

**Minutes of the meeting of the**

**Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)  
at Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall on  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 4.30pm**

**Present:** Amanda Fitton (SACRE Adviser), Aga Cahn, Cllr Claire Richards, Tony Reynolds, Julia Ewans (Chair), Dennis Johnson, Liz Basset, Becky Palmer, Dr Shirley Hall, Virginia Barnes and Caroline Vinall.

**Apologies:** Daniel Bennett, , Robert Mackley, Ged McHale, Moira Middleton, Raj Shah, Robert Mackley, Amanda Taylor, Shala Suleiman, Catherine Watts and Kirsten Stevenson.

**In attendance**

Laura Corcoran, SACRE Clerk

**Absent:**

Raymond Mitchell

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Julia Ewans (Chair) opened the meeting. All members introduced themselves.

**2. Apologies**

All apologies as above were read out and accepted by the committee.

Members discussed the fact that attendance was an issue and members were reminded that they should arrange for a representative to attend in their absence.

The Clerk confirmed the SACRE constitution states that failure to attend 3 meetings without a satisfactory explanation will result in disqualification. The meetings should state whether apologies were accepted and whether any members were 'absent' i.e. if members had not sent apologies.

**Action - The Chair will send a letter about attendance to all members.**

**3. Minutes of 6.2.19 and matters arising not elsewhere on agenda**

The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed.

-The vacancy on committee B has been filled.

-Item 4 – TR to provide Rugby contact – TR confirmed that he had handed over the relevant contact.

-AOB Pathway to Religion denomination – Clerk to update spelling as correct.

-Cllr Richards confirmed that she had passed on the hate-crime incidents as agreed. Members were informed that the office will be moving to the central library.

**4 SACRE Membership / Vacancies Update**

The clerk read out the list of vacancies.

**Action - Clerk to contact the Buddhist Centre and invite Buddhist Representative to the next meeting.**

**Action**

**Cllr Amanda Taylor to contact a further link regarding the Orthodox vacancy.**

**5 Correspondence**

The Chair referred to an article relating to why SACREs should complain to schools when they neglect RE

**Action - Chair to circulate article**

**6. Westhill / NASACRE Awards 2019**

AF gave a resume of the conference attended by herself and JE on 24.5.19.

AF said she was pleased to advise that following a successful bid, Cambridgeshire SACRE were one of 5 SACREs awarded the grant. We expect to receive further documentation after the next NASACRE Trustees meeting. The money is expected to arrive in the Autumn term. JE gave brief details of what we hope at this stage for the money to go towards. JE welcomed teacher attendance on the training so that they can feed back to the Board.

**7. Pathways project**

AF advised that the Pathways website is now live <https://pathwaythroughreligions.pixel-online.org/> and feeds to the Multi faith event. AF added that the website is very helpful to teachers to use as a teaching and learning resource.

AF advised that in order to research for the event she had been on an overnight residential to Florence to see their approach to multi-cultural education. AF observed that the UK were 'ahead' in integrating different backgrounds into the country.

**8. Multi faith event**

AF gave details of the Multifaith event which will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> November. we have managed to source the venue free of charge at Ely Cathedral. AF advised the speakers and activities for the day including The Peterborough school and SACRE member Raj Shah's granddaughter. We still require representatives for the Muslim and Jewish communities. AK to support with Jewish faith group.

AF advised that the working group have met and it was agreed that schools in Ely would be targeted and she has already met with Ely college.

AF stated that the aim is to bring in 180 secondary school pupils who are taking secondary school RE and split them into workshops based on the different faiths. In the afternoon there will be a debate based on the GCSE syllabus questions on areas of study. We have secured two thirds of the cathedral for the event. The next part is for the working group to meet to plan the day in further detail. We are targeting borderline students who require a booster in their learning. AF said she welcomed input from SACRE members

Members discussed the logistics and transport for the event. Members discussed the associated costs and also the costs incurred of students and potentially teaching staff being released to participate.

Members acknowledged the importance of attracting the right schools so that they can benefit from the range of activities the event has to offer so that this can have the

required impact on results. Members discussed in detail the fact that a lot of thought had been put into planning the event so that the right students can benefit.

## 9 Ofsted

Members referred to the new Ofsted framework (published May 2019) summary from NATRE which had been circulated by the clerk. It was highlighted that bullet point 171 onwards in the framework makes reference to RE. All pupils in maintained schools are expected to study the basic curriculum which includes national curriculum, RE and age-appropriate relationship and sex education.

A member advised that the DfE had written to the chair of NASACRE stating the DfE's understanding of the new framework (the letter can be obtained from the NASACRE website). Members agreed that the letter and accompanying paragraph in the framework should be shared with all schools via the newsletter highlighting the focus on intent and impact. The full handbook can also be downloaded from the Ofsted website.

A further discussion followed about the RE aspect of the new framework. A Headteacher advised that her school had taken part in a pilot for the new framework and the inspectors observed 8 RE lessons over 2 days.

Members agreed that there appears to be a strong SMSC overview. The framework focus is on diversity. Members acknowledged that a lot of schools are predominantly a Christianity focus when it comes to teaching. The Chair said that in terms of SACRE's monitoring role, we should consider how well we know schools' RE performance and what is actually happening in school lessons. Also, how well are we supporting schools? A discussion followed and members were concerned at the possibility that RE was being 'side-lined'. The reality is that there are not specialist RE teachers to link with in all schools and in terms of outcomes there are not a considerable amount of students undertaking GCSE RE. AF responded that obtaining data from secondary schools has been challenging and we are currently in the process of requesting all primary schools' RE assessment data.

A discussion took place about the best format to obtain data from schools and the importance of being mindful that we should not presume any schools require the support without ascertaining their current situation and subsequent attainment. It was suggested that the data is obtained via the LA adviser's Kit report.

**Action - It was agreed that AF would help St Bede's with the promotion of events via the direct email system and RE newsletter.**

**Action - BP to write to schools to advise them of the new requirements under the national framework and agreed syllabus.**

Members noted that the subject of approaching and supporting academies was challenging as they are not legally required to provide any information.

A member suggested offering training in schools to help them to become Ofsted-ready. Initial teacher training will also be considered.

**Action - It was agreed that AF would meet with DJ and BP to devise a plan based on the online consultations with the RE co-ordinators at the network meeting in March on 25<sup>th</sup> June.**

**Action - It was agreed that Jonathan Lewis would be invited to the next meeting to provide advice on the RE aspect of the new Ofsted Framework. This will be done via Cllr Richards.**

## **10 SACRE Annual Report**

The Annual report has been circulated to members. This will go to the LA, NASACRE and the DfE.

## **11 SACRE Development Plan**

It was agreed that this area will be revisited once a RE strategy has been agreed based on how SACRE are able to support schools with the new Ofsted framework and RE agreed syllabus. Members should revisit demographic information of schools.

## **12 Members' updates**

It was noted that there had been an increase in the number of schools contacting the Synagogue inviting them to events. There is an event next week involving 54 pupils.

## **13 Previous and Forthcoming Training Events**

AF advised that the full RE training programme for 2019-20 schools has been put together and submitted to the bookings team at Cambs Education. The new training programme contains roadshows focusing on different themes i.e. Humanism, Buddhism and Islam.

The recent Leading RE course for Primary Co-ordinators was attended by 28 RE leaders.

CV gave details of a recent event attended where the focus was on 'Excellence in RE'. There are some very good resources available from the Salvation Army including WW1 and WW2 newsletters. Volunteers from a charity called 'Walk the Bible' will give their time to schools. AF confirmed that this is in the Agreed Syllabus.

It was noted that there are some good resources on Equaliteach about islamophobia. [www.equaliteach.co.uk](http://www.equaliteach.co.uk)

BP had attended the St Mary's Educational Advisory group. The group have appointed a new education adviser who is part-funded. There are lot of new ideas and resources.

BP advised that she sits on the NATRE committee. The committee are currently undertaking a project involving getting information to primary schools and BP will liaise with AF regarding printing the required information.

**Action BP**

## **14 AOB**

### **Funding for Jewish organisations**

AK advised that it is difficult to obtain funding from organisations and asked if any members hear of anything to let her know. It was suggested that they contact the Wind Gate Foundation about Jewish life and learning RE combined with other subjects.

**Date of next meeting – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 at 4:30pm**

**The meeting closed at 18:15**