

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, DARLINGTON. DL1 5QT
MONDAY, 11 JULY 2022**

PRESENT –

Jenny Uzzell (Group A Paganism), Martin Stand (Group B Church of England), Helen Ellis (Group A The Roman Catholic Church), Bess Robertson (Group A Darlington Hebrew Congregation (Judaism)), Rev Paul Baker (Group B Church of England), Councillor C L B Hughes, Councillor Curry and Fiona Rankin (Group C The National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT))

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

Officers – Allison Hill (Democratic Officer)

APOLOGIES – Anne Davison, Meg Thomson (Group A Darlington United Reformed Church), Dr Kumari (Group A Hinduism), Councillor Crudass, Councillor Renton, Stuart Rawle (Group C National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)) and Jan Mole (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

122 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

123 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SACRE HELD ON 21 MARCH 2022

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this SACRE held on 21 March 2022.

Councillor C Hughes requested that the Minutes be amended to reflect the discussion held at the meeting on the concerns regarding the quorum issues of this SACRE and that all Members be reminded of the importance of attendance and to let the Clerk know if they are unable to attend so that any quorum issues can be addressed prior to the meeting.

IT WAS AGREED – That, with the exception of the amendment above, the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

124 SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/21

The Group Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration and approval to the proposed Annual Report of SACRE for the academic year 2020-2021 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 the submitted Annual Report for 2020-21 be approved and be submitted to NASACRE and the Department for Education.

125 LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS UPDATE

The Chair advised Members that at its meeting on 5 July 2022 Cabinet had approved the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Darlington 2022-2027.

Following approval, the launch of the Syllabus to schools/academies was to be held online via Microsoft TEAMS on Wednesday 13 July 2022 and seven primary academies and the three maintained schools had signed up to the Syllabus.

The Chair advised Members of SACRE that they were also invited to attend if they wished.

IT WAS AGREED – That the approval of the Locally Agreed Syllabus and the launch date be noted.

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

Submitted – for 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.

The Chair advised SACRE that other documents were expected to come from the handbook and that this will be an ongoing focus for SACRE.

Discussion ensued in particular on demographical data and the rise of non-religiousness and the definition of having no religion and the study of ‘non religion’ as an increasing scholarly field of part of the school study of religion.

IT WAS AGREED – That the draft Handbook be submitted to the next meeting of SACRE for further discussion.

127 NASACRE STILL STANDING REPORT - FUTURE DIRECTION FOR SACRES

Submitted – for discussion 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.

The Chair advised Members to digest the document (previously circulated) with a view to a formal response to be considered at the next meeting.

IT WAS AGREED – That the Still Standing report be noted and submitted to the next meeting of SACRE for further consideration.

128 LAUNCH OF THE RE REPORT CARD

Submitted – for information the media release in respect of the 2022 RE Report Card which summarised the data review of performance of religious education by the RE Think RE organisation over a period of five years.

The Chair advised SACRE Members that there was a lot of ongoing work to raise the profile of religious education and that the data provided in the report card was very positive, in particular that in the last decade the number of pupils in England entering a full GCSE RS Course had increased by 29.7 per cent, although there were still a number of schools in England breaking the law by not teaching RE.

IT WAS AGREED – That the Report Card and data contained within it be noted.

129 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

Following a discussion on the start time of future SACRE meetings, to maximise attendance by all Groups:

IT WAS AGREED – That the next meeting of SACRE be held on Monday 14 November 2022 commencing at 4.15 p.m