

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
MONDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2020**

PRESENT –

J Uzzell (Group C The National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)), M Stand (Group B Church of England), Kelsang Dragden (Group A Buddhism), Helen Ellis (Group A The Roman Catholic Church), Morvyn Sanderson (Group A The Methodist Church), Bess Robertson (Group A Darlington Hebrew Congregation (Judaism)), Meg Thomson (Group A Darlington United Reformed Church), Rev Paul Baker (Group B Church of England), Councillor C L B Hughes, Councillor Clarke, Councillor Curry and Councillor Heslop

Co-opted Members – Stuart Rawle (Co-opted Member of SACRE) and Jan Mole (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

Officers – Allison Hill (Democratic Officer) and Anne Davison (SEND and Inclusion Advisor)

APOLOGIES – Rev Thompson (Group A Darlington Baptist Church), Beth Miller (Group B Church of England) and M Fryer (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

97 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

IT WAS AGREED – That Ms Jenny Uzzell be appointed Chair of this Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education and that her appointment be for a period of three years.

98 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

IT WAS AGREED – That Mr Martin Stand be appointed Vice-Chair of this Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education and that his appointment be for a period of three years.

99 MINUTES

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this SACRE held on 12 November 2019.

IT WAS AGREED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

100 APPOINTMENT TO VACANT POSITION/NEW APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNATIONS

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) to advise Members of the appointment of a representative for the Darlington Baptist Church (Group A), to give consideration to a new appointment to Group A (other Religious Faiths) and to note resignations.

Members were advised that a nomination had been received from the Darlington Baptist Church to fill the current vacancy for the Darlington Baptist Church and the local authority had taken all reasonable steps to assure themselves that Rev Vicky Thompson was representative of the religion.

A co-opted Member had also been sought, following approval by this SACRE at its meeting on 12 November 2019 to appoint a Co-opted Member to representative the Humanists and Janet Mole has volunteered.

It was also reported that Jenny Uzzell, the Chair of this SACRE had proposed that she be considered as a Member of Group A, representatives of the Other Religious Faiths representing Paganism and the local authority had taken all reasonable steps to assure themselves that Jenny Uzzell was a representative of the religion and confirmed that Paganism was represented on other SACRE's.

Members were requested to note that Mrs Fiona Rankin can no longer be a representative of the National Education Union (NEU) on this SACRE as she had now joined the National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT); that Phil Andre, Co-opted Member had also offered his resignation; and that Dr I Thakur be removed as a Member of this SACRE in accordance with the Constitution as a representative of Hinduism.

Members also considered that if Jenny Uzzell was appointed as a representative in Group A, there was a vacancy in Group C, representatives of Trade Unions for a NASUWT Member, which Mrs Fiona Rankin was agreeable to filling.

IT WAS AGREED – That Members,

- (a) note the appointment of Rev Vicky Thompson as the named representative for the Darlington Baptist Church and that membership be for a period of four years;
- (b) note the resignation of Phil Andre, Co-optee and the resignation of Fiona Rankin from the NEU, and that the thanks of this SACRE be extended to them for their valued contribution to this SACRE over the years;
- (c) note the removal of Dr Thakur from the membership of this SACRE with immediate effect;
- (d) note Jane Mole as a Co-opted representative of the Humanists;
- (e) note the change of Union represented by Fiona Rankin from the NEU to NASUWT; and
- (f) approve the appointment of Jenny Uzzell as the named representative for the Pagan Federation and that membership be for a period of four years.

101 MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - RE APPOINTMENTS

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) for Members to confirm the re-appointment of a number of Members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) in Groups A and C.

Members of the SACRE shall hold office for four years and any outgoing Member may be re-appointed in accordance with its constitution.

IT WAS AGREED – That Rev Gibson, Muriel Calderon and Dr Quader from Group A; and Nick Blackburn from Group C be re-appointed for a further period of four years from the date of this meeting.

102 PROPOSAL TO RECOMMEND TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY THE NEED TO REVIEW THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to a review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

It was reported that every five years a local authority has to review its agreed syllabus for religious education and in order to do this it must establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) whose role it is to produce and recommend an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which meets fully the present legislative requirements and is educationally sound.

It was also reported that only an Agreed Syllabus Conference may recommend an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and its recommendations must be unanimously agreed by the representative committees constituting the Agreed Syllabus Conference; and the current Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was approved by this local authority at a meeting of Cabinet held on 7 April 2015 and due to the Covid-19 pandemic, meetings of SACRE were unable to take place during Spring/Summer 2020 to commence the process of review any sooner.

Members of the SACRE discussed the suggestion to under a review and agreed that it was an appropriate time to consider a review and to take into account the most recent Ofsted guidance for GCSE/ AS and A Levels; and to give consideration to the final report of the Commission for Religious Education 'Religion and World Views – The Way Forward'.

IT WAS AGREED – That this SACRE recommend that the local authority commence the review process and convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to progress.

103 SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/19

The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to the proposed Annual Report for the academic year 2018/2019; and make any agreed amendments prior to its submission to the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) and the Department for Education.

IT WAS AGREED - That Members approve the Annual Report for 2018/19 academic year for submission to NASACRE and the Department for Education.

104 SCHOOLS QUESTIONNAIRE 2019 - ANALYSIS

The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide feedback and analysis of a survey carried out with all schools aimed at collating information on the teaching of religious education within schools; use of the Locally Agreed Syllabus; and information on the daily Act of Collective Worship and withdrawal from collective worship.

Analysis of the returned questionnaires were appended to the submitted report.

Discussion ensued on how the Agreed Syllabus was driving the curriculum within primary and secondary schools within the borough; ways in which schools can facilitate faith groups within their teachings of religious education; the impact of the new Ofsted guidance in relation to GCSE/A Level examinations and understanding of RE literacy; and ways to translate worldviews in to the classroom.

IT WAS AGREED – That Members note the feedback from the survey.

105 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

IT WAS AGREED – That the next meeting of this SACRE be held on Monday 8 February 2021 commencing at 4.00 pm