

Minutes of the meeting of the

**Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
at Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall on
Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 4.30pm**

Present: Amanda Fitton (SACRE Adviser), Aga Cahn, Tony Reynolds, Julia Ewans (Chair), Dr Shirley Hall, Virginia Barnes, Isobel Rawlinson, Catherine Watts, Caroline Vinall, Clare Richards, Reverend Mackley, Raj Shah, Sejad Mekic

Apologies:

Dennis Johnson
Suzanne Culshaw
Moiria Middleton
Gill Davies
Samantha Hoy
Becky Palmer

In attendance

Laura Corcoran, SACRE Clerk

1. Welcome and Introductions

Julia Ewans (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed new member to Committee A, Muslim representative Dr Imam Sejad Mekic.

All members introduced themselves.

It was noted that Suzanne Culshaw had been due to attend the meeting and be duly appointed to Committee A as Buddhist representative but had sent her apologies due to illness.

2. Apologies

All apologies as above were read out and noted by the clerk.

3. Minutes of 2.10.19 and matters arising not elsewhere on agenda

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

AF explained that she had attempted to liaise with the relevant contact at the LA in order to pursue the walking trail.

Action – to be followed up at the next meeting.

-SACRE budget – the NASACRE advice is that SACRE should have 2% of funding for education.

-Regarding meetings being held outside the city, times to be confirmed once the board have agreed the meeting venue for 2020-21

4. Correspondence

The Clerk and SACRE adviser continued to respond promptly to school's requests for advice and support.

There have there been no complaints.

5. SACRE membership

Action:

SACRE Minutes Draft 5.2.20

Signed:

Date:

The following actions were agreed:

- The clerk would approach the Methodist Cambourne medical church regarding the Methodist vacancy in Committee A.
- Orthodox vacancy it was agreed that AC would make contact with the church
- Reverend Mackley to make contact with the two churches in Cambridge as discussed.
- Clerk to circulate the updated SACRE membership information so that members can pass onto any colleagues of interest.

6 Ofsted Framework and RE

-AF advised that there had recently been an Ofsted subject 'deep dive' in RE at a local primary school. As a result, AF has been asked for schemes of work from local schools. This will not be the case for a VA or VA academy. AF emphasised that school websites and other sources should not contain the old units of work which are not suitable for the new Ofsted framework as this does not necessarily represent good teaching.

-AF has been working on the subject of 'intent' which has been a particular challenge for some schools. A member asked if there are there any resources the board can support schools with, with the view to setting up a network? A discussion followed and the board agreed that they would not want there to be a lack of broadness of subjects and in order to extend RE, this must be linked with other subjects. Schools must be able to demonstrate this. We have reminded schools about the Agreed Syllabus, especially the most up to date version. The board acknowledged that 'Understanding Christianity' is a resource for schools but is not a syllabus as it only focuses on Christianity. It is thought that there is a general lack of knowledge of other faiths. The clerk has promoted the NATRE website and the most recent free resources link has been sent to all Cambridgeshire schools.

-It was noted that GCSE results have been pushed back to 6th February.

-The board discussed how teachers potentially felt about the new framework and RE and members shared their own experiences. Members considered that it would take a while to embed however subjects and ensure that teaching is broader. Schools should be teaching coherently history should be taught appropriately, for example where the religions are on a timeline and geography is interlinked.

-A member pointed out that the charity The Jerusalem Trust provides RE resources.

Action – Clerk to send a link to SACRE members.

-The board discussed whether schools are taking up training and if the county as a whole are adequately resourced? AF advised that at the recent SMSC course there were 28 attendees. There is very little funding for training including the funding provided for AF's time as RE Advisor.

-The board revisited a previous discussion regarding inviting Jonathan Lewis to attend a meeting to discuss the implications of the new Ofsted Framework on RE in Cambridgeshire schools.

Action - Clerk to ask JL to attend the next SACRE meeting in the Summer term.

7 RE and Reading

The board agreed that they were keen to promote reading and for students to be able to understand the world around them. Reading is a big focus and has a nationwide emphasis at present.

It was agreed that Members would consider books of interest for students.

Action – all members to send in their book titles / ideas to the clerk by Easter.

8 NASACRE Conference 18.5.20

The 2020 NASACRE Conference and AGM will be held on Monday 18 May at: The Crowne Plaza, London City, 19 New Bridge St, London EC4V 6DB

9. Westhill / NASACRE Awards 2019

AF advised that a meeting had taken place at Calvary school in March with faith representatives and teachers with a focus of devising the next training day on 2nd March for Fenland schools.

The board agreed the importance of this event being representative of the different faith groups. All resources will be shared. AF and JE said that they would like there to be more interaction between the school and faith representatives so that there is better partnerships and further conversations

are happening. The aim is to build up a list of approved trainers who would be able to go to schools to talk about their own setting or place of work. It was suggested that the representatives take the Agreed Syllabus along with them during training events. AF advised that schools are currently submitting their long-term plans for RE. The teachers will prepare a session on what to expect in the classroom.

AC gave details of the work provided by the synagogue and examples of the types of training and resources requested.

RM said that his organisation also receives requests from headteachers as well as parents - and would too welcome the idea of an approved list of trainers.

10. Review Multi faith event from 2019 and plans for 2020 event

AF gave feedback on the 2019 event held in November. It was observed that the event was poorly attended by secondary schools, some of whom withdrew at the last minute. The chair expressed her disappointment of this situation, particularly as the event had been funded for schools and there had been several meetings involving very carefully putting together the schedule and accompanying tasks for the day.

A member raised the subject of how carefully were the groups of staff chosen and how this led to some schools not being able to get cover. This had implications on all involved including people who were giving up their free time to support and facilitate the event, including the cathedral. Could we consider looking at KS3 next year so that there is a more-broad depth of different religions?

Members considered that a primary event may be more viable and that there may be generally be more enthusiasm.

Action – for further consideration at the next meeting

11 Annual reports

Clerk to update SACRE membership within the report so that this is up to date.

The GCSE results will be added to the report and recirculated.

Action Clerk and AF

12 Members' updates

-IR advised that her setting are finalising their class base collective worship which is a year-long cycle. This will be a useful resource. There is a session put on twice a year at a church school in Cambridge and the theme is creative. This is primarily focused on Cambridge city schools and any spare places will be offered to schools via SACRE

Action - IR to send through weblink.

Action - Schools news to be sent to all members each week by the clerk.

AC had participated in the one-day training in London specifically for GCSE teaching.

Members discussed the new Interfaith centre in Northstow.

13 Forthcoming Training Events

-AF advised of the 25th March training event in Buckden for schools titled 'Creative ideas to help schools to teach RE creatively'

-AF added that the focus for the next set of network meetings has been chosen by the current co-ordinators and will focus on comparing the similarities and differences between the major religions and world views.

14 Meeting dates and venues for 2020-21

The September meeting has been booked on 23rd September at Shire Hall.

Date of next meeting Thursday 18th June 2020 at 4:30pm

The meeting closed at 18:15