

Minutes

of the Virtual Meeting of the

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Wednesday 1 March 2023

held via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Commenced: 16.00 Meeting Concluded: 17:53

Councillors:

Absent: Mike Solomon, Sarah Codling, Mike Bell

Other Members of the Panel

Group A – Christian and other religious denominations

Present: Tom Leimdorfer, Quaker

Absent: Don Cameron, British Humanist Association

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

Vacancies: Hindu Community, Jewish Community, Muslim Community, Sikh Community, Catholic Community, Buddhist Community.

Group B – Church of England

Present: Karen Sancto, Pauline Dodds

Group C – Teachers Associations

Absent: Sue Fisher, NASUWT

Present: Steve Webber, PHANS

Jane Arney, Rebecca Poole, Lorraine Brawn, Primary School Representatives

Colette Miyagawa, SEND Representative

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

Jacqui Scott, Head of Learning and Achievement

Pip Hesketh, Assistant Director, Education Partnerships

Jessika Robinson, Committee Services Support Officer

Harriet Isherwood, Committee Services Support Officer

SACRE Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37)

20 (Agenda item 2)

None

SACRE

21 Minutes and Matters Arising (Agenda item 4)

Concluded: that the notes of the meeting held on 2 November 2022 were agreed as a correct record (to be ratified at the next formal meeting).

**SACRE
22**

SACRE Membership Update (Agenda item 4)

The Chair confirmed he had written to The Bristol Muslim and Cultural Society but was yet to receive a response. The Diocese of Clifton agreed to find a representative to attend SACRE but had not yet confirmed one. Three new members attended the meeting as representatives from Primary, Secondary and SEND schools.

**SACRE
23**

SACRE Management: Annual Report (Agenda item 5)

The Chair noted that the Annual Report was slightly shorter this year but showed SACRE's intention to fulfil its duties next year and outlined new proposals. The Chair answered questions around the agreed syllabus/AMV (as mentioned in the report) and will bring further information to the next meeting.

Concluded:

i) that Adam give an update on AMV at the next meeting.

ii) that the Annual report be submitted to the Department for Education, NASACRE and the Council once the examination data is published.

**SACRE
24**

Census 2021: Religion and Belief data (Agenda item 6)

The Census showed a higher number of people identifying with 'no religion' in North Somerset compared to the national average, to which the Chair explained that 'no religion' may not have meant atheist in all cases. He suggested the topic be discussed with pupils using Census data, and several teachers explained they had already utilised the data in class and were eager to continue with the help of the Chair's recommended resources. There were discussions around how the diversity of the area was reflected in the local curriculum, and the Chair proposed to invite more RE leads to the SACRE and bring forward their comments at Trust meetings.

Concluded:

i) that Adam invite more RE leads to join SACRE, focused on personalising the local syllabus.

ii) that Adam create a presentation about local data to send out in the next SACRE newsletter.

**SACRE
25**

SACRE Monitoring: Public Examination Data (Agenda item 7)

Concluded:

i) that the item be discussed at the next meeting when data becomes available.

ii) that Helen chase up on the exam data for inclusion in the report.

SACRE 26 Website monitoring

To facilitate the website monitoring the Chair had split the North Somerset schools into thirds and allocated a few to each member of the SACRE. Examples of good websites were to be made available to help struggling schools. Websites were being graded by the SACRE, but this was not to be relayed to the school. The Chair intended to send advanced notice to the schools involved before monitoring began and planned to review the results in the next meeting.

Concluded:

i) that Adam to write to schools before Easter to inform them of the website monitoring.

ii) that SACRE members monitor websites and send results back by May Half Term.

SACRE 27 Ofsted Reports monitoring

Ofsted reports had mentioned that pupils did not always understand the significance of what they learned in RE and implied that RE was not being taught as well as other subjects. Jacqui Scott proposed subject specific workshops, asking RE teachers which subjects they wanted to focus on/felt they needed support with, specifically in primary schools as their teachers were non-specialists. Members suggested links to secondary schools be created so guest talks from those with specialisms were given at primary schools.

Concluded: that the Chair investigate ways the SACRE could offer practical support from to facilitate visits to primary schools.

SACRE 28 SACRE website

Helen Caldwell had been updating the website with reports, minutes and news and welcomed any further suggestions.

SACRE 29 Local Updates

North Somerset LTLRE Hub

The February meeting was focused on Humanism and Non-Religious World Views and the speaker offered to give talks at local schools at their request.

Diocese of Bath and Wells

The Diocese noted two upcoming events, including a conference and an 'Understanding Christianity' refresher for RE staff. Materials to support the Understanding Christianity training was to be available for schools to purchase where previously trained staff had moved on and taken resources with them.

SACRE **National Updates**
30 None

SACRE **Dates for Meetings during 2022-23 Municipal Year (Agenda item 8)**
31

- Tuesday 11 July 2023 – 4pm to 6pm

Concluded: that the date of meeting during the 2023-24 Municipal Year be noted.

Chairperson
