

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, DARLINGTON. DL1 5QT
MONDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2022**

PRESENT –

Jenny Uzzell (Group A Paganism), Martin Stand (Group B Church of England), Dr MA Quader (Group A The Islamic Society of Darlington), Helen Ellis (Group A The Roman Catholic Church), Meg Thomson (Group A Darlington United Reformed Church), Emma Walden (Group A Methodist Circuit), Councillor C L B Hughes, Councillor Crudass, Councillor Curry and Stuart Rawle (Group C National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT))

Co-opted Members – M Fryer (Co-opted Member of SACRE) and Jan Mole (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

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

APOLOGIES – M Calderon (Group A The Religious Society of Friends), Bess Robertson (Group A Darlington Hebrew Congregation (Judaism)) and Fiona Rankin (Group C The National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT))

130 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

131 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SACRE HELD ON 11 JULY 2022

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the Meeting of this SACRE held on 11 July 2022.

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

132 RE-APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF SACRE AND NOTIFICATION OF RESIGNATION

The Group Director of Operations submitted a report (previously circulated) to advise Members of the re-appointment of representatives for Other Religious Faiths (Group A) and the resignation of Rev Paul Baker, Church of England (Group B) representative.

It was also reported that Dean Lythgoe, the Head teacher of St. Aidan's Academy had offered to fill the current vacancy in Group C for a representative of the Association of School and College Leaders.

IT WAS AGREED – (a) That the re-appointment of the named representatives for the Catholic Church, the Jewish Community and the Sikh Temple be noted and that membership be for a period of four years

(b) That the resignation of Rev Paul Baker be noted and that thanks of this SACRE be

extended to Rev Baker for his valued contribution to the Committee since his appointment.

(c) That the appointment of Dean Lythgoe as the named representative for the Association of School and College Leaders be noted and that membership be for a period of four years.

133 NASACRE DRAFT HANDBOOK ON RELIGION AND WORLD VIEWS IN THE CLASSROOM

Submitted – for further discussion the RE Council of England and Wales Draft Handbook entitled 'Religion and Worldviews in the Classroom: developing a Worldviews Approach' and is primarily written to assist those developing syllabuses and curriculum for religious education with a religion and worldviews approach.

Members discussed the draft handbook which is the outcome of first phase of a three-year project on behalf of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales and its aim to take the idea of a Religion and Worldviews approach, as advocated by the Commission on Religious Education's final report and to see what it looks like when applied to a syllabus or curriculum.

Anne Davison advised Members about a research programme that was currently being carried out by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC) on how the draft handbook will look in the classroom with a test scheme of works for religion and worldviews being developed.

It was also agreed that Anne recirculate the draft handbook to all schools and RE Leads within schools.

Members also discussed the feedback from schools on how the new syllabus had been received and Anne advised SACRE that feedback had been good and so far schools were in favour of the syllabus. She also advised that the training for schools had been carried out as scheduled with attendance by all those schools who had purchased the syllabus, including two additional schools being the Pupil Referral Unit and the authorities special school Beaumont Hill.

It was a requirement for all maintained schools to buy in to the syllabus produced by this local authority, however an additional 7 primary schools had purchased the syllabus, however no secondary schools.

Further discussion ensued on this and Members were interested to learn what the schools that didn't purchase the local authority syllabus were offering by way of religious education and Members agreed that Anne do some research on this and feedback to the next meeting of SACRE.

Members also questioned why the secondary schools were not adopting the syllabus and that it was important to understand what secondary schools were delivering by way of religious education. Following this discussion Martin Stand and Stuart Rawle offered to speak with the RE leads in these schools and report back their findings to SACRE at a future meeting.

IT WAS AGREED – (a) That the draft Handbook and report be noted.

(b) That Collective Worship and Religious Education be included as an agenda item at the next scheduled meeting of SACRE on 20 March 2023.

134 NASACRE STILL STANDING REPORT - FUTURE DIRECTION FOR SACRES

Submitted – for further discussion the Still Standing Report on future directions for SACRE’s, a report on the joint Religious Education Council (REC)/ National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) LAN Pilot Project 2020-21 November 2021.

It was reported that the aim of the project which ran from May 2020 to June 2-21 was to test out the recommendations of the Commission on RE regarding SACRE’s.

Anne Davison commented on two areas of the document for discussion relating to the recommendation for wider remit of SACRE however without funding streams there is limited funding available to SACRE as most funding is delegated to schools directly and also the change of schools as most move to Academies.

Members discussed the document (previously circulated) with a view to a formal response and requested that assurance be sought from the Group Director of People that the level of support currently to SACRE remain the same.

With regard to the future direction of SACRE Members discussed ways to promote the work of this SACRE and to involve SACRE members in community events and Inter Faith Events; how to promote a wider understanding of the work of the SACRE in schools and with RE leads; and a proposal for SACRE meetings to be carried out within schools to enable RE Leads to attend and share their experiences of RE.

IT WAS AGREED – That the Still Standing report be noted.

135 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

IT WAS AGREED - That the next meeting of SACRE be held on Monday 20 March 2023 commencing at 4.15 p.m.