

Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 27th September, 2021 at 10.00 am
in Zoom Virtual Meeting - Zoom**

Attendees

Teachers Associations The Chair, Mr Peter Martin (ASCL)
Julie Gordon (ATL)

Lancashire County Council County Councillor Anne Cheetham
County Councillor Nweeda Khan
County Councillor Yousuf Motala
Francis Williams

Church of England Mr John Wilson
Mrs Helen Sage

Hinduism Mrs Harsha Shukla

Methodist Professor Alan Gillies

Islam Ahmed James

Buddhism Kelsang Pagpa

Judaism Robert Ash

University of Cumbria Rebekah Ackroyd

Co-optee Non-Voting

LASGB Mrs Kathleen Cooper

Community Representatives

Burnley Building Bridges Sajda Majeed MBE
Peter Lumsden

Observers

Bahá’i Faith Dr Malcolm Craig

Humanists Keith Pennington

Officers

Mrs Alison Lloyd – School Advisor, Lancashire County Council

Mrs Misbah Mahmood – Senior Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council

Garth Harbison – Democratic Services Support Officer, Lancashire County Council

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs Joan O'Rourke, Karen Stephens, Lisa Fenton and Aruna Patel.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 5 July 2021

The minutes of the last meeting held on 5 July 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2021

The Lancashire SACRE thanked Alison Lloyd and Joanne Harris for all the work they had done on the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2021. The Chair, Peter Martin, had written to Joanne Harris as well as the Chair of the Board of Governors at her school, thanking her for all the work she had done in preparing the syllabus.

The syllabus had now been approved by Cabinet and schools were now using it. Fundamentally the structure of the syllabus was the same, there had been minor amendments and the syllabus had been completely refreshed and rebranded and now looked much smarter. There had been some additional things added at Key Stage 3 (KS3) and there was now 'Progressive Knowledge and Skills included at KS3 for Years 7, 8 and 9. Concept Maps for the primary years which underpinned the teaching of the syllabus were also included and the 'Pillars of Progression' at KS3. Each of the exemplifications would be on the website shortly. KS3 had now got a new 'Model Curriculum Overview'.

The syllabus was being used not just in Lancashire but by other authorities as well.

4. Report to SACRE September 2021

Alison Lloyd informed members that there was now a series of online training sessions for teachers being delivered to support the launch of the new Lancashire Agreed Syllabus.

Two sessions had been arranged for primary schools on Monday 27 September and Monday 11 October 21. The sessions were a collaboration between the county council and Lat Blaylock. Lat was to provide a specific session on how to implement the 'searching for personal meaning' element of the Field of Enquiry. Consultants would provide key messages around the implementation of the syllabus. There were two sessions for secondary schools to explore the new resources, these had been arranged for Wednesday 29 September and Wednesday 20 October 21. These would be led by Joanne Harris, Associate RE

Consultant. For out of county schools a separate session was being led by Joanne Harris on 17 November 21.

Collective worship materials had been updated for 2021. Members, who had attended the QSS meeting on 8 September discussed the matter in detail and were to provide feedback by October 7 prior to them being uploaded to the website.

The SACRE was also informed that an autumn newsletter had been circulated to schools and advised teacher of the 2021 syllabus update.

It was noted that there were a few tasks that needed to be completed by December 2021, these included:

- Developing a determinations proforma.
- Response to Pupil Voice. Draw together a Pupil Survey with support from Helen Sage.
- Plan for re-engagement with the North North West Hub. This was about sharing information and initiatives with other SACREs.
- Produce a draft copy of the Annual Report 2020-21.

5. NASACRE Online Training

NASACRE was the National Association of SACREs to which the Lancashire SACRE was a member.

The NASACRE online training was available to all members of the Lancashire SACRE. Some of the training sessions on offer had already taken place. One session, which would have been useful, was entitled 'So, you've joined your local SACRE' had taken place in June 2021 but members were informed that another session on this would take place in May or June 2022. Members would be updated on this. If any member wished to attend any future virtual training sessions, they were invited to inform Alison Lloyd who would arrange the attendance of the sessions.

Alison was hoping to attend the training session entitled 'New SACRE Annual Report Template', which was taking place on 7 October 21. The Chair, Peter Martin, was interested in attending the session on 10 November 21 entitled 'What do SACREs need to know and understand about worldviews'. John Wilson, Malcolm Craig, Keith Pennington, County Councillor Anne Cheetham and Kathleen Cooper expressed interest in attending the session also.

6. Revised advice from NASACRE on the contents of Annual Reports

Lancashire SACRE had received revised advice from NASACRE on the new SACRE Annual Report Framework. It was a statutory requirement for Lancashire

SACRE to produce an annual report and that it be appropriately submitted. The format for this was changing and this was formal advice from NASACRE.

It was noted that some of the requirements from the new draft framework had not been completed due to the Covid pandemic, for example under Section 2 of the new draft framework, monitoring standards of RE, had not been completed as yet.

One thing that had been done last year and not been followed up was looking at schools' websites. A grid had been circulated to schools with information about what they should have on their websites. Alison asked for volunteers to support this work by looking at school websites in their area using the grid to find out what was mentioned about RE. They could then feedback to Alison who would include the information in the annual report. Helen Sage, Malcolm Craig, Kathleen Cooper, John Wilson, County Councillor Anne Cheetham and the Chair, Peter Martin, volunteered to look at 5 or 6 schools in their area. Alison would recirculate the evaluation grid to these volunteers. Volunteers would report back on their findings at the next SACRE meeting on 29 November 21.

7. NASACRE Conference

Members were informed that the next NASACRE Conference would take place on Monday 23 May 2022. It would be held in Birmingham at the Macdonald Burlington Hotel. It was hoped that this would be a face to face conference. The theme for the conference was 'Ambitious SACREs'.

8. Interfaith Week 2021

Inter Faith Week 2021 would take place from 14 November to 21 November. In past years several significant events had taken place around Lancashire. The Forum of Faiths in Preston had been very proactive in the past.

Malcolm Craig of the Bahá'í Faith was preparing a template ready to send out to faith communities. The template would include 2 or 3 events which were already planned. Other faith communities would be invited to share any events they were planning. A final version of the template would then be drawn up for circulation.

Peter Lumsden informed the SACRE that Burnley already had an extensive programme planned for Inter Faith Week. There would be an Inter Faith walk on Sunday 14 November 21 and a stall in Burnley Town Centre on Wednesday 17 November 21. There was also an event on the 'Knife Angel' in Blackburn Cathedral on the Wednesday morning. On Thursday 18 November 21 in Burnley there would be a speaker on Palestine and on Friday 19 November 21 there would be a Sikhism festival in Preston to celebrate the birthday Guru Nanak and this would last the weekend. The Lancashire Forum of Faiths was hoping to organise another Lancashire Leaders online meeting around changes to the Government White Paper on Health. There would also be an evening discussion held virtually on the 'Perceptions of the Common Good'. This would either be held on Tuesday 16 November or Wednesday 17 November 21.

SACRE members were asked to notify Alison Lloyd of any events they knew about in Inter Faith Week. This list would then be circulated to the group. The list would also be put on the RE website and the Schools Portal.

9. Update from Burnley Building Bridges

The SACRE was informed that Building Bridges Burnley was still catching up on outstanding visits to schools. Despite the disruption of the pandemic, Building Bridges Burnley had still managed to have some engagement with schools. There were 38 schools still with outstanding visits. Building Bridges Burnley's new Service Level Agreement were being sent out to those schools where visits had been completed.

10. Proposed Dates of Future SACRE and QSS Meetings

A list of proposed future dates for the Lancashire SACRE and the SACRE QSS Working Group had been circulated to members with the agenda papers. If members had concerns about these dates, they were asked to notify Misbah Mahmood, Senior Democratic Services Officer, as soon as possible.

The SACRE members were asked to consider whether in the future they would prefer physical meetings or continue to hold meetings virtually. A discussion took place and it was felt the online Zoom meetings had worked extremely well over the past 18 months and had made it much easier for a number of members to attend the meetings. It was felt that at least one meeting a year should be held in person to allow members the opportunity to network, possibly the Annual General Meeting. Consideration for the next meeting of the Lancashire SACRE to be held as a physical meeting would take place closer to the time with a view of the national picture. Members would be notified of the decision.

11. Lancashire Youth Voice

There was nothing to report on the Lancashire Youth Voice. At the last SACRE QSS meeting, it was agreed that a Pupil's Survey would be developed. Helen Sage had forwarded to Alison sample resources of Pupil's Surveys. The Pupil's Survey topic would be rolled over to the next QSS meeting as a continued item for discussion.

12. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

13. Members' News

There was no Members' News.

14. Observers' Contributions

Malcolm Craig informed the SACRE that the Pope and senior faith leaders would be issuing an urgent call for action on the morning of 4 October 21 ahead of the UN Climate Conference, COP26, which was taking place this November in Glasgow. Crucially, they would also pledge that their own organisations would undertake practical action on the climate and environment.

The Faith Plans network would follow this call with its own announcement on the afternoon of 4 October 21 of the Faith Plans programme as the practical tool by which hundreds of faiths around the world were putting this call for bold action into practice. It would also call upon others to join the movement.

It was highlighted that what the Faith Plans Network had to announce was truly impressive – an extraordinary coalition of partners, showing the breadth and depth of the commitment to this programme from a range of faith traditions as well as from environmental organisations. And already, at this early stage, the outreach of the faith groups that were currently drawing up Faith Plans amounted to millions of people around the world, from Ethiopia to China.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Lancashire SACRE would be held at 10:00am on Monday 29 November 2021. Members would be informed in early November if the meeting would be held in person or via Zoom.

Paul Bond
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston