



## **Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

**Monday 3 March 2014 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston**

### **Agenda**

#### **No. Item**

#### **Part 1 (Open to Press and Public)**

##### **1. Apologies**

##### **2. Minutes**

(Pages 1 - 6)

Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting of the Lancashire SACRE held on 25 November 2013.

##### **3. SACRE Membership**

The Interim Executive Director for Children and Young People, under the County Council's scheme of delegation to Chief Officers, has recently appointed the following members to the SACRE until July 2017:

- Mr Steve Jones, representing the Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford,
- Rev Philip Clarke, representing the Methodist Church,
- Mrs Harsha Shukla, representing the Hindu Faith, Hindu Society Lancaster and Morecambe
- Ms Vijayanti Chauhan, representing the Hindu Faith – Gujarat Hindu Society, Preston
- Mr John Wilson, representing the Church of England, Diocese of Bradford and Ripon & Leeds
- Rabbi Katanka, representing the Jewish Faith

##### **4. Monitoring RE in Lancashire**

(Pages 7 - 8)

##### **5. Support for RE**

(Pages 9 - 10)

##### **6. Review of the SACRE Development Plan 2013 - 2015**

(Pages 11 - 16)

**7. Collective Worship**

Group Discussion - Members are asked to consider how to promote and support the development of Collective Worship

**8. Report of the Quality and Standards Sub-group**

(Pages 17 - 20)

Members are asked to note the minutes of the last meeting of the QSS which took place on 20 January 2014.

**9. National Update**

To be provided by Helen Harrison, Lancashire RE Consultant.

**10. Lancashire Youth Voice Update**

**11. Observers' Contributions**

**12. Members' News**

**13. Correspondence**

**14. Date of the next meeting**

- i. The date of the next meeting of the SACRE will be Monday 16 June 2014, to take place at 10am in Cabinet Room D - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, at County Hall, Preston.
- ii. Members are asked to consider the following suggested schedule of dates for meetings of the SACRE and inform the Clerk should there be any clash with Religious festivals.

Monday 29 September 2014  
Monday 24 November 2014 (AGM)  
Monday 16 March 2016  
Monday 15 June 2015

Roy Jones  
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 25 November 2013 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, 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	Mrs A Tidswell Mr C Wills
Buddhism	Kelsang Pagpa
Islam	Mr N Anwar Mr S Jogi Mr H Mulla Mr I Nakhuda
Hinduism	Mrs H Shukla
<b>Teachers Associations</b>	Ms J Crabtree (NUT) Ms S Greenhow (NASUWT) Mr P Martin (ASCL) Chair Mr D Fann (NAHT) Mr L Ridings (ATL)
<b>Church of England</b>	Mrs J O'Rourke Mr J Wilson
<b>Lancashire County Council</b>	CC A Cheetham CC Y Motala
<b>Co-opted Members</b>	Ms J Clarke (NATRE) Ms J Harris (Teachers in the Secondary Sector) Ms C Mercier (Trainers in the Higher Education Sector)
<b>Observers</b>	Dr M Craig (Baha'i Faith) Mrs K Parekh (Hinduism)
<b>RE Consultant</b>	Mrs H Harrison
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	Mr J Hewitt Mr J Mynott Mrs K Dale

Daleen ten Cate, United Reformed Church Ministerial Trainee, also attended the meeting.

### 1. Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair

**Resolved:** That

- i. Mr Peter Martin be appointed Chair of the SACRE for the ensuing year.

- ii. County Councillor Yousuf Motala be appointed Vice-Chair of the SACRE for the ensuing year.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Mr P Baker, Mr A Brennand, County Councillor P Buckley, Mrs K Cooper, County Councillor K Ellard, Mr F Farrell, Miss L Fenton, Mrs H Sage and Mr F Williams.

## **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2013.**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Lancashire SACRE held on 7 October 2013, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## **4. Responding to the OfSTED report into RE (Realising the potential)**

The Officer to the SACRE presented the response to the key issues highlighted in the Ofsted report into RE ("Realising the potential") building on the discussion at the last meeting of the QSS. It was reported that the key findings and recommendations of the Ofsted report had been based on evidence drawn from a national sample of 185 schools visited and that members of the QSS had expressed the opinion that the report did not reflect the position of RE in Lancashire but that the areas of concern listed should be used to help evaluate the situation in Lancashire.

Members considered and commented on the areas of concern highlighted in the report as follows:

- **Low standards and weak teaching** – It was felt that there was no particular problem in Lancashire, and that there were many examples of excellent teaching and high standards. It was suggested that monitoring and managing this was a key issue. The current SACRE Development Plan identified strategies to support teaching and learning through the provision of support networks, sharing good practice and training opportunities. The 2011 Lancashire Agreed Syllabus had a rich resources section to support high challenge teaching and learning. It was suggested that the development of assessment in RE was a key area for development.

It was reported that the current system of 'levels' used to report children's attainment and progress was likely to be removed with the introduction of the new curriculum in 2014. Schools would be able to introduce their own approaches to assessment and Ofsted inspections would be informed by whatever pupil tracking data schools chose to keep. This, it was suggested, could lead to a lack of standardisation.

- **Problems in developing a curriculum for RE and confusion about the purpose of RE** – it was noted that the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus had been praised for the focus placed on enquiry based learning and providing exemplification materials to support teachers and schools in developing

the curriculum to meet their school's needs. The Ofsted report stated that the way to deal with the issues found was to base RE on enquiry learning. As the principle aim of the Lancashire syllabus was "to support pupils' personal quest for meaning by engaging enquiry into the question 'what is it to be human?' exploring answers offered by religion and beliefs" it was noted that Lancashire had already adopted this model. It was also noted that a neighbouring local authority had asked about purchasing the Lancashire syllabus.

- **Concerns about the leadership and management of RE** - it was reported that the professional development of teachers in RE was a key area of concern for SACRE and was highlighted in the Development Plan. The value of networks, good practice schools and the use of self evaluation frameworks such as the RE Quality Mark to support subject leaders was recognised. The development of effective assessment was again highlighted as a key issue for development.
- **Weaknesses in examination provision at Key Stage 4** – Sharing good practice amongst secondary schools provided an opportunity to further strengthen the quality of teaching in Key Stage 4 but remained a difficult issue to resolve – the pressures on the secondary curriculum were enormous, sometimes leaving little time to develop children's understanding.

It was noted that the Church of England had recently commissioned Alan Brine HMI to produce a similar report for C of E schools.

**Resolved:** That the response to the Ofsted Report into RE be noted.

## **5. SACRE Annual Report 2012 - 2013**

Members considered the final draft of the SACRE Annual Report 2012 – 2013 to which information on Standards and Quality of Provision had now been added. It was reported that in 2013 at the end of Key Stage 1 performance fell slightly by around 1%, performance improved slightly at the end of Key Stage 2 and remained at around the same level at Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4, Lancashire reflected the national trend with an increase in the number of entries for the full Religious Studies GCSE course and a fall in the proportion of short course entries.

**Resolved:** That the SACRE Annual Report 2012 – 2013 be approved.

## **6. Report of the Quality and Standards Sub-group**

With regard to future support for RE it was reported that Helen Harrison would be stepping down from her role as RE Consultant at the end of March 2014. A meeting had been arranged between the Officer to the SACRE, the RE Consultant, teachers and others at the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre to discuss planning for the future and how to keep in touch with RE across the County in light of Helen's departure. The comment was made that it was important to keep a link between RE and the Special School sector.

The role of the faith sector was also an important factor in any future planning and it was noted that the next SACRE Youth Conference was to be a joint project with the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre.

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Quality and Standards Sub-group which took place on 21 October 2013, be noted.

## **7. National Update**

Helen Harrison, Lancashire Consultant for RE, presented a report on the state of RE nationally. The following points were highlighted:

- It was reported that the message coming from the DfE was that Michael Gove wanted 'RE to have a central place in the curriculum', that there were no plans to change legislation, and that they wanted to work closely with the Religious Education Council (REC) on GCSE content for 2016.
- As RE had not been part of the review of the National Curriculum the REC had carried out a parallel review of RE in England and had now published their report which included a National Curriculum Framework for RE. This report, with a Foreword by Michael Gove, was a non statutory document but would be a national point of reference for RE. Amongst the recommendations in the report were the following:
  - Developing more effective and coherent mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of RE
  - Promoting coherence and progression between 4-14 programmes of study and 14-19 examinations
  - Developing new structures and networks within and across the RE community so that its expertise is co-ordinated and utilised more effectively to improve the subject
  - Developing new assessment arrangements for RE
- The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for RE was now focusing on 'RE and Community Relations' and Helen Harrison had been asked to report on the success of the work of the Lancashire SACRE in this area.

Following the presentation, members commented as follows:

- Concern about the small number of RE Teacher training places now available and the impact this would have on the subject
- How to demonstrate the impact of RE on society
- That governors had a statutory duty to ensure the delivery of good RE

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

## **8. Lancashire Youth Voice**

Joanne Harris and Helen Harrison reported on the recent activities of the Youth Voice. Students had discussed what makes good RE and how the subject had

impacted on them. The Lancashire Youth Voice fed into the Young Ambassadors scheme, via Broughton Business and Enterprise College thus promoting RE nationally.

Any secondary school using the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus was welcome to be part of Youth Voice which was currently made up of children from Years 8 and 9 to ensure continuity.

It was reported that All Hallows School, Preston, had now been awarded gold level in the RE Quality Mark.

## **9. Observers' Contributions**

Dr Malcolm Craig, representing the Baha'i faith, reported that a series of successful events organised by Preston Faith Forum had taken place in Interfaith Week 2013, including 'Voices for Women in faith'.

## **10. Members' News**

Carrie Mercier, Co-opted member representing teachers in the Higher Education Sector, informed members that a public lecture by Professor Brian Gates entitled: "What's the difference between Father Christmas and God? Religious language in the thinking of children and adults", was due to take place at 5.30pm on 9 December 2013 in the Hugh Pollard Lecture Theatre, University of Cumbria.

Carrie also informed members that Culham St Gabriels were inviting applications for bursaries from teachers for RE Teacher Training courses.

The Chair informed the Committee that Pete Baker, a representative of Free Churches on the SACRE, had asked that members be made aware of a consultation taking place on the new Burnley High School.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting of the Lancashire SACRE was noted as Monday 3 March 2014 to take place at 10am in Cabinet Room D, County Hall, Preston.

Roy Jones  
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall  
Preston





## **Lancashire SACRE**

**Meeting to be held on 3 March 2014**

### **Monitoring the quality of RE: some issues for discussion**

The recent OfSTED report into RE (RE: Realising the potential) indicates that the changes in the accountability framework for provision and achievement in schools has made it difficult for SACREs to monitor the quality of RE and achievement in RE. A recent paper to SACRE (Responding to the OfSTED report into RE: Nov 2013) indicates that Lancashire's SACRE and its support for RE does not reflect some of the major structural concerns about the work of SACREs which were outlined by OfSTED. The report to SACRE is nevertheless a timely reminder that SACRE has a duty to monitor the quality of provision and achievement in RE in Community and Voluntary Controlled schools across Lancashire.

In order to support SACRE in considering how best to carry out its monitoring and evaluation role the following suggestions have been set out under the four headings of Achievement, Teaching and curriculum, Leadership and Attitudes to learning. They largely reflect the information that is currently available and are intended to act as a stimulus for discussion rather than a blueprint for action.

#### **Achievement**

Results of Teacher Assessment at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3

GCSE results

GCE "A" level results

Fischer Family Trust information

#### **Teaching and curriculum**

Feedback from teachers at network meetings

Feedback from pupils through the Pupil Attitude Questionnaire

Finding out how many and which schools are pursuing the RE Quality Mark

Reviewing OfSTED reports

#### **Leadership**

Feedback from network meetings and training events

Feedback from SACRE members

Feedback from governors and parents

Comparing Lancashire against the national picture through reports (e.g. NASCRE)

**Attitudes to learning RE**

Youth Voice

Feedback from pupils through the Pupil Attitude Questionnaire

SACRE and elected member visits to schools

## **Lancashire SACRE**

**Meeting to be held on 3 March 2014**

### **Support for RE**

#### **Background**

A meeting was held on 26 November 2013 with teacher members of SACRE to discuss the framework for offering support for the teaching and learning of RE in 2014/15. The discussion centred around the need for support and the various options for offering support to schools.

#### **Models of support for schools on RE and Collective Worship**

In the light of the experience of members of SACRE, and the recent OfSTED report on the state of RE it was agreed to offer support to Lancashire schools. The 4 following models of providing support were considered:

- Commissioning leading teachers in RE to support schools
- Providing marketed training through a marketed support programme
- Commissioning a specialist consultant to provide support (for example: from a national RE organisation)
- Signposting schools to national / regional providers of training and support

It was agreed that none of the models set out above was in itself sufficient to meet the needs of Lancashire schools but that a mixed approach was more likely to meet the differing needs of schools and be a feasible option in terms of delivery.

#### **An outline programme of support for schools is set out below:**

- Marketed Network Meetings - to be led by the commissioned teachers:
  - 3 primary network meetings per term - Jo Crabtree and Jacquie Clarke
  - 2 secondary network meetings per term - Jo Harris and Kate Murry
- A range of marketed courses - to be run as required by the four (commissioned) teacher members of SACRE as follows:
  - An introduction to the Agreed Syllabus (primary)
  - An introduction to the Agreed Syllabus (secondary)
  - Support for RE subject leaders (primary)
  - Support for RE subject leaders (secondary)
  - Developing approaches to teach RE (primary)

The courses could be tailored to fit schools' individual needs.
- A marketed primary RE conference – to which national RE figures could be invited and which could be used to advertise the network groups
- Support in developing the assessment of RE – considered to be of particular importance since the current system of 'levels' used to report children's

attainment and progress was expected to be removed with the introduction of the new curriculum in 2014. Joanne Harris would be commissioned to work on this area.

- Support from Specialist Leaders in RE through the Teaching Schools – it was hoped that there would soon be a greater number of specialist leaders in RE coming via the Teaching Schools.
- Marketed Support from "Hubs of good practice" to include visiting "Hub schools" to observe good practice and gain consultancy support (Hubs to include: Secondary – Broughton, The Hollins; Primary – Brunshaw, Clifton, Hapton)
- The promotion of the RE Quality Mark (REQM) – this could be done via 'hub' schools. The REQM is one of the very few awards to be gained for RE and is a useful model to follow and also carries a professional development element.
- The continued offer of "Youth Voice" – this was key in light of future revision of the syllabus
- Access to the Lancashire RE website – the website could become an income generator if schools bought into its resources and would therefore need to be continuously updated. Schools would need to be provided with individualised passwords which could be activated/de-activated as required. The design of the web site could be an area for the Youth Voice to work on.
- Access to national RE websites (Teaching RE, REC)

## Lancashire SACRE Development Plan 2013/15

<b>Priority 1: To fulfil SACRE's statutory role by providing effective leadership of RE and Collective Worship [CW]</b>		
Objectives	Activities	
a) Providing an appropriate Agreed Syllabus and guidance on Collective Worship [CW]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further develop the Agreed Syllabus through exemplification materials and links to support materials from different faiths</li> <li>• Review guidance on CW website</li> </ul>	JH/HH  HH
b) Effective communication with schools about the work of SACRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and update SACRE web site</li> <li>• Share information with schools through the LA advisory service</li> <li>• Provide marketed network meetings for primary schools</li> <li>• Provide marketed network meetings for secondary schools</li> <li>• Work with Governor services to update governors on the work of SACRE</li> </ul>	HH JH JH/HH JH/HH JH/HH
c) Monitoring the quality of provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and respond to complaints re RE/CW</li> <li>• Monitor OfSTED Section 5 inspection reports</li> <li>• Monitor OfSTED subject inspection reports for RE and identify strengths / weaknesses in Lancashire's provision</li> <li>• Gather feedback from schools via network meetings and conference</li> <li>• Gather feedback from parents via Youth Voice</li> <li>• Gather feedback from pupils through the Youth Voice</li> <li>• To monitor the implementation of the SACRE development plan and report to SACRE</li> <li>• Create an annual report including feedback from Youth Voice</li> </ul>	JH JH JH  HH HH
d) Monitoring achievements in RE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyse GCSE/A level results</li> <li>• Analyse Teacher Assessments at KS1,2 and 3</li> </ul>	P D/K JH
<b>Success criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback from schools indicates that the RE syllabus supports the teaching and learning of RE</li> <li>• OfSTED reports identify spiritual development as an area of strength</li> <li>• The trends in achievement are monitored and both strengths and weakness are identified</li> <li>• There is an improving trend in achievement in RE at all Key Stages</li> <li>• Positive feedback from Pupil Attitude Questionnaire on the provision of RE</li> </ul>		

**Progress January 2014**

The implementation of the plan is on track

The feedback on the Agreed Syllabus is positive with interest in purchasing the Syllabus from a nearby Local Authority.

The Syllabus exemplifies many of the elements of good practice set out in the recent OfSTED report into the teaching, learning and leadership of RE (RE: Realising the potential).

OfSTED reports for community schools in Lancashire regularly highlight the high quality of pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development.

The Annual Report highlighted the performance of pupils in Lancashire's schools in RE with results at KS1,KS2 and KS3 remaining similar to the previous years with over 80% of the pupils whose results were returned reaching the expected level.

The proportion of pupils attaining grade c or above in the full and short GCSE course was 73% and 43% respectively. Attainment by pupils taking the short course increased in 2013 when compared with previous years.

**Priority 2: To raise achievement in RE**

Objectives	Activities	
a) Ensuring that the Agreed Syllabus is easily accessible and navigable for teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing the structure of the RE website to make it more easily accessible to and navigable by teachers</li> <li>Developing the system to respond to queries from teachers in a timely and effective way including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information about web site passwords</li> <li>Passing on queries to JH/HH as appropriate</li> <li>Information about available support e.g. networks, good practice schools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	HH/ Dan Hayes  JH/HH/HW
b) Reviewing and augmenting the exemplification materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updating exemplification through sharing good practice</li> <li>Use the expertise of SACRE members to enhance/update the materials to support the Agreed Syllabus</li> </ul>	HH/JC/JH/KM/ SACRE members
c) Providing opportunities to share and develop good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit existing network groups – liaise with NATRE</li> <li>Provide marketed networks for RE/CW</li> <li>Explore possible hub clusters eg around Quality Mark schools</li> </ul>	HH/JC/NATRE JH/HH HHHH/JC/Claire

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the work of the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre in supporting RE</li> <li>• Reviewing the arrangements to market the Agreed Syllabus</li> </ul>	Elliot JH/AAnwar
d) Providing opportunities to connect with different living religious traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rework DIFA site inc with reference to 'Sacred Space' guidance form Learning Outside the Classroom (LOTC)</li> <li>• Liaise with Lancashire Inter Faith partners and SACRE members to identify existing opportunities to share in different religious traditions</li> </ul>	HH/Dan Hayes Anwar/JH Lancs FF/ SACRE members/YV
<p>Success criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive feedback on the RE website and increased usage</li> <li>• Positive feedback on the development of the Agreed Syllabus from teachers</li> <li>• Positive feedback from networks on impact of RE on pupil achievement</li> <li>• Positive feedback from Pupil Attitude Questionnaire on the provision of RE</li> <li>• Positive feedback from Youth Voice conference / meetings on the impact of RE</li> <li>• OfSTED reports identify spiritual development as an area of strength</li> <li>• Positive feedback from OfSTED subject inspections</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Progress January 2014</b>  <b>The implementation of the plan is on track</b>  <b>Proposals for the future support of RE being developed by working with the teacher representatives on the SACRE including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing training and support through courses and networks for teachers</li> <li>• Offering support through "Hub" schools</li> </ul> <p><b>Training is being offered to members of faith communities who wish to support RE</b>  <b>The work of the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre is being developed to support RE</b></p>		

**Priority 3: To improve the provision of Collective Worship:**

Objectives	Activities	
a) Ensuring that schools are aware of the support materials and guidance (Mirrors and Doors 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform schools re version 2 of Mirrors and Doors – circulate web site passwords via portal</li> <li>• Share information with schools through the LA advisory service</li> <li>• Work with Governor services to update governors on the provision of CW</li> <li>• Develop marketed CPD via Learning Excellence</li> </ul>	HH/HW/JH  JH HH/KC HH
b) Augment exemplification materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop resources through linking to wider available resources</li> </ul>	HH
c) Providing opportunities to share and develop good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case studies gathered from SACRE members visits to schools</li> <li>• Share good practice through networks/Hubs</li> </ul>	SACRE members YV schools
<p>Success criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive feedback from OfSTED Section 5 inspections on the provision for CW</li> <li>• Increased usage of the CW support materials including Mirrors and Doors 2</li> <li>• Positive feedback from SACRE members' visits to schools on CW</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Progress January 2014</b> <b>The implementation of the plan is not on track</b></p>		

**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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the role of Youth Voice and plan for 9<sup>th</sup> SACRE Youth Conference to address the development plan priorities</li> </ul>	HH/JB/YV schools/Anwar/ SACRE members
b) Further developing links with people of different faiths, beliefs and traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and establish effective and appropriate faith/ belief contacts for visits and visitor resourcing for schools</li> <li>• Develop the role of the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre in supporting RE across Lancashire</li> </ul>	SACRE members + nominated bodies/ Anwar/Lancs Forum of Faiths



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share the work of SACRE with faith and community groups through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting schools' contributions to exhibitions</li> <li>- Sharing information on events from faith groups with schools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
c) Maintaining links with national bodies who lead on RE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain active membership of NASACRE</li> <li>• Access regular information from The RE Council [REC], Osfted, AREIAC, NATRE</li> </ul>	HH/JC [NATRE rep]
<p>Success criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development plan is informed by stakeholders including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SACRE members</li> <li>• Youth Voice</li> <li>• QCI Partnership Development Group</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The provision for RE is enriched through links with people of different faiths, beliefs and traditions</li> <li>• SACRE's work informs and is informed by national developments in RE</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Progress January 2014</b>  <b>The implementation of the plan is on track</b>  <b>Youth Voice continues to offer a valuable opportunity for pupils to influence the work of the SACRE.</b>  <b>Contact with the Forum of Faiths is maintained.</b>  <b>SACRE members provide support for schools in linking with people of different faiths.</b>  <b>Active membership of national bodies is being sustained.</b></p>		

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# Agenda Item 8

## Lancashire SACRE - Quality and Standards Sub-group

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 20 January 2014 at 2.00 pm in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

### **Present**

Mr P Martin  
County Councillor P Buckley  
County Councillor A Cheetham  
Mrs K Cooper  
Dr M Craig  
Ms J Harris  
Mr S Jones  
Mr L Ridings  
Mrs H Sage  
Mr J Wilson

### **Officers in Attendance**

Mr J Hewitt  
Mr J Mynott  
Mrs K Dale

### **Representing**

ASCL (Chair)  
Lancashire County Council  
Lancashire County Council  
LASGB  
Bahai Observer  
Teachers in the Secondary Sector  
Roman Catholic Church  
ATL  
Church of England  
Church of England

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Brennand, Ms J Clarke, Rev Phil Clarke, Miss L Fenton, CC Y Motala, Mrs K Murry, Mr I Nakhuda, Kelsang Pagpa, Mrs J Sabour and Mrs H Shukla.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2013, be agreed as a true record.

## **3. Support for RE**

It was reported that a meeting had been held on 26 November 2013 with teacher members of SACRE to discuss the range of options for offering support for the teaching and learning of RE in 2014/15 when the Lancashire Consultant for RE planned to step down from her role.

Four models were considered:

- Commissioning leading teachers in RE to support schools
- Providing marketed training through a marketed support programme
- Commissioning a specialist consultant to provide support (for example: from a national RE organisation)
- Signposting schools to national/regional providers of training and support

It was considered at that meeting that a mixed approach was more likely to meet the differing needs of schools and to be feasible in terms of delivery.

A draft programme of support for schools to be provided by four teacher members of SACRE, who had agreed to be commissioned, was outlined and comments were made at the QSS, as follows:

- Marketed Network Meetings :
  - 3 primary network meetings per term
  - 2 secondary network meetings per term
- A range of marketed courses - to be run as required by teacher members of SACRE as follows:
  - An introduction to the Agreed Syllabus (primary)
  - An introduction to the Agreed Syllabus (secondary)
  - Support for RE subject leaders (primary)
  - Support for RE subject leaders (secondary)
  - Developing approaches to teach RE (primary)

The courses could be tailored to fit schools' individual needs.

- A marketed primary RE conference – to which national RE figures could be invited and which could be used to advertise the network groups
- Support in developing the assessment of RE – considered to be of particular importance since the current system of 'levels' used to report children's attainment and progress was expected to be removed with the introduction of the new curriculum in 2014. Joanne Harris would be commissioned to work on this area.
- Support from Specialist Leaders in RE through the Teaching Schools – it was hoped that there would soon be a greater number of specialist leaders in RE coming via the Teaching Schools.
- Marketed Support from "Hubs of good practice" to include visiting "Hub schools" to observe good practice and gain consultancy support (Hubs to include: Secondary – Broughton, The Hollins; Primary – Brunshaw, Clifton, Hapton)
- The promotion of the RE Quality Mark (REQM) – this could be done via 'hub' schools who have gained this award. Members of the QSS commented that the REQM was one of very few awards to be gained for RE, was a useful model to follow and also carried a professional development element.
- The continued offer of "Youth Voice" – the comment was made that this was key in light of future revision of the syllabus
- Access to the Lancashire RE website – the website could become an income generator for schools beyond Lancashire if schools bought into its resources and would therefore need to be continuously updated. Schools would need to be provided with individualised passwords which could be

activated/de-activated as required. The suggestion was made that design of the web site could be an area for the Youth Voice to work on.

- Access to national RE websites (Teaching RE, REC)

It was suggested that since Blackpool schools used the Agreed Syllabus, the marketed elements of the support should also be marketed in Blackpool.

**Resolved:** That a report on the proposed support for RE, post March 2014, be presented to the full SACRE at its next meeting.

#### **4. Review of the Lancashire SACRE Development Plan 2013/15**

Members considered the four priorities of the Development Plan, the objectives for each and the criteria for success by which they were judged. The progress of each to January 2013 was evaluated.

Priority 1: to fulfil SACRE's statutory role by providing effective leadership of RE and Collective Worship, Priority 2: To raise achievement in RE and Priority 4: To ensure that the provision of RE is informed by the views of the stakeholders were all considered to be 'On track'.

Despite the online Collective Worship tool kit Mirrors and Doors having been re-advertised in the last year and SACRE having drawn up a protocol for SACRE members to visit schools to take part in Collective Worship, Priority 3: To improve the provision of Collective Worship, was not considered to be on track with work remaining to be done. It was suggested that:

- Highlighting Mirrors and Doors in schools on an annual basis would help raise the profile
- The role of the Class Teacher in Collective Worship needed exploring
- SACRE members could take a more active role in visiting schools to participate in Collective Worship

**Resolved:** That Collective Worship be considered at the next meeting of the full SACRE.

#### **5. Monitoring the Quality of RE**

In order to support SACRE in considering how best to carry out its monitoring and evaluation role, members considered suggestions under the headings: Achievement; Teaching and Curriculum; Leadership; Attitudes to learning RE. The following comments were made:

- Finding out how many and which schools were pursuing the RE Quality Mark
- Comparing Lancashire against the national picture
- The possibility of raising the profile of RE by visiting schools and obtaining feedback

- Discussing with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools and the Lead Member for Schools the possibilities for other elected members to engage further with schools in their Divisions, perhaps with a SACRE member 'buddy.'
- That Ofsted had so far not made any proposals which would help SACREs in their monitoring role

**Resolved:** That the issue of monitoring the quality of RE be considered by the full SACRE at a future meeting.

## **6. Information from NASACRE**

The Lancashire Consultant for RE demonstrated the NASACRE web site: <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/> which provided a wealth of resources and contained a password protected area for members of NASACRE (of which Lancashire SACRE is one). The password has previously been circulated to SACRE members for their use.

The Consultant for RE also informed members that she had been asked to speak on the Lancashire SACRE to a group of MPs in London.

## **7. Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Quality and Standards Sub-group was noted as Monday 12 May 2014 to be held at 10am in Cabinet Room C, County Hall, Preston

Roy Jones  
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall  
Preston