

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 1, TOWN HALL, DARLINGTON. DL1 5QT
TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2019**

PRESENT –

Councillor C L B Hughes (Group D Council Member), Councillor C Taylor (Group D Council Member), Robertson (Group A Darlington Hebrew Congregation (Judaism)), Rev Paul Baker (Group B Church of England) and J Uzzell (Group C The National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT))

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

Officers – Paul Richardson (Head of Skills and Employability) (Lead Officer) and Allison Hill (Democratic Officer)

APOLOGIES – Councillor Curry (Group D Council Member), Councillor Galletley (Group D Council Member), K Dragden (Group A Buddhism), H Ellis (Group A The Roman Catholic Church), M Calderon (Group A The Religious Society of Friends), Meg Thomson (Group A Darlington United Reformed Church) and Fiona Rankin (Group C The National Union of Teachers (NUT))

75 DEATH OF FORMER SACRE MEMBER MISS O'NEILL

Members acknowledged the recent death of former SACRE Member, Miss Catherine O'Neill, who had served as the Roman Catholic Church Member on this SACRE from 1998 until 2016.

IT WAS AGREED – That the sympathies of this SACRE be noted.

76 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

77 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SACRE HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2018

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this SACRE held on 12 November 2018.

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

78 APPOINTMENT TO VACANT POSITION

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) to advise Members of the appointment of Meg Thomson as the representative of the United Reformed Church.

The Democratic Officer advised Members that all reasonable steps had been

undertaken to assure SACRE Members that the above person was an appropriate representative of the named religion.

IT WAS AGREED – That the appointment to the United Reformed Church be noted.

79 DURHAM BIG SPRING CLEAN 2019

The Head of 16-19 Learning and Skills provided SACRE Members with information regarding the Durham and Darlington Big Spring Clean to be held between 19 February and 9 April 2019.

It was reported that the Big Spring Clean gives communities the opportunity to work in partnership with Darlington Borough Council to help improve and make a difference to where they live.

It was also reported that previous Big Spring Clean campaigns had been successful with thousands of bags of litter collected by hundreds of local volunteers.

Councillor Lee, who also attended the meeting, and in his capacity as Chair of Litter Free Durham confirmed that if communities do a litter pick they were advised to notify the Borough Council as they were keen to monitoring the help that was being received.

Any group that were willing to help were encouraged to contact Pippa Smaling, Darlington Borough Council Ranger by Telephone. 01325 406719 or email. Pippa.smaling@darlington.gov.uk.

IT WAS AGREED – That the report be noted.

80 HOLOCAUST CEREMONY 2019

The Head of 16-19 Learning and Skills advised Members that the Holocaust Ceremony had been held on 28 January 2019 at the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College. The theme of the 2019 Service was 'Torn from Home' and had been hosted by Celebrating Communities.

The Ceremony had been led by Shildon Methodist Minister Rev Andrew Bryer and featured students from the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College who talked about their recent visit to Auschwitz concentration camp and their hopes for the future.

It was reported that all schools and colleges had been notified of the Ceremony and the Ceremony had been well supported with over 120 attendees. During the service candles had been lit to commemorate other genocides and atrocities that had occurred since the end of the Second World War.

IT WAS AGREED – That the report be noted.

81 OFSTED INSPECTION FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION

The Head of 16-19 Learning and Skills gave a verbal update to advised Members of the Ofsted Inspection Framework Consultation which was ongoing until the 5 April

2019.

He advised Members that the consultation had been encouraging in relation to value added and the broader curriculum and suggested that Members of this SACRE may want to consider monitoring the new inspection reports at a future date to identify specific feedback on RE.

Phil Andre, Co-opted Member advised SACRE that he had recently attended a conference in Northumberland for RE teachers and Mark Evans, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) responsible for religious education insisted that inspection teams would also be looking at the delivery of RE and insuring that statutory requirements are being met in schools.

He also advised that a questionnaire had been circulated to schools in Northumberland to collate data on religious education being delivered within their schools and it was proposed that the results of this survey be circulated to our SACRE Members.

IT WAS AGREED – That the report be noted.

82 VISITS TO SCHOOLS BY RE GROUPS

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) to advise Members of two requests that had been received from Mowden Junior School and St. John's CE Academy to receive a visit to their school by the SACRE other faith groups.

It was reported that following the meeting held on 12 November 2018, the Democratic Officer had contacted all RE Leads within the borough's schools 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.

Councillor Lee, on behalf of Celebrating Communities, advised the Members that he had visited schools to promote the work of Celebrating Communities.

He also gave Members a brief overview of the role of Celebrating Communities which aims to include others outside of religion with a focus on the importance of family, trust and loyalty and to share their experiences in a social environment; and to help break down any barriers that may arise between different religions in the borough. He also outlined a number of social events that had been held and were due to be held in Darlington.

Bess Robertson, Darlington Hebrew Congregation (DHC) advised SACRE Members that she would welcome school visits to the Reform Synagogue.

IT WAS AGREED – To circulate to all SACRE faith groups the requests from Mowden Junior School and St. John's CE Academy.