

**Minutes of the meeting of the  
Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)  
at Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall on  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Present:** Aga Cahn, Amanda Fitton (SACRE Adviser), Catherine Watts, Cathy Mitchell, Dennis Johnson, Julia Ewans, Kerri McCourty (Clerk), Raj Shah, Raymond Mitchell, Rebecca Smith, Shahla Suleiman, Taradasa, Tony Reynolds and Virginia Barnes

**Apologies:** Cllr Claire Richards, Daniel Bennett, Ged McHale, Janet Scott, Cllr Julie Wisson, Moira Middleton and Dr Shirley Hall

**Absent:** Elizabeth Bassett, Rev Robert Mackley

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

This meeting was not quorate due to the lack of Councillor representatives from committee D.

Julia Ewans (Vice Chair) chaired the meeting due to the retirement of ex Chair Cllr Tony Orgee.

Julia opened the meeting and welcomed Catherine Watts, who is representing the Church of England on committee B, to SACRE. SACRE members went round and introduced themselves to Catherine.

**2. Apologies**

The SACRE Clerk informed those present that apologies had been received from Cllr Claire Richards, Daniel Bennett, Ged McHale, Janet Scott, Cllr Julie Wisson, Moira Middleton and Dr Shirley Hall.

All apologies were read out and accepted by the committee.

**3. Minutes of 20 June 2017 and matters arising not elsewhere on agenda**

SACRE members checked the minutes of the last meeting for accuracy.

The minutes were subsequently signed by Julia Ewans (Vice Chair).

In regard to matters arising:

RE figures

Julia Ewans has not yet completed the figures for the composition of religions in the three counties.

**Action:** JE to send composition of figures to SACRE members.

JE

Visitors document

Despite another reminder following from the SACRE clerk following the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017, the SACRE Clerk has only received one visitor's proforma.

**Action:** KM to send visitors proforma to SACRE members.

KM

**Action:** KM to add Taradasa to previous minutes

KM

#### **4. Correspondence**

The SACRE Clerk informed the committee that there had been no correspondence since the last meeting.

#### **5. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**

Due to the fact there is only two councillors that sit on SACRE committee D, the meeting was not quorate so SACRE were not able to elect a Chair and Vice Chair. Julia Ewans asked the committee if they were happy for her to continue as interim Chair.

#### **6. Agreed Syllabus update**

In December 2016, members from Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Northamptonshire SACRE convened as the Agreed Syllabus Conference. It is a joint Agreed Syllabus Conference that has developed innovative ways of working to reduce cost and increase efficiency.

Julia Ewans (Chair of ASC) noted the lack of attendance by members at the ASC meetings.

There are several schools that are currently trialling the Agreed Syllabus. All of the ASC documents were sent to the schools in September.

A survey has been sent to the teachers that are trialling the syllabus for feedback with a deadline for replies by October half-term. Another survey will be sent before the Christmas break. It is hoped that the survey will provide detailed feedback about how the Agreed Syllabus is being used so far.

Amanda is currently working on Key Stage 3 assessment documents. For Key Stage 4, the topics from the current Agreed Syllabus can be transferred over.

Dennis queried whether the Agreed Syllabus will be using a GCSE style assessment document. Key Stage 3 schools are not exactly following the syllabus but adapting it to fit the demographic of their school and their GCSE curriculum.

Gurdev Sing from Peterborough SACRE will be formatting the Agreed Syllabus documents so that they look professional and coherent. There will also be a glossary of terms for the Agreed Syllabus. SACRE members agreed that a glossary will be very useful for teachers just to reassure them on spelling and definitions.

There will be signposts to useful websites and resources for teachers to use when planning lessons.

### **6.1 Minutes from the ASC meeting 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017**

The minutes from the last ASC meeting was included in the members' meeting packs and circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

Amanda Fitton, Julia Ewans, Kerri McCourty, Cllr Claire Richards and Helen Manley are meeting with Denise Revens on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to find out about the process of getting the revised syllabus through the County Council.

### **6.2 ASC report from the Chair**

Julia Ewans (Chair of the ASC) drafted a report on the work that the ASC has been doing. The report was distributed to SACRE members prior to the meeting and was included in their meeting packs.

### **6.3 Meeting Dates**

The next ASC meeting is taking place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Stanton House in Huntingdon from 16:30.

## **7. Conference to launch the Agreed Syllabus**

Amanda Fitton and Kerri McCourty met with the Marriott Hotel in Huntingdon to plan the Agreed Syllabus launch conference. It is proposed that a conference is held for RE teachers to help introduce them to the revised Agreed Syllabus. The conference has been booked for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018. The venue holds up to 180 people.

The conference will have a two keynote speakers, Kathryn Wright (works with NATRE and Diocese of Norwich) and Janet Orchards (University of Bristol). There will also be workshops to support both primary and secondary teachers with the implementation of the new syllabus as well as promoting their own CPD.

Amanda asked the committee for any ideas on workshops.

Suggestions so far:

- Faraday Institute

- Police officer in Northamptonshire part of National Hate Crime prevention
- Extremism and terrorism in Sikhism

Shahla Suleiman volunteered to run a workshop at the conference.

Rebecca Smith volunteered her school choir to perform at the conference.

## 8. Development plan 2017-2018

Peterborough's development plan was included in the SACRE members' meeting packs. Amanda has suggested that Cambridgeshire SACRE has permanent objectives such as the *Management of SACRE* and analysing the *Effectiveness of Locally Agreed Syllabus* but with one or two additional objectives to work on throughout the year. The development plan will then be included on every agenda so that it's not lost.

Amanda asked SACRE members to consider additional objectives for their development plan:

- Launch of the Agreed Syllabus
- Visits and visitors document
- Collective Worship – the issue of academisation in the county means that SACRE has become just an advisory body.
- Guidance on Collective Worship for primary and secondary

In terms of layout, the development should have a breakdown of who is going to be in control of the project/objective. The objectives should reflect the needs of Cambridgeshire.

SACRE members decided that the additional objectives for their development plan should be to finish the visitor's document for schools as well as update the collective worship guidance for schools.

**Action:** Amanda Fitton to amend development plan to reflect additional objectives of visitor's document and collective worship guidance for schools.

AF

**Action:** SACRE members to form sub-committees for the objectives before the next SACRE meeting.

ALL

## 9. Pathway project

Amanda was approached by CREDS (Cambridgeshire Race, Equality and Diversity Service) who have been in discussion with Erasmus about a pathway project through religions. The project will form a digital map for places of worship working with secondary teachers and students. There is £40,000 funding for the project. SACRE members gave approval for Amanda to work with CREDS on this project.

## 10. LGBT interfaith event February 2018

There is going to be an LGBT interfaith event in February 2018. Amanda would like SACRE members to work with her on the leaflet that SACRE produced in Spring 2016 on *Teaching about Gender Identity and Sexuality in Religious Education: Advice for Headteachers and Governors* to present at the event. Julia Ewans agreed to work with Amanda on the leaflet as Julia was part of the working party that initially developed the leaflet.

**Action:** KM to send SACRE webpage link to SACRE members to find online resources. **KM**

**Action:** SACRE members to volunteer to work with Amanda to revise the leaflet. **ALL**

## 11. Training Update

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Amanda and Iman Ibn Tahaikt (Advisory Teacher with CREDS) held an Exploring Islam course which saw 11 people attend. Shahla Suleiman (SACRE member) attended the training and thought that it was very useful for teachers.

The prices of consultancies for schools has dropped in price from £96 per hour to £56 per hour to encourage schools to get in contact for more support.

## 12. Faith Direct Event 2017

The date of the Faith Direct Event has been set for Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 11:00-14:00 at Marriott Hotel in Huntingdon.

Schools from all three areas have been invited and currently nine schools have confirmed attendance:

- Southfield School, Northamptonshire
- St Peter's School, Cambridgeshire
- St Bede's Inter-Church School, Cambridgeshire
- Hampton College, Peterborough
- Thomas Deacon Academy, Peterborough
- Castle Special School, Cambridgeshire
- Hinchingsbrooke School, Cambridgeshire
- Witchford Village College, Cambridgeshire

Schools have been sent a checklist to ensure that the teachers remember to come to the event. The checklist needs to be signed by the lead teacher on the day and the Headteacher of the school.

Faith representatives will be sent guidance regarding how to make best use of time during their presentations.

**Action:** KM to send faith representatives guidance. **KM**

**13. AOB**

Virginia Barnes passed around invitations to the Baha'i Faith Twin Bicentenaries event on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.

**Next Meeting**

**Formal Meeting**

The next meeting will take place Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 13:30-15:30 in the Kreis Viersen room at Shire Hall.

**Working Party Meeting**

The next ASC meeting will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017, 16:30-18:30 at Stanton House in Huntingdon.

The meeting closed at 15:17

Signed: ..... Date: .....