

Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 21st November 2016 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston

Attendance

Roman Catholic Church	Mr B McMullen
The Free Churches Group	Mr C Wills (UR)
Teacher Associations	Mr P Martin (ASCL) – Chair Mrs A Robinson (ATL) Ms J Crabtree Mr D Fann
Church of England	Mrs M Pate Mr J Wilson Ms L Horobin
Lancashire County Council	Mr F Williams CC A Cheetham CC K Ellard CC Y Motala
Teachers Union	Ms J Roper (NASUWT)
The Faith Centre	Mr A Anwar
Representing the LASGB	Mrs K Cooper
Representing Hinduism:	Mr Ishwer Tailor
The Bahá'i Faith	Dr M Craig

Officers in attendance

Mrs A Lloyd – Advisor (School Improvement), Lancashire County Council, Children and Young People Directorate

Mrs M Mahmood – Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council, Office of the Chief Executive

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Jo Busby, Peter Baker, Harsha Shukla, Kelsang Pagpa, Jacquie Clarke, Andrew Brennard, Julie Roper and Helen Sage.

Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations were sought for the Chair and the Vice Chair at the annual meeting of the SACRE.

County Councillor Ann Cheetham nominated to re-elect Peter Martin as Chair, the nomination was seconded and moved.

Francis Williams nominated to re-elect County Councillor Yusuf Motala as Vice Chair, the nomination was seconded by John Wilson and moved.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 September 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26 September 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Business and Membership of SACRE QSS

Members were informed that whilst the SACRE was a statutory body, the QSS group had been set up under guidance from Helen Harrison. At the last QSS meeting there had been a discussion and general consensus that agenda items were being repeated between the two meetings. In light of this it was felt that the business and role of the QSS group needed to be reconsidered to agree how the group could focus more on monitoring progress of the Development Plan.

The frequency and times of the meeting were discussed, in the past the QSS would not necessarily meet on a Monday morning and this had helped teachers to attend. Having the input of the teachers was important and it was agreed that a time/day that was suitable for teachers to attend would be considered for future meetings. The meeting room for future QSS meetings would be smaller as often there were only a handful of members in attendance.

Items that the QSS would specifically focus on included the Syllabus and the Development Plan with more emphasis on tasks, practical work and group work. A plan would be brought together through the Chair and Officers and then communicated to members.

4. Feedback from the Conference 10 November 2016

The Lancashire R.E. conference to launch the syllabus and the new website took place on the 10 November 2016. Several members of SACRE had attended the event which had been a complete sell out.

Feedback from members around the table who had attended was extremely positive and the organisation of the event had been excellent. In particular the

quality of the main speaker, the workshops and the practical and useful information that attendees could take away with them for immediate use were highlighted as key success factors. Afrasiab Anwar, the Faith Centre Co-ordinator, gave a talk about the role of the Faith Centre which was received very well.

The conference had highlighted that there was a real need and desire by teachers to receive more advice and support. The session concluded with County Councillor Ann Cheetham speaking on behalf of the County Council. The feedback sheets following the event were all rated highly.

Jo Crabtree would be holding further training soon and Jo and Alison would meet to discuss training needs for those that were unable to secure a place at the conference.

The Chair on behalf of SACRE thanked Jo Crabtree, Joanne Harrison and Alison Lloyd for all their hard work, making it such a success.

5. Annual Report 2015/16

The Annual Report for 2015/16 was presented, members were asked to consider if they wished to add or amend any details to it. It was reported some sections of the report still needed to be completed.

The following points were noted:

- The KS4 data in Lancashire was significantly above the national average.
- The number of schools attaining the Quality Mark in Lancashire had dropped, however it was noted that there was a charge of approximately £500 to renew the Quality Mark which expired after 3 years. A note would be added to the annual report to highlight this.
- On page 14 the last two statements contradicted each other in terms of the 88% figure.
- The wording on the statement 'positive about racist views' could be amended to 'negative' or 'non-racist behaviour'.
- It was questioned whether there was a way of contacting Universities to ensure that everyone was sharing the same message. Some additional wording would be added to the report.

In future the Annual Report would be a task for the QSS group to take responsibility for. The report would be shared with the Government and NASACRE once it had been finalised.

6. Feedback from NNW Hub

The monitoring for KS3 had been discussed, all authorities were still experiencing the same problems. How authorities build relationships with their academies was discussed and whether this should be monitored.

Paul Smalley the Chair of NASACRE had attended the meeting. The Learn, Lead and Teach R.E. model was shared with the group, this was something that hubs and schools could bid for funds for training.

The meetings had proved to be very helpful and lots of information sharing and best practice had taken place.

7. Monitoring Report 2015/16

This item had been covered in part under the Annual Report item. If a school was judged Outstanding or Good then it was not inspected again unless there was a big difference, they were still RAG rated every year.

Members considered how monitoring for all schools in Lancashire could take place. A suggestion was made to include a statement into the report to clarify that the figures were for County and Voluntary controlled Schools, not for those which have Voluntary Aided status.

8. Schools Consultation 2015/16

As part of the Schools Consultation for 2016 schools were asked to submit attainment data and provide 3 areas where they would benefit for support with the teaching and assessment of R.E. The Faith Centre Co-ordinator would be contacting a number of schools as there had been a number of requests on areas of work already covered by the Faith Centre.

9. Community Cohesion Update

The Faith Centre Co-ordinator informed members that Interfaith Week took place between 13 – 20 November and a number of activities had taken place across Lancashire to celebrate the event. This included a R.E. showcase which was on display in Burnley about Peace and what it represented and a Celebration of Faiths event organised by Lancashire Forum of Faiths at Lancaster Castle.

Members were informed that the Faith Centre was now a traded service in Lancashire. Service Level Agreements (SLA) had been issued to schools in October, in total 24 schools had signed up already and another 2 were looking into it, this was helping to secure the future of the Faith Centre.

Work was ongoing on the Prevent agenda, local women were being trained to go into schools to deliver training. Youth Voice had secured £5,000 funding to develop a Youth Ambassadors Group and Building Bridges in Burnley had secured a further £5,000 for team building activities.

The talk provided by The Faith Centre Co-ordinator at the Conference was very well received and the Chair thanked Mr Anwar.

10. National Update

Information about a national award to gain recognition for the work of SACREs called the 2017 Accord Inclusivity Award had been circulated. A submission was being prepared through the Chair, Alison and Afrasiab.

11. Visit to Schools

There were no updates for this agenda item.

12. Lancashire Youth Voice

There were no updates for this agenda item.

13. Members' News

It was planned that the termly newsletter would be re-established in the New Year. If members wished any information to be included they needed to contact Alison.

The website also had a scrolling update, lots of information about current events, training etc. were included in the scroll.

14. Observers' Contributions

There were no observers in attendance at the meeting.

15. Correspondence

A document was shared with members about the Farmington Scholarships for 2017/18. Members who had completed the scholarship in the past highlighted that it was an excellent opportunity and had been a very worthwhile experience.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Following an invitation to the Gujarat Centre by Ishwer Tailor, it was agreed that the next scheduled meeting of the SACRE will be held at 10am on Monday 30 January 2017 at the Gujarat Hindu Society.

Paul Bond
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston