

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

**PRESENT –**

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

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

**Officers –** Paul Richardson (Head of Skills and Employability) (Lead Officer), Anne Astbury (SENO Partnership Link Officer) (SENCO Partnership Link Officer) and Hannah Fay (Democratic Officer)

**APOLOGIES –** K Dragden (Group A Buddhism), Bess Robertson (Group A Darlington Hebrew Congregation (Judaism)), Councillor Barch, Councillor Heslop and M Fryer (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

**83 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**84 MINUTES**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this SACRE held on 19 March 2019.

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

**85 NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON SACRE FUNDING**

The Head of Skills and Employability advised SACRE Members of the results of a recent survey on how the Central Services School Block (CSSB) was being used by Local Authorities on SACRE business and that many SACRE's are allocated far less than 1 per cent.

It was reported that these figures had been discussed with the Department for Education and the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) are setting out a national recommendation on what can reasonably be expected to be funded from the CSSB.

The Head of Skills and Employability advised SACRE Members that the national recommendation is that a Local Authority should allocate at least two per cent of the CSSB to SACRE in order that SACRE can carry out its statutory duties and that Darlington's CSSB allocation was £1,454.00. It was also reported that there was no a

dedicated SACRE budget and any spending on SACRE is absorbed within the main Council budget.

**IT WAS AGREED** – That the report be noted.

## **86 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP SURVEY IN SCHOOLS**

Members discussed a Religious Education and Collective Worship survey which had been undertaken by Northumberland County Council and distributed to all RE teachers within their schools.

It was reported that a survey had also been undertaken by Newcastle City Council and Members considered the questions that were contained within the survey to RE teachers and agreed that a similar exercise could be carried out in this authorities schools and share its summary results with Newcastle and Northumberland SACRE's.

Members also discussed the possibility of a joint report with Newcastle and Northumberland SACRE's.

**IT WAS AGREED** – That a survey on religious education and collective worship be circulated to RE teachers within this authority's schools.

## **87 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**IT WAS AGREED** – That the next meeting of this SACRE be held on 12 November 2019 commencing at 4.00 p.m.

## **88 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Head of Skills and Employability reported that this was his last meeting as Lead Officer and that Anne Astbury will be the Lead Officer for this SACRE going forward.

The Chair advised Members that Celebrating Communities have made a request to all religious organisations to ascertain if they would be willing to host visits from school children.

It was suggested that schools could advise which groups they would like to talk to which would suit their curriculum and Celebrating Communities will contact the schools by way of questionnaire.

**IT WAS AGREED** – (a) That the thanks of this SACRE be extended to Paul Richardson for his support.

(b) That the Clerk to this SACRE again contact all RE Leads within schools to offer visits by any of the religious groups represented on this SACRE; and that this offer also be included in the Schools bulletin.