllabus for RE lies with the SACRES.</p> <p>AF mentioned that in the white paper it was suggested that SACRE consider strategically how they adapt to the white paper and ensure they can effectively monitor provision. We have established that there is a lack of guidance for academies. A member said that there is generally a lack of terminology with regards to faith-based academies. There is a difference between this and faith schools. AF said to be aware that LAs such as Cambs do have a large number of community schools and will be able to set up their own academy trusts so SACRE should watch carefully how CCC choose to respond to the white paper. At present there is still a requirement to have an agreed syllabus but the standard of RE being taught is not consistently good.</p>	

6.0	Agreed Syllabus working group	
	AF and JE fed back on the monthly meetings which were now being held. Between meetings some meetings are taking place to focus on separate sections of the Agreed Syllabus. At the last two meetings there has been a large focus on the importance of different world views and what this means as a subject. AF encouraged further participation of members and said she valued the expertise of teachers on SACRE. There will be an in-house planning meeting on 13 th July and SACRE are able to fund supply cover for schools.	
7.0	Local authorities enabling inclusive assemblies and collective workshop	
7.1	Item to be delayed to the next meeting, once further guidance is available.	
8.0	Training for schools	
8.1	AF advised that the final training course of the year had taken place last week. Courses are generally well attended. Clerk to circulate the training data for 2021-22. The programme of courses for next year is being finalised for next year. Are there connections with the teaching hub and training programme with regards to the teaching of RE? AF to check this. As there are changes around teacher training and gave examples. It was suggested that AF provides an update to the committee at the next meeting in October. There is a diverse offer of teacher training across the area. AF said that she provides training to teachers new to RE and is also involved with the training of ECTs. AF said she is concerned we will lose academic rigour within our teacher training.	
10.0	Members updates	
10.1	-BP advised that she has a slot at the Quaker area meeting and will advise her demonitaion group what is happening in SACRE. This will consist of a presentation. -AC reported that schools are returning to the synagogue and that the figures are almost the same as pre covid. -Interfaith week – members discussed how they can take part in this important event in the Autumn – for next agenda. -CV advised that there is the school leaders conference from the diocese of Ely next week and this includes a session on spirited play and RE teaching. There is also a talk form the Diocese of Canterbury. CV to circulate the link to both sessions. CW advised that she had heard that church schools attending church on a weekly basis. SM advised he was pleased to welcome the and meet the new NASACRE chair with a large group of RE teachers from across the country at the Cambridge central mosque recently. Members discussed the significance of such events relating to helping children to catch up on missed opportunities during the lockdowns.	All
9.0	Westhill update	
9.1	JE advised that there is no update and until we can get our faith representatives back into school the project will not be possible to continue. AF confirmed that restrictions are now lifted and suggested that a subcommittee meet to discuss further how they may reinstate religious events.	
10.0	Annual report using NASACRE template	
10.1	JE referred to the SACRE annual report template which has now been published to ensure consistency of reporting and to make comparisons. It was agreed that this would be applied to the next annual report for 2021-22. A discussion took place about obtaining and including the exam grades, AF suggested that as it is now a sensitive time to approach schools, SACRE focus instead on how many students have been entered. BP advised that the short course has been taken up further and suggested that SACRE obtain the data to see who has taken this up.	
11.0	Further meeting dates for 2021-22	
11.1	Agreed as 21.9.22 1.2.23 14.6.23	

JE invited members views on meeting face to face or online. It was agreed that the first meeting would take place online and that meeting venue for remaining meetings would be discussed and agreed.	
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The meeting closed at 17:45

Signed: _____
Chair of SACRE

Agreed actions

Local authorities enabling inclusive assemblies and collective workshop – for discussion at future meeting

Clerk to circulate the teacher attendance training data for 2021-22

Interfaith week – members discussed how they can take part in this important event in the Autumn – possibly set up working group

AF confirmed that restrictions are now lifted and suggested that a subcommittee meet to discuss further how they may reinstate religious events.

AF to seek advice on obtaining exam grades from schools