



Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Monday, 10th July, 2023 at 10.00 am in Committee Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston

Agenda

No. Item

Part 1 (Open to Press and Public)

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 April 2023** (Pages 1 - 4)
- 3. Increasing the Profile, Attendance and Engagement of SACRE Members**
- 4. Report of the SACRE Officer** (Pages 5 - 6)
- 5. British Library - Units of Work to Support the Use of SACRED Texts**
- 6. NASACRE Annual Conference Update**
- 7. Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Governor Services Team Attendance at the 2 October Meeting** (Pages 7 - 10)
- 8. Members' News (including Feedback from Training and Development Undertaken)**
- 9. Observers' Contributions**
- 10. Correspondence** (Pages 11 - 12)
- 11. Date of Next Meeting**
The next scheduled meeting of the SACRE will be held at 10.00am on Monday 2 October 2023 in Committee Room C - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston.

Paul Bond
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston

Agenda Item 2

Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 24th April, 2023 at 10.00 am in Committee Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Attendees

Mr Peter Martin, (Chair) (Representing the Teacher Associations)

County Councillor Anne Cheetham, (Representing Lancashire County Council)

Joan O'Rourke, (Representing the Church of England)

Ishwer Tailor, (Representing Hinduism)

John Wilson, (Representing the Church of England)

Observers

Malcolm Craig, (Representing the Bahá'í Faith)

Officers

Mrs Alison Lloyd, School Improvement Service

Dave Gorman, Legal and Democratic Services

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Rebekah Ackroyd, County Councillor Terry Aldridge, Rabbi Robert Ash, Kathleen Cooper, Lisa Fenton, Ahmed James, County Councillor Stewart Jones, Ben McMullan, County Councillor Yousuf Motala, Kelsang Pagpa, Keith Pennington, Helen Sage, Harsha Shukla and Francis Williams.

It was noted that the meeting was inquorate as, whilst at least one representative was present from each of the four representative groups, a total of only six members was present, the minimum requirement being eight.

The Clerk reported that Rabbi Robert Ash had submitted his resignation from the SACRE due to increasing commitments elsewhere. A replacement representative would be sought from the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 February 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2023 were considered to be a true and accurate record.

3. Presentations by RE Subject Leaders - Sharing Aspects of Best Practice Linked to the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus

Peter Martin, Chair, welcomed Michelle Smyth, Westhead Lathom St James CofE Primary School, Ormskirk and Natasha Finch, Mount Pleasant Primary

School, Clayton-le-Moors, RE Subject Leaders, who gave presentations on aspects of best practice linked to the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus in their respective schools. Sarah from Sherwood Primary School, Preston, also attended and gave an overview of best practice at the school.

A presentation from St Stephen's CofE Primary School, Preston was included as part of the agenda pack, a representative of the school having not been able to attend the meeting.

The Chair and SACRE Members thanked Michelle, Natasha and Sarah for their attendance and thanked them for their interesting and informative presentations and overview of the excellent work which was being undertaken in their respective schools.

4. Exclusion of Press and Public

Under the Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils) Regulations 1994, it was noted that the public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, 'Item 5 - Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Survey Analysis'.

It was noted that no members of the public were present.

5. Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Survey Analysis

Alison Lloyd, Special Support Adviser, School Improvement Service, presented private and confidential information, which was circulated at the meeting, setting out outcomes from the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Religious Education Self-Evaluation Survey 2022.

It was noted that, following a low response rate in September 2022, the self-evaluation survey had been re-sent to secondary schools in February 2023 and was sent directly to headteachers by e-mail rather than being posted on the Schools' Portal as previously.

An additional number of schools had since responded but the response rate remained low.

Further consideration and discussion would take place at the next meeting of the SACRE'S Quality and Standards Sub-group on 7 June.

6. Key Stage 5 Survey Results

Alison Lloyd presented Key Stage 5 attainment and progress data for 2022.

It was noted that there had been an increased take up of RE at 'A' Level.

7. Building Bridges Burnley Update

The written report provided by Peter Lumsden, Building Bridges Burnley, was noted.

8. SACRE Attendance

Given the poor attendance of Members at recent meetings, in particular this meeting, the Chair indicated that he would write to all SACRE Members on the matter.

9. SACRE Member Profiles

The Chair indicated that he would make reference to the importance of the Member Profiles in his letter to SACRE Members. Those present noted that having profiles for all SACRE Members would assist in raising awareness of the role and work of the SACRE whilst, at the same time, increasing its visibility.

10. Members' News (including Feedback from Training and Development Undertaken)

John Wilson suggested that, having received the presentations from primary sector RE Subject Leaders, it would be useful to invite secondary sector RE Subject Leaders to attend a future meeting to give similar presentations on best practice linked to the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus.

11. Observers' Contributions

No observer contributions were made.

12. Correspondence

Members noted that, since the publication of the agenda, one item of correspondence (SACRE Newsletter, Issue 14, Summer 2023) had been received and circulated.

The Clerk also reported that, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Pupil Voice Key Stage 3 due to have taken place on Tuesday 27 June at County Hall would need to be re-arranged. A new date would be circulated in due course.

13. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Lancashire SACRE would be held at 10.00am on Monday 10 July 2023 in Committee Room 'D', County Hall, Preston.

Paul Bond
Clerk to the SACRE
County Hall,
Preston



Agenda Item 4

Report to Lancashire SACRE: June 2023

- 17 primary schools attended our most recent RE training course on 23rd June. The purpose of the course was to support teachers in planning a unit of work following the field of enquiry. Emphasis was placed on vocabulary, the use of sacred texts and an enquiry based approach.
- The second recruitment round for a primary consultant will close on 10th July. There has been some interest and we hope that there will be at least one application. Interviews are scheduled for 19th July at County Hall. There has been considerable interest from teachers in VA CE schools who had not realised that there would be a requirement for knowledge of the LAS.
- Following the KS3 survey, a detailed analysis was undertaken of the websites of those maintained secondary schools that did not respond. 4 schools have been identified who would benefit from contact from the SACRE. It was agreed at the QSS that a letter will be sent to these schools reminding them of their responsibilities and also offering them a free training session from Joanne Harris. Joanne has indicated that she can do this in September.
- The RE hub website has been launched. The address is: [Explore RE in your Region \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://www.re-hubs.uk)
- The KS3 pupil debate has been moved to the autumn term. Date TBC.
- Wigan Local Authority have decided to buy into our syllabus. Admin are currently sorting out the paperwork to allow access to our materials.
- The SACRE development plan will be evaluated at the October meeting and re written for the next 2 year period. Good attendance will be needed at this meeting so that all members can contribute.
- The LA officer is in discussion with RE Today for support on hosting a CW workshop for teachers and also providing future training on 'ways of knowing RE'.
- Examples of projects undertaken by other SACREs through Westhill Award Funding:
 - Bristol SACRE – Pairs of KS3 pupils interview representatives of different faiths/ worldviews. This was part of a larger debate/ discussion forum
 - Leicester SACRE – A new Peace Tour was devised for the city. This led to a scheme of work on peace from KS1 – KS4 linked to Collective Worship material.
 - Luton SACRE – A Climate Justice project was created based on the theme 'faith, nature, earth and climate'. This led to an exhibition of work.
 - Bromley SACRE– pupils were asked to pose 'big questions' to SACRE members relating to their faith.
 - Leeds SACRE- A film of a local synagogue was created to support teaching of the LAS.
 - Nottinghamshire SACRE – Materials were created to show the impact of faiths/ worldviews on social projects across the county.

A possible project for Lancashire SACRE? Any ideas?

It would be good to create a series of VLOGs, perhaps in partnership with Building Bridges to support teaching of the LAS. At KS2 identified themes are:

Christianity

- How Christians use the Bible (Y4)
- How Christians serve God e.g. the Salvation Army (Y3)
- What does it mean to be a disciple? (Y3)
- How does the Holy Spirit inspire Christians? (Y3)
- Christianity – how does the Holy Spirit inspire you in your worship? (Y3)
- What is sacrificial love? What does a Christian do during lent? (Y4)
- What are parables? How do they guide a Christian? (Y4)
- What happens if you are tempted to do a bad thing? (Y5)
- What is a miracle? How can this lead to pilgrimage? (Y5)
- How is Christianity a living, diverse faith? What do Christians understand by the Trinity? (Y5)
- What does it mean to repent (atone for your sins?) Is forgiveness sometimes a hard thing to do? (Y6)
- What happens at the Eucharist? Why is this important to Christians? (Y6)
- Why would someone be baptised or confirmed? Why happens at these ceremonies? (Y6)

Hindu Dharma

- Why Hindus participate in the festival of Raksha Bandhan, the importance of worship at a home shrine (Y3)
- Why Hindus participate in the festival of Diwali (Y4)
- Why Hindus celebrate the festival of Holi (Y5)
- What is a Sacred Thread Ceremony? (Y6)

Islam

- Why and how Muslims undertake Zakat – the third pillar of Islam (Y3)
- Why do Muslims fast during Ramadan?
- Why is the Qur'an the ultimate authority for Muslims?
- Why is it important for a Muslim to go on Hajj?

Sikh Dharam

- The festival of Baisakhi. Reverence to the Guru Granth Sahib (Y3)
- What happens in the Gurdwara? (Y4)

Judaism

- Why is the Torah important to Jews? What happens in the synagogue? (Y5)

Buddhism

- What is the 8 fold path? Why do Buddhists meditate?

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Governor Services Team Attendance at the 2 October Meeting

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills (County Councillor Jayne Rear) and representatives of the Governors Services Team have confirmed their attendance at the SACRE meeting on 2 October 2023

Below is an extract from the minutes of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 10 May 2023 at which their attendance at a future SACRE meeting was discussed and agreed. References relevant to SACRE are highlighted in red

Item 4 - Governor Services – Recruitment and Training

The Chair welcomed County Councillor Jayne Rear, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, Jaquie Old, Executive Director Education and Children's Services, Julie Bell, Interim Director of Education, Skills and Culture, Elaine Cluet, SI Secondary Lead, Head of Governor Services and Joshua Mangas, School Based Issue Officer to the meeting.

The report provided an update on the work the council was doing to support the recruitment of school governors, including increasing numbers and improving diversity in governing boards.

A presentation was provided to the committee, a copy of which is attached to the minutes.

Comments and queries were raised by the committee as follows:

- In response to what support and training was available to new school governors, a Chair of Governing Mentoring Service was available across Lancashire for any governor to sign up to. This linked new school governors to experienced mentors. In-house training was also a costed option that provided onsite, venue-based courses for schools.
- Officers highlighted that support from school governors could be provided through personal attendance at scheduled events and on programmes designed for school governors, such as the Chairs Forum and participation on the School Governor Mentoring Programme. The website was currently being developed and the team welcomed any short videos, case studies or messages that could be used to further support new governors in their role.
- The level of delegated responsibilities given to school governors within academies was varied depending on the academy's structure. Officers were looking into providing the same level of support to trustees within academy trusts, as they had the same level of influence and responsibility as school governing bodies.

- The committee was informed that Equality, Diversity and Inclusion data (EDI) was not collected, however, national data could be looked at, subject to GDP regulations. The Governor Hub may be able to assist in collecting data like this in the future.
- In terms of progress on the work on the 2020 Scrutiny Task Group recommendations, it was noted that priorities had been impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. There had also been changes in recent leadership within the team. However, officers reaffirmed their commitment to moving forward with the recommendations of the 2020 Scrutiny Task Group, which concluded in December 2020.
- There were ongoing discussions taking place with internal Communications to create a representative recruitment advert to encourage more people to apply for school governor places, in particular from diverse and minority backgrounds. Potential barriers to the recruitment of parents onto school governing boards was also being evaluated and an update would be provided to the committee at a future meeting.
- It was noted that the appointment of 'governor champions' within local educational settings that represented minority groups would provide a role model for more diverse recruitment from minority backgrounds to school governor positions.
- It was noted that there was an error on page 13 of Appendix 1 of the Governor Services report. Attendance for training delivered by Lancashire County Council officers should have read 100% better, instead of 50%, based on the information provided in table B.
- Regular conversations were taking place with dioceses and the Director of Education to improve the recruitment of foundation governors from churches. Underperforming schools were being targeted in the first instance. Recommended appointments had to first be approved by the dioceses before being finalised. Talks had begun between the Education Improvement Team and the dioceses to identify how to make this process more efficient and address any challenges with appointing foundation governors.
- It was recommended that officers from the Education Improvement Team attend a meeting of the Standard Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). It was highlighted that the SACRE had a large representation of religious and educational bodies, many of which were governors themselves.
- Governing Body Advisors were appointed through a standard application procedure. Successful applicants undertook an induction programme in order that they could manage their own school portfolio. It was confirmed that the position was a paid role to the committee.
- The cost for schools to buy into Lancashire County Councils recruitment support services for school governors varied depending on the option chosen.

The various options and costs for each package would be circulated to committee members after the meeting.

- The county council's staff specialised in knowledge and policy-based training for school governors, and training in current legislation was provided to fulfil the role. Whereas external staff were often sourced from experienced serving governors that provided their own experience on the practical aspects of being a school governor. The external tutors used for training school governors were all representatives of the local authority area who had been through a thorough recruitment procedure.
- It was highlighted that there was no funding pot for secondary schools to support schools in governor recruitment and training, however, a small amount of funding was available for primary schools with financial difficulties. Officers were monitoring potential future funding streams from the Department of Education.
- It was noted that the governing board was responsible for determining the ethos of a school, how this was strategically implemented was decided by each school. New bite-size hour long courses had also been developed on vision and values, culture and ethos and wellbeing to guide schools on creating an effective governing board ethos.
- Officers explained that mentoring and the creation of champions that encouraged parents to become school governors was being developed. Parents were being encouraged to become school governors to have a positive, internal impact on any changes made within their local school setting.
- The recruitment criteria for school governors were seen as inclusive. Recruitment from minority backgrounds to school governor places was viewed as a key priority for the committee.
- The committee queried whether enough active recruitment was taking place with employers to encourage employees to become school governors. Officers welcomed developing this opportunity further. Onsite training for employees to become a governor could be delivered in partnership with large employers.
- It was noted that challenges to the recruitment of governors could be reflected against national figures for volunteering, as volunteer numbers across the country were around 2 million less in 2023 than in 2022.
- The committee requested that the number of governor vacancies per district within Lancashire be provided.
- The committee highlighted that the poster being designed to promote the recruitment of school governors may benefit from further input from county councillors and the Youth Council. It was agreed that views of the committee would be considered in the redesign of the recruitment poster. It was also noted that the poster was one form of communication and other avenues were also being considered.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i. Officers from the Education Improvement Team and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills be invited to a future meeting of the Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). The aim being, to use the knowledge and expertise of the SACRE to help support the recruitment of governors in schools and improve the diversity of governors recruited.
- ii. Details of the number of governor vacancies, per district, be provided to the committee.
- iii. Consideration be given to the design of the poster used to market the recruitment of governors. Input from members of the committee and representatives from the Youth Council to be taken into regard.

Agenda Item 10

The following items have been circulated by e-mail to SACRE Members since the last meeting:

- Introductory message from Jane Yates, the new RE Hubs Regional Lead for the North West - **Circulated on 15 May 2023**
- Introductory message from Paul Blackett, the new Co-ordinator Preston and South Ribble (North) Street Pastors - **Circulated on 6 June 2023**
- NASACRE virtual training session - 'So, you've joined your local SACRE...' (held on 26 June) - **Circulated on 20 June 2023**

