

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 1, TOWN HALL, DARLINGTON. DL1 5QT
TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2019**

PRESENT –

J Uzzell (Group C The National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)), M Stand (Group B Church of England), Dr MA Quader (Group A The Islamic Society of Darlington), Rev Paul Baker (Group B Church of England), Councillor Crudass, Councillor Curry and Fiona Rankin (Group C The National Union of Teachers (NUT))

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

Officers – Anne Astbury (SENO Partnership Link Officer) (SENCO Partnership Link Officer) and Allison Hill (Democratic Officer)

APOLOGIES – Helen Ellis (Group A The Roman Catholic Church), Councillor Heslop and M Fryer (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

89 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

90 MINUTES

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this SACRE held on 5 July 2019.

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

91 COMMISSION ON RE (CORE) REPORT 2018 'RELIGION AND WORLD VIEWS: THE WAY FORWARD'

Members received a presentation from Joyce Miller on the Commission on Religious Education (CoRe) 2018 Report 'Religion and World Views: The Way Forward'.

Joyce Miller gave some background to the role of the Commission on Religious Education and their vision to change the way in which religious education is perceived and enacted and referred in particular to the two year project which was carried out during 2016 and 2018 which worked towards that goal of transforming religious education in England.

The presentation outlined the policy and the underlying principles of the project to teach about religion and worldviews and included the current educational and national challenges; highlighted the four key policy recommendations which related to a subject name change to 'Religion and Worldviews', National Entitlement for all, changes to the law in relation to SACRE'S and removal of the requirement in Law for a Locally Agreed Syllabus and a legal clarification to be sought on selective withdrawal from collective worship, provision of alternative curriculum and access to

other curriculum areas.

Joyce Miller also outlined the uncontested areas of study by the Commission in relation to the National Entitlement and also highlighted some of the key changes that the Commission wished to see including the key concepts to include religion, secularity, spirituality and worldview.

The presentation also outlined three key practice recommendations which included a National body of RE experts to prepare programmes of study; changes to Initial Teacher Education (ITE) to improve training and support for teachers; and funding for resources and provision for continuing professional development (CPD).

Joyce Miller also outlined the support that had been received from NATRE, NAHT, the Church of England and the Religious Education Council; the criticism from the Roman Catholic Church and the Board of Deputies of British Jews; and the Government response to the Commission's report and recommendations which had been less than favourable.

Following discussion thereon, the Chair, on behalf of the Members of this SACRE welcomed the CoRE recommendations and acknowledged the challenges faced ahead to change the way religious education is delivered and perceived.

IT WAS AGREED – That the thanks of this SACRE be extended to Joyce Miller for her interesting and informative presentation.

92 HUMANIST REPRESENTATIVE

The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to a request received from the Luke Donnellan, Director of Understanding Humanism, Humanists UK to appoint a representative from the local Humanist community to sit on this SACRE.

It was reported that currently this SACRE does not have a humanist representative and the Humanists UK are keen to assist Members in finding a representative in the local area to sit on this authority's SACRE. There are also a number of free resources that the organisations can offer including free education resources to teachers through the 'Understanding Humanism' website.

IT WAS AGREED – That Members approve the appointment of a humanist representative as a Co-opted Member of this SACRE.

93 REVIEW OF THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) for Members of this SACRE to give consideration to reviewing the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

It was highlighted that every five years a local authority has to review its agreed syllabus and the current Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was approved by this local authority at its meeting of Cabinet held on 7 April 2015.

As part of any review process it is advisable to include Primary and Secondary Schools, including special Schools in a consultation exercise and Anne Astbury, the SENCO Partnership Link Officer advised Members that following the last meeting of SACRE, she had circulated a questionnaire to all schools to collate information in relation to the teaching of religious education within their schools; use of the Locally Agreed Syllabus; and information on withdrawal from collective worship. Anne advised the Members that unfortunately to-date she had had a poor response but did intend to re-circulate the questionnaire.

Following discussion on a potential review, Members agreed that it would be beneficial to receive a higher percentage of returned questionnaires before any such review discussions could take place.

IT WAS AGREED – That a review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus be discussed further at the next meeting.

94 SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/18

The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) for Members to give consideration to the proposed Annual Report of this SACRE for the academic year 2017/2018 prior to its submission to the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) and the Department for Education.

Discussion ensued on draft Annual Report and all Groups were in agreement with the Annual report presented for approval.

IT WAS AGREED – That the SACRE Annual Report for 2017/18 be agreed and forwarded to NASACRE and the Department for Education.

95 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

IT WAS AGREED – That future meetings of this SACRE be held on 10 March, 14 July and 10 November 2020 all commencing at 4.00 pm.