

Minutes

of the Virtual Meeting of the

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Wednesday 2 November 2022

held via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Commenced: 16.00 Meeting Concluded: 17:15

Councillors:

Present: Mike Bell

Apologies: Mike Solomon, Sarah Codling

Other Members of the Panel

Group A – Christian and other religious denominations

Present: Don Cameron, British Humanist Association

Absent: Martin Taylor, Free Churches (URC, Baptist, Methodist)

Vacancies: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Greek Orthodox Community, Hindu Community, Jewish Community, Muslim Community, Sikh Community, Catholic Community, Buddhist Community.

Group B – Church of England

Apologies: Pauline Dodds

Present: Karen Sancto

Group C – Teachers Associations

Apologies: Sue Fisher, NASUWT

Present: Steve Webber, PHANS

Present: Jane Arney, Primary School Representative

Present: Alice Spiers, Secondary School Representative

Vacancies: Association of Teachers and Lecturers, NUT Primary, NUT Secondary, Secondary Heads Association, SHINS, VOICE

Officers from North Somerset Council

Helen Caldwell, Strategy and Policy Development Officer

Adam Robertson, National RE Adviser

Michèle Chesterman, Committee Services Senior Officer

Harriet Isherwood, Committee Services Support Officer

Apologies: Pip Hesketh, Assistant Director, Education Partnerships

SACRE Election of Chairperson for the Meeting

9

Resolved: that Adam Robertson be appointed Chairperson for the purpose of meeting. SACRE noted that a permanent Chair needed to be appointed at the next meeting.

SACRE 10 Notes of the Meeting held on 6 July 2022 (Agenda item 2)

Recommended: that the notes of the meeting held on 6 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record (to be ratified at the next formal meeting).

SACRE 11 SACRE Membership Update (Agenda item 3)

SACRE welcomed two new members: Jane Arney from St Andrews Primary, Congresbury, and Alice Spiers from Backwell Secondary School, to serve on the Teachers committee.

The Chair raised an interest to recruit more representatives for the diversity of faiths and worldviews. Adam had approached the Board of Deputies to request a Jewish representative.

Concluded:

(i) that Alice Spiers forward Buddhist contact to Adam to approach as member.

(ii) that Adam write to Bristol Muslim Cultural Society regarding Muslim representatives

(iii) that Adam write to Catholic schools in North Somerset to invite to SACRE and write to Clifton Diocese

(iiii) that Adam write to Sidcot school regarding Quaker representation

SACRE 12 SACRE Development Plan (Agenda item 4)

Members received a presentation from the Chairperson detailing the next steps for SACRE Development, which included:

Holding 3 Learn, Teach, Lead RE Hub meetings per year and increasing the number of primary/secondary school teachers in attendance

Making improvements to the enacted RE curriculum and ensuring all primary and secondary schools are meeting their statutory responsibility for RE, whilst evaluating the effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus

Promoting CPD and training opportunities through the newsletter

Offering new guidance on assemblies/collective worship

Scanning through Ofsted reports to find useful comments about RE and scrutinising school websites RE provisions, ascertaining whether new materials are impactful.

Concluded:

(i) that Ofsted comments become a standing agenda item

(ii) that Helen send Adam reports as they are released.

SACRE Workforce Data (Agenda item 5)

13

The Chairperson circulated a report from the Department for Education which examined the percentage of time spent on RE in North Somerset secondary schools. He alerted members that the figures from the Workforce Data might not be entirely accurate due to input inconsistencies and coding with the DFE.

Concluded: that Adam draft a series of letters to schools to be signed by Councillor Bell congratulating schools with a good offer for RE and/or clarifying whether schools are offering core RE in Year 10 and 11 where the reporting is unclear.

SACRE Wire Award (Agenda item 6)

14

The Chairperson introduced an award devised by the Bristol SACRE which can be earned upon completion of three tasks:

- i) A teacher in the school must attend RE Training
- ii) Pupils must engage in some capacity with a religion/world view which is not main religion of their school
- iii) A class must enter an RE competition or hold an event for parents

Concluded: that information about the Wire Award be included in the SACRE newsletter and on the website.

SACRE Website Monitoring (Agenda item 7)

15

The Chairperson suggested a plan to assist SACRE to fulfil its duty to monitor Religious Education, whereby SACRE members would examine school websites to see if they highlight the RE curriculum appropriately. Those which appeared unsatisfactory would be contacted by SACRE with suggestions for improvement.

SACRE SACRE Website

16

Members set a goal for the webpage to be updated fully by Christmas. Notes from future SACRE meetings to be added to the page, alongside annual reports, information on the Wire award and guidance for Schools regarding their data submissions and web content.

Concluded: that webpage updates become an agenda item for future SACRE meetings.

SACRE Local Updates

17

North Somerset LTLRE Hub

Key focus of the last session was on Judaism and how to deliver a Judaism unit as an educator, including training updates and helpful contacts.

Diocese of Bath and Wells

A meeting would take place on 3 November 2022 for Church schools regarding change in inspections. Training sessions took place at the end of September 2022 for Collective worship and new RE leads. Secondary schools had highlighted transitional gaps between Primary and Secondary school syllabi.

**SACRE
18**

National Updates

NASACRE Membership

Contact to be made by Chairperson to arrange membership.

Religion and worldviews handbook

Concluded: that the item be discussed at the next SACRE meeting.

**SACRE
19**

Dates for Meetings during 2022-23 Municipal Year (Agenda item 8)

- Wednesday 1 March 2023 – 4pm to 6pm

Concluded: that the date of meeting during the 2022-23 Municipal Year be noted.

Chairperson
