

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
COMMITTEE ROOM NO 1 TOWN HALL DARLINGTON DL1 5QT
MONDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2018**

PRESENT –

Councillor Galletley (Group D Council Member), Councillor C L B Hughes (Group D Council Member), Councillor C Taylor (Group D Council Member), K Dragden (Group A Buddhism), H Ellis (Group A The Roman Catholic Church), M Sanderson (Group A The Methodist Church), B Miller (Group B Church of England), M Stand (Group B Church of England), J Uzzell (Group C The National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)) and Fiona Rankin (Group C The National Union of Teachers (NUT))

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

Officers – Paul Richardson (Head of 16-19 Learning and Skills) (Lead Officer) and Allison Hill (Democratic Officer)

APOLOGIES – Councillor Curry (Group D Council Member), M Calderon (Group A The Religious Society of Friends), Rev Peter Baker (Group B Church of England), Councillor Cossins (Co-opted Member of SACRE) and P Andre (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interested reported at the meeting.

70 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SACRE HELD ON 26 MARCH 2018.

Submitted – the Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this SACRE held on 26 March 2018.

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

71 COMMISSION ON RE (CORE) REPORT - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR ALL - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chair and the Head of 16-19 Learning and Skills gave a verbal update on the final report published by the Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) in September 2018 entitled 'Religious Education for All'.

It was reported that the final report was published after listening to evidence from a wide-range of concerned parties including pupils, teachers, lecturers, advisers, parents and faith and belief communities with a view to rejuvenating religious education to continue its important contribution. The final report of CoRE proposes that a new National Plan for RE is enacted to ensure that learning in this area remains academically rigorous and knowledge rich.

The Head of 16-19 Learning and Skills advised Members that this was an independent report and there was no obligation currently for SACRE Members to respond to the report or to make any changes to their statutory obligations as a

SACRE.

Members discussed the initial recommendations within the report alongside the range of issues that the CoRE were seeking to consult further on before drawing their conclusions.

Members discussed in particular the recommendations to renew and expand the role of SACRE's; how the academisation of many schools within the borough has reduced the contact with SACRE and the ability for SACRE's to support all schools in the area; the composition of SACRE's; the statutory requirements of SACRE's; and how this SACRE can provide information and resources and provide advice to schools and RE leads on matters of religion and belief in schools.

IT WAS AGREED – (a) That the final report and recommendations of the Commission for Religious Education be noted.

(b) That all RE Leads within the borough's schools be contacted with the offer of sharing resources and knowledge across all schools and to circulate any information or events among RE Leads to strengthen the role of this SACRE.

72 APPOINTMENT TO VACANT POSITIONS AND NOTIFICATION OF RESIGNATIONS

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) to advise Members of the appointment of Helen Ellis as the representative for the Catholic Church and Bess Robertson, Chair of the Darlington Hebrew Congregation Reform Synagogue as the Jewish Community representative; and Bhopinder Singh to represent Sikhism.

The submitted report also reported on the resignation of the Mike Shorten as the representative for the Association of School and College Leaders which remains vacant.

The Democratic Officer advised Members that all reasonable steps had been undertaken to assure SACRE Members that the above persons were appropriate representatives of the religion in questions; and with regard to the other vacant positions continues to contact the relevant organisations to seek nominations.

IT WAS AGREED – That the appointments to the Catholic Church, the Jewish Community and the Sikh Temple; and the resignation of Mike Shorten be noted

73 RECRUITMENT DRIVE - DISCUSSION ITEM.

That Members continue to seek to fill the vacant positions on this SACRE.

IT WAS AGREED – That the current membership be noted

74 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

IT WAS AGREED – That the next meeting of this SACRE be held on Tuesday 19 March 2019 commencing at 4.00 pm.

