

Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Monday 17 June 2013 at 10.00am in Cabinet Room 'D' - County Hall, Preston

Agenda

No. Item

Part 1 (Open to Press and Public)

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Minutes and matters arising** (Pages 1 - 8)
Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting of the Lancashire SACRE held on 4 March 2013.
- 3. SACRE membership**
Report to follow.
- 4. National Update**
To be provided by the Lancashire Consultant for RE.
- 5. SACRE Development Plan 2013 - 2015** (Pages 9 - 12)
- 6. Report of the Quality and Standards Sub-group** (Pages 13 - 16)
Members are asked to note the minutes of the last meeting of the QSS which took place on 21 May 2013.
- 7. Lancashire Youth Voice**
- 8. Observers' Contributions**
- 9. Members' News**
- 10. Correspondence**
- 11. Any Other Business**
- 12. Date of the next meeting**
The date of the next meeting of the SACRE will be Monday 30 September 2013, to take place 10am, at County Hall, Preston.

County Hall
Preston

Roy Jones
Clerk to the SACRE

Agenda Item 2

Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4 March 2013 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'A' - County Hall, Preston

Present

Christian and other Religious Groups appropriately reflecting the Principal Traditions in the Area

Roman Catholic Church	Ms J Busby Mr B McMullen
The Free Churches Group	Mr P Baker Mrs A Tidswell Mr C Wills
Hindu	Mrs K Parekh Mrs H Shukla
Islam	Mr S Jogi
Teachers Associations	Ms J Crabtree (NUT) Mr D Fann (NAHT) Ms S Greenhow (NASUWT) Mr P Martin (ASCL) Chair Mrs A Robinson (ATL)
Church of England Lancashire County Council	Mrs H Sage CC K Ellard CC A Thornton Mr F Williams
Co-opted Members	Mrs K Cooper (LASGB) Ms C Mercier (HE Sector) Mrs K Murry (Secondary Sector)
Observers	Mr A Brennand (Pagan Federation)
Officers in Attendance	Mr J Hewitt Mr J Mynott Mrs K Dale

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Mr N Anwar, Rabbi D Braunold, Dr M Craig, Miss L Fenton, CC P Malpas, CC Y Motala, Mr I Nakhuda, Mrs J O'Rourke, Mr C Pountain, Mrs E Saunderson, Mrs J Sawyer and Mrs J Singh.

Apologies were also received from Mrs Helen Harrison, Lancashire Consultant for RE.

The Chairman announced that Mrs Elaine Saunderson, SACRE Observer representing the Religious Society of Friends, had informed the Clerk that she wished to relinquish observer status. Thanks would be sent to Mrs Saunderson for her work and input to the SACRE.

As this was the last meeting of the SACRE which County Councillor Albert Thornton would attend before standing down at the County Council elections, members joined with the Chairman in thanking him for his outstanding service to the SACRE as member, Chairman and Vice Chairman since it was first set up 1989.

The Chairman also welcomed Kate Murry, RE Teacher at the Hollins in Oswaldtwistle, to the meeting. Kate had been appointed as co-opted member representing teachers in the secondary sector jointly with Joanne Harris at the last meeting.

2. Minutes and matters arising

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Lancashire SACRE held on 26 November 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. SACRE Membership

It was noted that membership of the SACRE was renewed every four years coinciding with the County Council elections and that as this was an election year the Clerk would shortly be contacting all the nominating sponsoring bodies requesting nominations to serve for the forthcoming four year term. The current membership of the SACRE, determined locally, was as follows:

Group 1 - Christian and Other religions and denominations which appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area

- The Roman Catholic Church 3
- The Free Churches Group 4
- Islam 5
- Hinduism 2
- Judaism 1
- Sikhism 1
- Buddhism 1

Group 2 – The Church of England 5

Group 3 – Associations representing Teachers 5

Group 4 – The Local Authority 5

Each group carried one vote in matters to be determined by SACRE.

In addition, the SACRE constitution allowed the appointment of up to five co-opted members chosen from educational backgrounds. The SACRE also

currently included three Observers. Co-opted members and Observers do not take part in any voting.

Members considered the 2011 census data available showing religions in Lancashire and noted that the figures did not necessarily reflect the significance of certain faiths nationally and internationally.

In light of the forthcoming renewal of membership, members commented as follows:

- The number of Pagans in Lancashire constituted 42% of people putting themselves in the 'Other' religion category and that therefore the change from 'Observer' status of the Pagan representative to full membership of Group 1 should be considered.
- Any request for a religion or denomination to be allocated a place in Group 1 would need to be supported by a robust case and, in the event of the SACRE agreeing such a change, a sponsoring nominating body would be identified and asked to make the nomination.
- Given that each of the four groups have one vote, there seemed to be no provision in the SACRE constitution for making a decision in the case of a tied vote. Some concerns relating to the disproportionate representation of very small religious groups were raised.
- Comments were made on the difficulty of representing the number of people who put themselves in the category of 'no religion.', although it was noted that, of the four groups represented on the SACRE, two were specific faith based, and two were not, demonstrating that not all representatives on SACRE came from a faith background.
- In the past, the SACRE had appointed a Humanist Observer who had rarely attended. It had also been approached by the British Humanist Association for full membership. The SACRE had made clear that it was open to all approaches and continued to be so, but nothing further had developed at that time.
- SACRE would continue to use the guidance and advice offered by NASACRE on nominating bodies and issues connected to representation.

In general, it was felt that the SACRE had a good balance of representation, was an effective body, and that whilst it would always be appropriate to consider amendments to the membership as circumstances changed, there was no significant current issue that required substantial revision to the principles of membership

However, it was agreed that there appeared to be a sound case for the consideration of incorporating Paganism into Group 1. It was agreed that a paper be presented to the next meeting of SACRE providing evidence to allow full consideration of the suggestion. The paper would also be able to set out general guidance to ensure SACRE remained appropriately representative.

RESOLVED: That:

- i. The current membership and process for membership renewal be noted.
- ii. A report be considered at the next meeting the SACRE to determine the proposal that Paganism be incorporated into Group 1, and setting out the principles for future amendments to membership.

4. Report of the Quality and Standards Sub-group

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the QSS Sub-group which took place on 5 February 2013 be noted.

5. Working with the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre

Afrasiab Anwar, Community Faith Co-ordinator at the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre presented a verbal report on working in the future with the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre. It was proposed that the SACRE engage more effectively in the coming years with the Faith Centre in order to:

- Build the work of the Faith Centre into the SACRE Development Plan and develop links to support the Agreed Syllabus
- Help in linking people of different faiths with schools across Lancashire
- Use the Faith Centre as a hub for SACRE's work in developing the leadership of RE in Lancashire

RESOLVED: That the principle for the SACRE to work more closely with the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre be agreed.

6. Report from the Advanced Skills Teacher (AST)

Jo Crabtree, AST Primary, verbally reported on her activities since the SACRE meeting in September 2012. Jo informed members that her role as AST was coming to an end with the disestablishment of the AST post at the end of March 2013.

Jo had continued to work on planning grids and the Agreed Syllabus website and intended to work on simplifying the website following comments from teachers regarding the number of 'clicks' it took to find information. Jo had presented at the Lancashire Primary RE Conference and received much positive feedback.

In response to an approach from a Headteacher in Clayton-le-Moors, Jo had written four planning grids for a Jehovahs Witness unit for Year 6.

By summer 2013 Jo envisaged that schools would be able to buy her in to talk about the Agreed Syllabus and that this would be a marketed service. Network meetings would need to become self sustaining.

The SACRE thanked Jo for all the hard work she had done whilst in post as AST, Primary.

RESOLVED: That:

- i. The report of the Advanced Skills Teacher, Primary be noted.
- ii. Jo Crabtree be thanked for the hard work she had done whilst in the post as Advanced Skills Teacher, Primary.

7. Common Ground - Information from the Pupil Attitude Questionnaire

RESOLVED: That the report on the Pupil Attitude Questionnaire, as presented, be noted.

8. Implementation of the SACRE Development Plan

This item was deferred until the next meeting due to time constraints.

9. Revision of the SACRE Development Plan

This item was deferred until the next meeting due to time constraints.

10. The future of RE in terms of initial Teacher Education

Carrie Mercier Co-opted member of the SACRE representing the Higher Education Sector, gave a presentation on developments in Initial Teacher Training and the impact on RE.

Members were informed that in the future schools would have a greater part to play in the design and delivery of Initial Teacher Training and recruitment and that 'School Direct' was a new pathway into teaching. This would mean that teacher training places would be allocated directly to schools instead of Universities or Higher Education (HE) providers. Schools would then work with an accredited provider of Initial Teacher Training to deliver the training. Only HE providers would be able to award degrees.

School Direct would be funded by fees paid by the student – with the help of a loan or a bursary. Another model, School Direct Salaried, would entail the school paying a salary funded by the Teaching Agency. The expected outcome would be that schools go on to employ the teachers that they have trained.

The new system might benefit:

- schools wanting to be more involved in recruitment of future teachers
- students who felt ready to go straight into school

- schools and teachers beginning to take greater responsibility for teacher training
- large or city schools with regular turnover of staff – helping with recruitment

Issues relating to the new system included:

- 99% of Newly Qualified Teachers were very satisfied with the existing provision
- Sustainability - once schools had recruited would they then want to offer more places the next year?
- Best provision worldwide ensures academic footing of Initial Teacher Training at university level.
- Different pathways suited different trainees.
- Trainees would see only one way of doing things

The University of Cumbria was the third largest provider of Schools Direct with 190 Secondary School Direct places allocated, 3 of which were specifically for RE. There were no subject-specific RE places included in the 119 Primary Schools Direct student places. In the next academic year, the number of places allocated to the PGCE in RE for secondary RE would be reduced from 40 to 8 therefore putting the programme under threat which could lead to the disappearance of specialist staff.

Members commented as follows on School Direct:

- Would faith schools be attractive to students from non-faith backgrounds
- Concern about the delivery of theory by schools
- Less than 1% of places would be for specialist RE Teachers
- That, nationally, Higher Education establishments might no longer be offering the PGCE in RE
- The new system had not been trialled and tested
- Some training schools might cherry pick students

RESOLVED: That Carrie Mercier be thanked for her very informative presentation on the future for Initial Teacher Training.

11. Collective Worship

Members considered a draft letter to Headteachers setting out the purpose of Collective Worship visits by SACRE members.

It was suggested that in the final line, the words 'Thank you for your time' be removed.

RESOLVED: That the letter to Headteachers setting out the purpose of Collective Worship visits by SACRE members, subject to the suggested amendment being made, be approved.

12. Dates for future SACRE meetings

Members agreed the next schedule of SACRE meeting dates as follows:

Monday 30 September 2013
Monday 25 November 2013
Monday 3 March 2014
Monday 16 June 2014

13. Correspondence

Correspondence had been received from the Lancashire Forum of Faiths informing the SACRE that they produced a newsletter every two months and asking whether a piece promoting the work of the SACRE could be written for inclusion.

RESOLVED: That an article promoting the work of the SACRE be written for inclusion in the forthcoming Lancashire Forum of Faiths newsletter.

14. Any Other Business

Harsha Shukla informed members that the Hindu Society Lancaster and Morecambe would be hosting a diversity event in Lancaster on 20 June 2013. Harsha also explained that an exhibition about the ancient Hindu religion was available for schools to use.

Ben McMullen informed the SACRE that All Hallows High School had been awarded the RE Quality Mark at gold level.

15. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Lancashire SACRE was noted as Monday 17 June 2013 to take place at County Hall, Preston.

Roy Jones
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston

Lancashire SACRE

Meeting to be held on 17 June 2013

SACRE Development Plan 2013-15 (2 Years)

Draft priorities for consideration

These priorities have been identified following:

- A review of the current development plan
- Feedback from teachers and headteachers in Lancashire
- Discussion with Young People in Lancashire
- A review of national priorities and developments

1. To fulfil SACRE's statutory role by providing effective leadership of RE and Collective Worship by:

- a) Providing an appropriate Agreed Syllabus and guidance on Collective Worship
- b) Effective communication with schools about the work of SACRE
- c) Monitoring the quality of provision for RE and Collective Worship
- d) Monitoring achievement in RE

2. To raise achievement in RE by:

- a) Ensuring that the Agreed Syllabus is easily accessible and navigable for teachers
- b) Reviewing and augmenting the exemplification materials
- c) Providing opportunities to share and develop good practice
- d) Providing opportunities to connect with different living religious traditions

3. To improve the provision of Collective Worship by:

- a) Ensuring that schools are aware of the support materials and guidance (Mirrors and Doors 2)
- b) Augmenting the exemplification materials
- c) Providing opportunities to share and develop good practice

4. To ensure that the provision of RE is informed by the views of stakeholders by:

- a) Providing opportunities for Children and Young People to participate in the development of RE
- b) Further developing links with people of different faiths, beliefs and traditions
- c) Maintaining links with national bodies who lead on RE

Lancashire SACRE Development Plan 2013/15 Draft

Priority 1: To fulfil SACRE's statutory role by providing effective leadership of RE and Collective Worship [CW] by:		
Objectives	Activities	
a) Providing an appropriate Agreed Syllabus and guidance on Collective Worship [CW]	Ensure that the Agreed Syllabus and guidance on CW is accessible to schools	JH/HH
b) Effective communication with schools about the work of SACRE	Maintain and update web site Liaison with LA advisory service Work with Governor services/ Teacher associations	HH JH
c) Monitoring the quality of provision	Monitoring and responding to complaints re RE/CW Monitoring Section 5 inspection reports Monitoring subject inspection reports Feedback from schools via network meetings	JH JH JH HH
d) Monitoring achievements in RE	Analysis of GCSE/A level results	P D/K JH

Priority 2: To raise achievement in RE by:		
Objectives	Activities	
a) Ensuring that the Agreed Syllabus is easily accessible and navigable for teachers	Ensuring easy access to the syllabus/CW through office staff having information about web site passwords and passing on queries to JH/HH as appropriate Continuing liaison with IT team [Woodlands] to adapt navigability	JH/HH/HW HH/Dan Heyes
b) Reviewing and augmenting the exemplification materials	Updating exemplification through accessing good practice	HH/JC/JH/KM/ networks etc
c) Providing opportunities to share and develop good practice	Audit existing network groups – liaise with NATRE Explore possible hub clusters eg around Quality Mark schools/B & P Faith Centre Work with LE to establish marketed networks	HH/JC/NATRE HH/ Anwar HH/JC/Claire Elliot

d) Providing opportunities to connect with different living religious traditions	Rework DIFA site inc with reference to 'Sacred Space' guidance form LOtC Establish appropriate safeguarding process Liaise with Lancashire I/F partners to identify existing practice Explore ways of connecting inc VCs, web sites, blogs, Fbook, twitter etc	HH/Dan Hayes/ Anwar/JH Lancs FF/ SACRE members/YV
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Priority 3: To improve the provision of Collective Worship by:

Objectives	Activities	
a) Ensuring that schools are aware of the support materials and guidance (Mirrors and Doors 2)	Inform re version 2 of Mirrors and Doors - circulate web site passwords via portal Liaison with LA advisory service Work with Governor services Offer marketed CPD via LE	HH/HW/JH JH HH/KC HH
b) Augment exemplification materials	Seek out other sources eg. from diocese? B & P? YV?	HH/
c) Providing opportunities to share and develop good practice	Case studies gathered from SACRE members visits to schools Request via network/Hubs	SACRE members YV schools

Priority 4: To ensure that the provision of RE is informed by the views of stakeholders by:

Objectives	Activities	
a) Providing opportunities for Children and Young People to participate in the development of RE	Develop the role of Youth Voice and plan for 9 th SACRE Youth Conference to address the development plan priorities	HH/JB/YV schools/Anwar/ SACRE members
b) Further developing links with people of different faiths, beliefs and traditions	Identifying and establishing effective and appropriate faith- belief contacts for visits and visitor resourcing for schools	SACRE members + nom bodies/ Anwar/Lancs F of F
c) Maintaining links with national bodies who lead on RE	Maintain active membership of NASACRE/receive regular information from The RE Council [REC], Ofsted, AREIAC, NATRE etc	HH/JC [NATRE rep]

Agenda Item 6

Lancashire SACRE Meeting to be held on 17 June 2013

Report of the Quality and Standards Sub-group (QSS)

Minutes of the Meeting of the QSS held on Tuesday 21 May 2013 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'D' - County Hall, Preston

Present

Mr P Martin
Mrs K Cooper
Mr I Nakhuda
Mrs A Robinson
Mrs H Sage
Mr F Williams

Representing

ASCL (Chair)
LASGB
Lancashire Council of Mosques
ATL
CE Diocese of Blackburn
Lancashire County Council

Helen Harrison

RE Consultant

Officers in Attendance

Jonathan Hewitt
Katrina Dale

Officer to the SACRE, CYP
Democratic Services

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Brennand, Mr D Fann, Miss L Fenton, Ms C Mercier, Mrs K Murry, Mrs J O'Rourke, and Mrs J Sawyer.

2. Minutes and matters arising

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2013, be agreed as a true record.

3. Review of SACRE membership

Members discussed a possible review of SACRE membership taking into account the minute on membership from the draft minutes of the meeting of the full SACRE which took place on 4 March 2013.

It was acknowledged that the starting point of a review should be that the composition of the SACRE reflect its prime purpose - to support, in the best way possible way, the teaching and development of the Agreed Syllabus for RE in schools. In doing so it was felt that, in the interest of balance, representation should reflect not only the local faith community but also major world faiths.

Members commented on a review of membership as follows:

- that NASACRE guidelines on membership should be taken into account

- consideration should be given to the expertise that individual members on each representative group could bring to the SACRE
- umbrella organisations representing the views of various denominations within a certain faith should be the starting point for requesting nominations
- the constitution of the SACRE would need to be changed if any changes were required to the numbers making up Group 1 and there would need to be a clear policy setting out a number of tests for a compelling case to do so.
- the voice of Young People should be taken into account
- there should be a re-consideration of 'Observer' status
- a regular review of membership - suggestion of every four years in conjunction with the renewal of full membership which coincides with County Council elections

It was suggested that a report be brought before the full SACRE setting out a number of principles for a review of membership which included:

- Precedent
- Unpacking the purpose of SACRE
- NASACRE guidance
- Rationale for the current makeup of membership
- Review of the criteria previously agreed for appointing co-opted members
- Setting out possible options such as:
 - Altering the number of co-opted members
 - Altering the number of members in Group 1
 - Agreeing criteria for appointment within Group 1

Resolved: That a report on a review of the membership of the SACRE based on the comments made by members be brought to the next meeting of the SACRE.

4. Priorities for the SACRE Development Plan

Members discussed the process for revising and taking forward the SACRE Development Plan. To establish a process for identifying priorities for a revised plan it was suggested involving the following:

- SACRE members
- Headteachers/teachers by meeting with focus groups such as the network groups
- Governors, through the LASGB
- Pupils, through the Youth Voice
- Others – target interested parties such as:
 - parents via parent governors/Youth Voice
 - A draft Development Plan would be circulated with the agenda for the next SACRE meeting and members would be asked to consult their colleagues prior to returning a form prioritising what they think are the

key issues for the Development Plan. At the full SACRE meeting, members would be asked to split into groups to discuss these priorities.

Resolved: That SACRE members be asked to prioritise key issues for the revision of the Development Plan and submit them for consideration at the next SACRE meeting.

5. National Update

The RE Consultant for Lancashire gave a presentation on the national picture for RE and the following points were highlighted:

- Religious Education Council (REC) meetings continued with Elizabeth Truss, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education and Childcare, David Laws, Minister of State for Schools and the Cabinet Office and members of the DfE
- RE long report was still with senior Ofsted officials – to be launched possibly in July
- A level Religious Studies reform for 2016
- The REC budget for PR work was running out
- The REC Professional Development Committee was responding to ‘The Truth Unmasked’ the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) report about RE Initial Teacher Training and Continuing Professional Development
- The recommendation of the APPG was that: LAs should ensure sufficient resources are made available to enable SACREs to:
 - provide high quality RE support
 - monitor the quality of the provision and staffing of RE
 - develop networks to share good practice in RE
- 51 pupils at ten schools had been accepted as Young Ambassadors for the current school year. Broughton Business and Enterprise College and St Christopher's Academy were among the 10 selected nationally
- Broughton was now recognised by Ofsted as a Good Practice school and had obtained gold level in the RE Quality Mark
- The REC was carrying out a curriculum review for RE in parallel with the national curriculum review

Resolved: That the current national picture for RE be noted.

6. Interfaith Week 17 - 23 November 2013

Members noted that Interfaith Week this year would be taking place between 17 – 23 November and that Afrasiab Anwar at the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre would be approached to find out whether the SACRE could provide support for any events that might be taking place. It was also noted that the Preston Faith Forum had contacted the Chairman asking that SACRE members contact them if they were able to provide support for events.

7. Any Other Business

Helen Sage informed the group that the new Bishop of Blackburn, Julian Henderson, Diocese of Blackburn, had asked people to consider how he could get a snapshot of issues in the Diocese and Helen had suggested that he consider inviting members of SACREs to visit him.

Francis Williams informed members that former County Councillor, Chairman and Vice-chairman of the SACRE, Albert Thornton had recently suffered a heart attack and members agreed that a letter be sent wishing him a speedy recovery and thanking him for all the work he had done over the years for the SACRE.

Kathleen Cooper asked that the article on the SACRE drafted for the LASGB be finalised in time for inclusion in the next newsletter due out round Autumn Term half term.

8. Date of the next meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Quality and Standards Sub-group was Wednesday 17 July 2013, to take place at 2.00pm at County Hall, Preston.

Roy Jones
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston