## **Lancashire County Council**

Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Annual General Meeting – Monday 28th November, 2011 in Cabinet Room 'D', County Hall, Preston, at 10.00 am

### **Agenda**

Part 1 (Open to Press and Public)

- 1. Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair
- 2. Apologies for Absence
- 3. Minutes and matters arising (Pages 1 6)

Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting of the Lancashire SACRE held on Monday 26 September 2011. Minutes attached.

4. Constitution of the SACRE - Guidance on Membership

Members are asked to give consideration to a draft protocol regarding requests for membership of the SACRE by groups not already represented. The draft protocol will be tabled at the meeting.

- 5. Report of the Quality and Standards Sub-group (Pages 7 10)

  Minutes of the meeting of the Quality and Standards Sub-group which took place on 8 November 2011, attached at Item 5.
- 6. Update on the Implementation of the SACRE Development Plan 2011 2013. (Pages 11 14)

The SACRE Development Plan 2011 – 2013 can be found on the SACRE web site in the members' password protected area at the following address: http://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/re/index.php?category\_id=44

Update on the implementation of the Development Plan attached at Item 6.

#### 7. SACRE Annual Report 2010 - 2011

Paul Dyson-Knight, Senior Adviser, Directorate for Children and Young People to present the data analysis for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Members are asked to consider the draft Annual Report prior to approval. The Annual Report can be found on the SACRE web site in the members' password protected area, at the following address: http://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/re/index.php?category\_id=44



## 8. Getting to Know You

County Councillor Peter Malpas to give a brief talk about himself and his role on the SACRE.

#### 9. Youth SACRE/Youth Voice

Students from Broughton Business and Enterprise College to give a verbal report on the activities of the Youth SACRE.

## 10. Activity based on the Updated Mirrors and Doors CD

An activity on the recently updated Collective Worship CD Mirrors and Doors to be led by Helen Harrison, RE Consultant.

## 11. Feedback on the Agreed Syllabus (Pages 15 - 16)

Feedback by Jo Crabtree on the revised Agreed Syllabus attached at Item 11.

#### 12. Information to Secondary Schools on Curriculum Changes

Draft letter from the Chairman to secondary headteachers clarifying the position of RE and the curriculum, to be tabled.

#### 13. Members News

#### 14. Observers' Contributions

## 15. Correspondence

#### 16. Any Other Business

## 17. Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the SACRE will be Monday 6 February 2012, to take place 10am, at the Vajravarahi Buddhist Centre, 38 West Cliff, Preston PR1 8HU.

I M Fisher County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall Preston

## **Lancashire County Council**

Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 26th September 2011 at 10.00am in Cabinet Room 'D' - County Hall, Preston

#### 1. Present

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

The Free Churches Group Mrs Y Taylor

Mrs A Tidswell Mr C Wills

Islam Mr N Anwar

Hinduism Mrs H Shukla

Buddhism Kelsang Pagpa

**Teachers Associations** Ms J Crabtree (NUT)

Mr D Fann (NAHT)

Mrs S J Greenhow (NAS/UWT)

Mr P Martin (ASCL)

(Chair)

Mrs A Robinson (ATL)

Church of England Mrs J O'Rourke

Mrs H Sage

Lancashire County Council

County Councillor K Ellard

County Councillor P Malpas County Councillor Y Motala County Councillor A Thornton

Mr F Williams

Co-opted Members Mrs J Sawyer (Teachers in the

Primary Sector)

**Observers** Mr A Brennand (Paganism)

Dr M Craig (Bahá'i Faith)

**Religious Education Consultant** Mrs H Harrison

Officers in Attendance Mr J Hewitt

Mr J Mynott Ms K Dale

## 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Rabbi D Braunold, Ms J Busby, Mrs K Cooper, Miss L Fenton, Ms L Heaton, Mr B McMullen, Mr S Jogi, Mrs K Parekh, Mr C Pountain and Mrs J Singh.

### 3. Minutes and matters arising

It was noted that the minute regarding Future Support for the SACRE should refer to Jonathan Hewitt as Head of Quality and Continuous Improvement and Officer to the SACRE, Directorate for Children and Young People.

With regard to the minute RE National Update, it was noted that the Chairman had written again to the Secretary of State for Schools asking for a response to his letter of 27 January 2011 regarding the proposals for the English Baccalaureate (E Bacc) and that a response had been received dated the 12 July 2011. The response stated the intentions behind the E Bacc as being to ensure that history and geography (and languages) remained an option at Key Stage 4 with RE retaining compulsory status.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Lancashire SACRE held on 7 June 2011, subject to the amendment being made, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### 4. Constitution of the SACRE

Members noted the appointment on 7 September 2011 of Mr Francis Williams to serve on the SACRE as a representative of the Authority following the resignation of CC K Iddon.

## 5. Getting to Know You

Jonathan Hewitt, Head of Quality and Continuous Improvement and Officer to the SACRE, Directorate for Children and Young People, gave a brief talk about himself and his role in relation to the SACRE.

Jonathan had started out as a primary school teacher in London and had been made lead for RE in his second year of teaching. He was asked to draw up the Agreed Syllabus for his authority and attended a Department for Education and Science accredited course on RE.

In Lancashire, Jonathan had been a member of the SACRE as a representative of the Church of England during the 1990s and as a Head teacher at that time had helped to write materials for the Agreed Syllabus. He joined the County Council in 1995 becoming Head of the School Improvement Group in 2006.

In April 2011, he was appointed as Officer to the SACRE and believed that this would help SACRE in its monitoring role, as the School Improvement Team would support the analysis and presentation of data in a meaningful and helpful manner.

Jonathan would continue to work with Helen Harrison, independent RE Consultant, and support the SACRE in the best way possible.

**RESOLVED:** That Jonathan Hewitt be thanked for his presentation.

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

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of the Quality and Standards Sub-group which had taken place on 13 September 2011.

The QSS had worked on the SACRE Development Plan 2011 – 13 and updated it with reference to members' comments made at the last SACRE meeting on 7 June 2011.

The group had also worked on the draft SACRE Annual Report 2010 - 2011.

The QSS put the following schedule of meeting dates before the SACRE for approval:

Tuesday 8 November 2011 10am Tuesday 17 January 2012 10am Thursday 17 May 2012 10am

#### **RESOLVED:** That:

- i) The report of the Quality and Standards Sub-group be noted.
- ii) The schedule of QSS meeting dates for 2011 2012 be approved.

## 7. Lancashire SACRE Annual Report 2010 - 2011

The production of an Annual Report was a legal requirement for SACREs.

The Lancashire SACRE still required schools to send in End of Key Stage data for inclusion and a report was compiled by Paul Dyson-Knight, together with external examination data. It was reported that schools found these statistics extremely useful as comparison tools.

The Quality and Standards Sub-group had considered the draft Annual Report in detail at its meeting of 13 September 2011.

The Annual Report would be produced as an on-line document only. It was suggested that a single sheet summary could also be produced, incorporating the five priorities of the Development Plan, that could be used to try to engage with a wider audience, as a briefing note for Head teachers and Chairs of Governors, and as a quick reference guide for assessing the progress of SACRE against the Development Plan.

**RESOLVED:** That a single page summary document be produced to accompany the full Annual report, based on the five priorities of the Development Plan.

## 8. Lancashire SACRE Development Plan 2011 - 2013

Members considered the draft Development Plan 2011 – 2013 which now included the comments made by members at the last meeting of the SACRE on 7 June 2011. The Quality and Standards Sub-group had also worked on the Development Plan in detail at its meeting of 13 September 2011 and highlighted areas which needed strengthening.

## 9. Collective Worship

It was reported that a survey for BBC local radio found that 64% of the 500 parents questioned said their child did not attend daily acts of Collective Worship (CW).

A survey of 1,743 adults also resulted in 60% of respondents stating that CW legislation should not be enforced. Whilst these figures did not relate to Lancashire schools, it was noted that the SACRE was fully committed to promoting CW and providing guidance to schools. Members noted that support included:

• An on-line resource for schools on CW – the CD Mirrors and Doors. This had recently been considered by SACRE member Jo Busby and deemed to be in need of updating. RE Today Services had completed an update which included: a general audit of the guidance; an act of worship pro-forma; a planning, recording and evaluation pro forma, policy exemplar; 32 ideas for CW and a three year programme of themes to aid planning for secondary schools. It was envisaged that the CD would be sent out to schools after Autumn Half Term 2011.

AREIAC (Association of RE inspectors, advisers and consultants) was actively seeking examples of good practice and Lancashire continued to add examples online

- Marketed training and support on CW
- Support for schools seeking a determination relating to CW
- Monitoring Complaints concerning CW

#### 10. Youth SACRE/Youth Voice

Helen Harrison, RE consultant, updated members on the Youth SACRE and Youth Conference which together made 'Youth Voice'. The Youth Voice sub-group comprising SACRE members Jo Busby and Helen Sage had driven Youth Voice forward.

The Youth SACRE was now in its fifth year having started in the east of the county then moving centrally. This year eleven schools had expressed an interest in taking part and were situated all over the county. A meeting of these eleven schools was to take place to discuss what could be achieved and how best to facilitate young people taking the lead. The offer of a Youth Conference 2012 was open to the Youth SACRE and the Authority's strong commitment the work of the Youth Voice for 2011 – 2012 was noted.

## 11. Review of SACRE Meeting Formats

The Quality and Standards Sub-group at its meeting of 13 September 2011 had agreed that the SACRE should be asked to review the current format of SACRE meetings which was last reviewed in 2008. Members were therefore asked to split into groups and provided feedback as follows:

- The 10am start time for meetings was appropriate
- Recognition of time constraints for each agenda item
- Breaking into diverse groups for discussion of items was valuable
- There could be more electronic links to points of information in the agenda
- The item for contributions by Observers was useful but there should also be an item where all other members could make contributions that were unrelated to the agenda
- Members should inform the clerk before agenda dispatch if they have a news item
- An RE activity on the agenda was a good idea at some meetings whilst at others there could, for example, be a member explaining a part of their faith
- The agenda should contain an item giving a national RE update as well as encouraging links more locally
- Members of the Youth SACRE should be invited to attend at least two full SACRE meetings a year
- There should be a move away from the use of acronyms
- The start of the meeting should be shown as from 9.45am to allow for refreshments so as to allow the meeting to start promptly at 10am.
- Members' name plates could be presented less formally and members encouraged to sit in different places so that they all got to know one another
- Meetings could be held in schools or faith venues and the following were suggested:

Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre The Synagogue in St Anne's The Vajravarahi Buddhist Centre in Preston

Members were asked to send any further suggestions for venues to the Clerk.

## 12. National RE Update.

Helen Harrison, RE Consultant, updated members on the national RE situation.

It was noted that:

- The Religious Education Council as an umbrella body was drawing up a strategic plan to address key issues.
- The national campaign continued and the Archbishop of Canterbury had discussed RE at a meeting with Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education.
- Members of SACREs were being urged to promote RE as a relevant and essential aspect of education.

#### 13. Observers' Contributions

Andrew Brennand, representing Paganism, informed members that he would be speaking at the University of Central Lancashire on 27 October 2011 on Paganism and Education to the Pagan Federation North West.

Dr Malcolm Craig, representing the Bahá'i faith informed the SACRE that he ran a monthly radio programme called 'Preston Faith News' and suggested that members let him know if they wished any items of news broadcasting.

## 14. Correspondence

Members noted the new e petition to the government, which had been received from the Chair of AREIAC, regarding RE and the E Bacc which could be found at the following link: http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/129

Email correspondence, dated 20 September 2011, had been received from the British Humanist Association requesting that SACREs consider the inclusion of a full or co-opted humanist member.

Members noted that the Chairman proposed to send a response explaining that Observer status had been approved for a Humanist on the Lancashire SACRE in September 2006 and that the position had not recently been taken up but that a Humanist was still welcome to attend as an Observer.

## 15. Any Other Business

Harsha Shukla, Hindu representative, informed members that the Lancaster and Morecambe Hindu Society was planning celebrations for Diwali on 22 October 2011, in Lancaster Town Hall. Members were welcome to join the celebrations and should let Harsha know if they wished to do so.

Colin Wills, representing the Free Churches group, informed members that Terry Murnane had now left the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre to join the priesthood and that Richard Hoyle had taken over the post temporarily. The permanent position would be advertised on the Lancashire County Council job vacancies list first internally and then externally.

## 16. Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Lancashire SACRE was noted as Monday 28 November 2011, to take place at 10am in County Hall, Preston.

County Hall, Preston, September 2011

## Agenda Item 5

Lancashire SACRE
Meeting to be held on 28 November 2011

Minutes of the Meeting of the Quality and Standards Sub-group Tuesday 8 November 2011 Cabinet Room A, County Hall, Preston

## **Minutes**

Present	Representing
Mr P Martin Mrs K Cooper CC P Malpas Mrs J Sawyer	ASCL (Chair) LASGB Lancashire County Council Teachers in the Primary Sector
Helen Harrison	RE Consultant

Officers in Attendance

Jonathan Hewitt

Josh Mynott

Katring Dala

Katrina Dale

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Brennand, Dr M Craig, Imam O Data, CC K Ellard, Mr D Fann, Ms L Heaton, CC Y Motala, Mrs H Sage, Mrs J Singh, CC A Thornton, Mr F Williams.

#### Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 September 2011 and matters arising

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2011 be agreed as a true record.

#### **Membership Update**

Following the recent approach by the British Humanist Society for a Humanist representative on the SACRE, members discussed the possibility of drawing up a simple protocol for dealing with requests from groups not already represented on the SACRE. It was suggested that the protocol might make take into account the following criteria:

Whether the group represented a significant faith group in Lancashire

- Demonstration by the group of a clear commitment to the principles, aims and objectives of SACRE
- Whether the addition of the group's representative would benefit the teaching of RE in Lancashire schools
- The possibility of a regular formal review of the membership

The request was made for officers to draw up a draft protocol to be put before the SACRE for consideration and approval at its meeting on 28 November 2011.

#### Resolved: That:

- i) A draft protocol be drawn up regarding requests for membership of the SACRE by groups not already represented
- ii) The draft protocol be presented for consideration and approval by the SACRE at its meeting on 28 November 2011,

# Progress in implementing the Lancashire SACRE Development Plan 2011-2013

Members received an update on the progress to date in the implementation of the Development Plan. The group agreed that the update should be presented to SACRE at its next meeting on 28 November 2011.

**Resolved**: That an update on progress in the implementation of the SACRE Development Plan 2011 -2013 be presented to the SACRE at its meeting of 28 November 2011.

#### Youth SACRE/Youth Voice Update

A first meeting of the Youth SACRE was to take place on Friday 11 November 2011 at the Vajravarahi Buddhist Centre, Preston.

Schools supporting the Youth SACRE this year would include Broughton Business and Enterprise College, Hollins Technology College, Ashton Community Science College and Worden Sports College.

The Youth SACRE would be asked to formulate ideas for the Annual Youth Conference. The suggestion was made that the Youth SACRE, in order to progress the Development Plan, be asked to look into parental attitudes to RE and to consider how the SACRE might engage with parents. This work would be carried out in conjunction with their schools' RE departments.

It was noted that students from Broughton Business and Enterprise College would report back to the SACRE on progress at the meeting on 28 November 2011.

## **SACRE Annual Report 2010/11**

It was noted that the draft Annual Report 2010/11 was now complete excepting inclusion of the data analysis, and was ready for formal approval by the SACRE. It was suggested that Paul Dyson-Knight, Senior Adviser, Directorate for Children and Young People, be invited to the SACRE meeting on 28 November 2011, to explain how the data would be presented.

**Resolved:** That Paul Dyson-Knight be invited to present the data for inclusion in the Annual Report 2010 – 2011, at the SACRE meeting on 28 November 2011.

#### Information to Schools on Curriculum Changes

a) Members noted a letter which Buckinghamshire County Council School Improvement Team had sent to Headteachers and which clarified the position regarding RE and the curriculum.

Members discussed the value of sending out a similar letter to Lancashire headteachers via the Schools Portal, and it was suggested that the Chairman draft such a letter which the SACRE would be asked to consider and approve at its next meeting. The letter would be sent first to secondary headteachers and headteachers of special schools deemed secondary. Primary headteachers would receive a communication in the Spring Term 2012 to coincide with information on the Agreed Syllabus and the planned national curriculum revision.

Jonathan Hewitt would share the draft letter at a meeting of the Lancashire Associations of Secondary School Headteachers taking place on 18 November 2011.

b) Members noted a document which provided the rationale behind the Buckinghamshire Agreed Syllabus. It was suggested that this was a useful point of start for self evaluation and that the SACRE might work on this in the future.

**Resolved:** That the Chairman draft a letter to Lancashire secondary headteachers clarifying the position of RE and the curriculum, for consideration by the SACRE at the meeting of 28 November 2011.

### **Agreed Syllabus Feedback**

Members noted feedback from schools on the recently revised Agreed Syllabus which had been summarised by Jo Crabtree.

The generally positive response to the Syllabus was highlighted and the following key issues were identified:

- The web site and its complication: members noted that more work would be needed to simplify its usage by reducing the number of 'clicks' needed to access different information.
- Gaining access: currently if somebody was unable to access the Agreed Syllabus, there was note on the web site asking them to contact Hayley Wiggins of the School Improvement Team. Students, for example, were then given access to a pdf summary document, free of charge, as they would be unlikely to use it for commercial gain.

However, as the new agreed syllabus gained interest nationally, and provided a service by being constantly updated, it was now felt that there was a need for the SACRE to consider marketing, giving consideration to access and deciding upon a fee structure. It was suggested that a sample of the syllabus could be put on the web site for people to view and upon purchase they could be provided with a password which could be updated periodically.

**Resolved:** That the SACRE be asked to consider the possibility of marketing the new Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

#### **Date of the Next Meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Quality and Standards Subgroup was Tuesday 17 January 2012, to take place at 10am at County Hall, Preston.

> November 2011 County Hall, Preston

Lancashire SACRE
Meeting to be held on 28 November 2011

Update on the SACRE Development Plan 2011 - 2013

### **Priority 1: Standards and Quality of Provision of RE –** On track

#### **Action**

- a) Work with officers in the Authority to develop initial plans and methods to gather and analyse data [commenced in 2009] (Need also for Annual Report). Refer to NATRE survey for a national perspective
- b) Identify and implement further ways of raising the profile of RE [and the SACRE] in County schools to ensure understanding of the contribution of the subject to the whole curriculum
- c) Gather information about the recruitment and retention of specialist teachers. Promotion of strategies to support teachers with other specialisms [TWOs].

## **Update**

 The data is now ready for analysis prior to adding to the Annual Report

- Lancashire schools are engaging with the broader curriculum
- Proposal to send letter from the Chairman to all secondary schools and special schools deemed secondary, explaining the position of RE and the English Baccalaureate

## Priority 2: Management of Lancashire SACRE and Partnership with the LA and other Key Stakeholders - On Track

#### **Action**

- a) Establish closer contacts with the Local Authority /CYP to link SACRE more effectively to the broader curriculum eg. By taking information to the Creative Steering group [covers curriculum areas]
- Update
   RF is now referenced in the Service Plan

- b) Develop further Youth Voice opportunities to inform and support the work of Lancashire SACRE via Youth SACRE and explore other partners eg. B & P Faith Centre, Lancashire Forum of Faiths
- Presentation to SACRE in November 2011 by members of Youth SACRE

- c) Develop links with parents via the web site to support the effective delivery of the Agreed Syllabus and CW. Consider different models.
- The Youth SACRE to be asked to look into parental attitudes and how the SACRE might engage with parents, as a piece of investigative work. The students would work with their RE departments to achieve this.

## Priority 3: The Effectiveness of the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for RE - On Track

#### **Action**

a) Find further ways to raise the profile of the 2011 RE syllabus including training to disseminate syllabus effectively into schools. Regular

## Update

- Helen Harrison has provided four half day training sessions to schools who already had knowledge of using the 2006 syllabus.
- A full day training session has been set up for

reminders regarding the implementation date Sept 2012

- b) Continue to develop exemplification resource materials to support the delivery of engaging and challenging RE, drawing on teacher expertise and working with national organisations [NATRE/NASACRE/AREIAC] and RE experts (NB integral part of the Statutory Syllabus)
- c) Identify 'RE Good Practice schools' to support the sharing of effective practice via self-referral and validation by 2 other schools

### Priority 4: Collective Worship - On track

#### **Action**

- a) To re-launch, disseminate and support the revised Mirrors and Doors CD
- **b)** Create a redesigned area for CW on the RE web site

- those schools who have little or no knowledge of the 2006 syllabus
- Jo Crabtree continues to raise the profile via three network groups in Rossendale, Burnley and Central area.
- Lat Blaylock continues to provide exemplification.
- Julie Sawyer, Jo Crabtree and other teachers have provided overviews of investigations

 As work is being done on recognition of Good Practice by a National RE group led by Jane Brook, it is suggested that the SACRE await the outcome of this work

## Update

- CE Mirrors and Doors now revised and ready for re-launch.
- Mirrors and Doors is of national interest and could be marketed
- Mirrors and Doors will be added to the web site.

## Priority 5: Contribution of SACRE to the Social and Racial Harmony Agenda - On Track

#### **Action**

- a) Rebranding and amalgamation of the DIFA web site to facilitate better contact between schools and faith groups in partnership with Lancashire Forum of Faiths, Preston Faith Forum and the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre
- b) Further develop links to local authority initiatives promoting social and racial harmony – exploring links to national REsilience project. Members to share aspects of their groups related to RE/CW via web site
- c) Audit SACRE membership on an annual basis to ensure diverse and appropriate representation on SACRE
- d) Offer marketed Services training for schools connecting RE/CW to Community Cohesion and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

## **Update**

 DIFA will be re-branded and re-launched and is currently a part of the support materials for the 2011 RE Syllabus

- SACRE members to visit schools to take part in Collective Worship
- Authority is looking at opportunities for promoting equalities
- Work ongoing

## Agenda Item 11

# Lancashire SACRE Meeting to be held on 28 November 2011

## Feedback on the Agreed Syllabus

#### October 2011

- The planning grids have been received extremely well and now more have been put on, the subject leaders feel better about taking it to their staff.
- Subject leaders like the flexibility the new syllabus offers
- Subject leaders support the fact that they can build on current practice and make it into an investigation.
- There is some concern that the website is complicated to navigate and this can lead to difficulties in locating information. The concerns are particularly acute where the audience is non-specialist teachers.
- The teachers in Burnley and Rossendale were also slightly worried about the level of support they could access.
- Requests for access to the Agreed Syllabus have been received from people who are not based in LA maintained schools.

#### Recommendations

- Review the Agreed Syllabus website and look at how we can make it simpler to use, for example: reduce the number of clicks required to access information, reduce the number of tabs, establish clearer headings.
- The PDF version of the Syllabus has been put on the website and is available
  to those with access. Information on gaining access is also available and it is
  proposed that the enquiries will be dealt with by the Officer to SACRE in the
  first instance, based on guidance from SACRE.

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