

Minutes of the meeting of the

Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday 23rd September 2020 at 4.15pm

Present: Amanda Fitton (SACRE Adviser), Aga Cahn, Tony Reynolds, Julia Ewans (SACRE Chair), Dennis Johnson, Liz Basset, Jill Davies, Becky Palmer, Dr Shirley Hall, Virginia Barnes, Isobel Rawlinson, Reverend Mackley, Catherine Watts, Raj Shah, Dr Imam Sejad Mekic, Amanda Taylor

Apologies: Caroline Vinall, Moira Middleton, Robert Mitchell

In attendance

Laura Corcoran, SACRE Clerk
Sue Martin (standing in for Caroline Vinall)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Julia Ewans (Chair) opened the meeting. All members introduced themselves and gave an outline of their professional role.

2. Apologies

Noted from Caroline Vinall, Moira Middleton, Robert Mitchell

3. Confirm virtual meetings policy

The clerk took Members through the Virtual Meetings policy which was accepted by Members.

4. Appointment of Chair

JE was appointed as chair of SACRE. The vote was unanimous by members.

Action - Vice chair election to take place in the spring of 2021.

5. Minutes of 5.2.20 and matters arising not elsewhere on agenda

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

Matters arising

-Due to the pandemic, training and events due to take place in the Summer had been postponed.

-Interfaith centre in Nortstow– AC had provided a potential SACRE member with the clerk's details

- Clerk to contact the Pagan to see if he is still interested in being a Member of the board. **Clerk**

6. Review SACRE terms of Reference

The terms of reference was reviewed and accepted by Members. Members discussed the protocol for new members joining. AF clarified that individuals can only join if there is a vacancy to which they are eligible to be a representative. Members should have a letter from their setting and it should be clarified upon appointment that they are involved for educational purposes only. Schools will increasingly be encouraged in RE to introduce pupils to a wide range of topics. Members agreed therefore that appropriate representation and diversity on the board is key.

7. SACRE Membership / Vacancies Update

The clerk advised of the current vacancies as follows: Methodist and Orthodox. Robert Mitchell advised that he had approached the Orthodox Church. Amanda Fitton will approach the Methodist church.

8 Correspondence

NASACRE membership.

The 2020-21 invoice has been paid. Clerk to circulate login details to Members. The clerk encouraged Members to access the range of online resources NASACRE has to offer.

Clerk

9. Welcome back and way forward

AF advised that only essential school visits were allowed during such times. Training and support is therefore taking place online. AF has been working from home through the lockdown period on a number of RE resources to support schools, including the document for schools to share with children “What happens when you die”. Regular newsletters and resources have also been shared with schools and AF continues to provide online training courses via Zoom. The clerk has been promoting the courses via email and social media.

10.Pandemic update and what CCC employees are and are not allowed to do

AF expressed her concern that with the current focus being on ‘catching students up’ due to lost learning, RE may be seen as low priority. The chair invited members’ views on how to support schools with RE. Members acknowledged that Ofsted inspections will resume in the Spring of 2021 and it was suggested that the board support schools with how to prepare for an Ofsted deep dive of RE. AF will speak further to Emma Fuller on this matter. It was clarified that the Agreed syllabus contains the recommended curriculum guidelines for RE and that schools should be following this.

AF

11.How SACRE can support teachers

The board noted that there had been some good examples of RE remote learning tasks via schools’ websites and that the board would support with strategies for the celebration of RE. Schools will be reminded via the SACRE newsletter that they are required to show their curriculum plans on their websites.

AF

12.Training update

AF gave details of the virtual training she is providing to schools for the current term. The uptake of Cambs schools has been quite good, particularly the course scheduled for 30/9

titled 'RE and the Wider curriculum'. AF gave details of the breakout rooms which will be used on Zoom to facilitate the different activities and discussions.

The clerk will continue to share teachers' feedback (on training) with Members.

Clerk

13. Members' updates

Sue Martin advised that Caroline Vinall would be in touch with AF regarding collaborative working in connection with some RE projects.

CV

Aga Cahn gave details of the local work taking place as part of Multi Faith week during w/ 15 November. Aga said that she welcomed new ideas from Members.

14. Westhill update

Members discussed how this event may take place virtually. It was suggested that individual topics are recorded in the form of questions and answers. Other videos could be recorded for example in places of worship. Members to agree strategies over email before 23rd October.

All

15. AOB

AF advised that in terms of the annual report, this would be finalised for 2019-20 but as per current government guidelines regarding data requirements for 2019-20, it would not contain any GCSE data.

16. Further meeting dates

Wednesday 3 Feb

Thursday 17 June

The meeting closed at 18:15