

Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 8 October 2018 at 10.00 am in The Henry Bolingbroke Room (Cabinet Room D) at County Hall, Preston

Attendees

Teacher Associations

Mr P Martin (ASCL) (Chair)
Ms J Gordon (ATL)
Ms J Roper (NASUWT)

Church of England

Mr J Wilson
Mrs J O'Rourke

Lancashire County Council

CC A Cheetham
CC S Malik
CC Y Motala (Vice Chair)
CC P Steen
Mr Francis Williams

Representing Islam

Mr A H Qureshi
Mrs T Safraz

Representing Hinduism

Mrs H Shukla
Mr I Taylor

Representing the LASGB

Mrs K Cooper

The Faith Centre

Mr A Anwar

Observers

Representing the Bahá'i Faith

Dr Malcolm Craig

Guests in attendance

**Head of RE at Haslingden
High School and Chair of NATRE
Halton SACRE
Cumbria SACRE
Lancashire LEP**

Mr B Wood
Mr M Higginbottom
Mr D Salmon
Mr P Faulkner

Officers

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

Mrs M Mahmood – Senior Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council,
Legal and Democratic Services

1. External Speaker: Ben Wood

The Chair welcomed Mr Ben Wood, Head of R.E. at Haslingden High School and Chair of NATRE to the meeting. Mr Wood had last attended the Lancashire SACRE approximately 8-9 years ago and the Chair highlighted that the number of students studying RE at A level at Mr B Wood's school was possibly the highest in the country.

Mr B Wood informed members that he would be talking about his school, his role as Chair of NATRE and the report recently published by the Commission on Religious Education (CoRE).

Mr B Wood stated he was honoured to have the opportunity to be able to go all over the country for his work, and stated that Lancashire SACRE was always regarded in a very positive manner. Mr B Wood extended thanks to the members of the SACRE for their time and commitment. Lancashire was fortunate to have such a thriving SACRE, there were many SACREs around the country that had very little funds to support them which made a significant difference.

Mr B Wood highlighted that his school was an ordinary comprehension school, and if his school could achieve good results, any school could. There were 5-6 specialist teachers teaching R.E. and 275 pupils at the school, all of which had chosen to take the R.E. GCSE. The new GCSE was a much better qualification than what it used to be. Despite the GCSE being more demanding, students had risen to the challenge. This year there was 34 students taking an A Level in R.E. and some students continued to study R.E. at degree level. Qualified staff teaching the subject and a supportive Head teacher who encouraged students to gain a broad education made an enormous difference.

Mr B Wood informed members that he became the Chair of NATRE in March of this year, Ms J Harris was the Vice Chair. It was a voluntary role that focused on helping teachers produce class room resources and resources to assist teachers. Another role of the NATRE was that it provided lots of statistics and data on information that was collated from various sources including FOI requests, government surveys etc. It was a fact that those schools that did not provide a qualified member of staff for the subject, did not get as good results as those that did. NATRE represented a voice at a national level for all those who teach and lead in R.E. NATRE ran 250 groups across the country and also attended numerous conferences. The Strictly R.E. conference which was arranged by NATRE was a very popular event and was well attended every year.

Mr B Wood shared information about a new project called the Better 1000 initiative which was focused on supporting R.E. teachers. 250 schools would be supported in the first year and over a 1000 in a 3 year period. The project was aimed at providing teachers with resources, connections, training and mentoring support.

Mr B Wood then spoke to SACRE members about the recent report that had been published by the Commission on Religious Education (CoRE). An independent

commission had met for 2 years and included a broad range of people such as national governors, teachers, head teachers and a human rights lawyer. The report detailed 11 recommendations and whilst many of the recommendations were logical ones, some of the proposals were quite different to how it currently worked. Mr B Wood talked through the 11 recommendations and a detailed discussion amongst members was held about the report and the recommendations.

Mr B Wood was thanked by the Chair and the SACRE members for attending the SACRE and also for sharing his thoughts and views on the report from the Commission.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ms J Crabtree, Mrs N Chappelow, Mrs H Sage, Ms J Harris, Mrs K Cooper, Mr K Pagpa, Dr S Elton-Chalcraft, Ms C Reade and Mufti K Ibrahim.

Link to Website:

[Lancashire SACRE Website](#)

3. Minutes of the last meeting 9 July 2018

The minutes of the last meeting held on 9 July 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Feedback from the last Quality and Standards Sub Group Meeting

Mrs A Lloyd informed members that a discussion took place about developing a terms of reference for the sub group, this would ensure that all meetings would be meaningful and ensure agenda topics would not just be repeated at the full SACRE as had been the case on a couple of occasions. The Sub Group would look at developing some terms of reference at their next meeting.

The syllabus was discussed and it was noted that additional text to help make it more meaningful for teachers was being added. The Commissions' report on R.E. was also discussed at length.

Future agenda items included looking at developing a policy for right of withdrawal, collective worship and the development plan.

5. Training opportunities for the autumn term

Another course from Lat Blaylock had taken place at Farington Lodge, approximately 12 people had attended and the feedback had been positive. The next course was scheduled for February and would focus on assessment.

The free Area Network Meetings were going well and attendance at the meetings was always good. There had been a request for an additional meeting to be arranged at a venue in the South of Lancashire which had been arranged for November.

A date would be arranged in due course for the pupil debate, SACRE members would be informed once a date was confirmed.

The consultants were extremely busy and all the material they had produced to date had been very useful and welcomed by teachers. Interviews for consultants had taken place, unfortunately on this occasion no further appointments were made, the recruitment process may be repeated again next year.

6. National Update: Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) – Religion and World Views: The Way Forward, A national plan for R.E.

The report had been discussed at length under Item 1 and it was agreed it would be added as a future agenda item to give members the opportunity think about the recommendations.

7. Visit to Schools

Mrs A Lloyd informed members that the next visit to schools could be arranged once the monitoring report had been completed which would help to identify potential schools.

8. Lancashire Youth Voice

There was nothing further to report.

9. Members' News

Mr D Salmon from Cumbria SACRE advised that his SACRE were also hoping to hold a pupil debate and would welcome an invite to the Lancashire pupil debate once a date had been agreed.

10. Observers' Contributions

Dr M Craig informed members that it was Interfaith Week 11-18 November 2018. Dr M Craig would send some information about Interfaith Week to Mrs M Mahmood for circulation to RE teachers.

11. Future Meeting Dates for SACRE and QSS Meetings

Suggested future dates of meetings for SACRE and QSS meetings were presented to members and agreed.

It was suggested that alternative venues and guest speakers for future meetings should be considered.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SACRE will be the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 26 November 2018 at 10.00am in Cabinet Room D, The Henry Bolingbroke Room at County Hall, Preston.

Paul Bond

Clerk to the SACRE