

**Lancashire SACRE
Meeting to be held on 4 March 2013**

**Lancashire SACRE - Quality and Standards Sub-group
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 5 February 2013 at 10.00 am in
Cabinet Room 'D' - County Hall, Preston**

Present

Mr P Martin
Dr M Craig
CC P Malpas
CC Y Motala
Mr I Nakhuda
Mrs H Sage
Mrs J Sawyer
Mr F Williams
Helen Harrison

Representing

ASCL (Chair)
Baha'i Faith (Observer)
Lancashire County Council
Lancashire County Council
Lancashire Council of Mosques
CE Diocese of Blackburn
Teachers in the Primary Sector
Lancashire County Council
RE Consultant

Officers in Attendance

Jonathan Hewitt
Josh Mynott
Katrina Dale

Officer to the SACRE, CYP
Democratic Services
Democratic Services

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Brennand, Mrs K Cooper, Mr D Fann, Miss L Fenton, Ms C Mercier, Mrs J O'Rourke, Mrs A Robinson, Mrs E Saunderson, Mrs A Tidswell and CC A Thornton.

2. Minutes and matters arising

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2012, be agreed as a true record.

3. SACRE Membership

Members noted that the full SACRE membership was renewed every four years, after County Council elections and that the process involved contacting the relevant nominating bodies asking for new nominations. As County Council elections were due to take place this year on 2 May, it was suggested that an item be put to the next meeting of the SACRE providing the opportunity to consider membership within the established rules.

Resolved: That an item on renewal of the full SACRE membership be presented to SACRE at its next meeting on 4 March 2013.

4. Working with the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre

Members received a verbal report from the Officer to the SACRE on future working with the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre. The Officer to the SACRE had met with Afrasiab Anwar, Community Faith Coordinator of the Faith Centre, to discuss how it might be involved more in the work of the SACRE and beyond. Through discussion, members agreed that closer working with the Faith Centre would provide the opportunity to:

- Build the Faith Centre into the SACRE Development Plan and therefore develop links to support the Agreed Syllabus
- Look at the role of the Faith Centre in helping SACRE link members of different faiths with schools. This would carry on the work started by DIFA and could possibly also be marketed outside Lancashire.
- Use the Faith Centre as a hub for SACRE's work in developing the leadership of RE in Lancashire – bringing together individuals to form a group to share expertise and good practice.

It was suggested that Afrasiab Anwar be invited to the next meeting of the SACRE to discuss these ideas with members

Resolved: That Afrasiab Anwar, Community Faith Coordinator, Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre, be invited to the next meeting of the SACRE to discuss joint ways of working between the Faith Centre and the SACRE.

5. Common Ground - Information from the Pupil Attitude Questionnaire

Members received a report on information taken from the Pupil Attitude Questionnaire (PAQ) regarding the diversity of faith found in Lancashire and the common ground that exists between them. As the PAQ is completed on a yearly basis it provides the SACRE with the opportunity to look at pupil attitudes across Lancashire. The information provided by pupils in the following areas was discussed:

- Feeling left out of things
- Racist Behaviour
- Understanding and caring about other people (asked in primary schools)
- Understanding people from other cultures (asked in secondary schools)

All schools are provided with the results of the survey for their school and a report is produced informing them whether the responses of their pupils to each question are broadly average, high or low above/below average.

Findings highlighted the need to understand the differences occurring in each District. In talking to Head Teachers/school governors of schools in areas where student views are less positive, the SACRE/County Council could ask whether RE might help address these issues and whether more support for RE was needed to do so.

Through discussion it was suggested that a further report be presented to the full SACRE giving the county wide picture of the responses to the PAQ. (Information on individual schools would not be available as this belonged to schools themselves). In this way, the responses would help inform the SACRE's Development Plan.

Resolved: That a report on the responses to the Pupil Attitude Questionnaire be presented to the SACRE at its next meeting.

6. Implementation of the Development Plan 2011 - 13

Members noted the update on the implementation of the Development Plan and agreed that this should be presented to the full SACRE, for information.

Resolved: That the update on the implementation of the Development Plan be presented to the full SACRE for information.

7. Revision of the SACRE Development Plan

Members considered the need to develop a new process for updating the Development Plan and it was suggested that the full SACRE might take this as an item for discussion at its next meeting, with reference to defining the priorities for the next three years. It was suggested that some areas may need streamlining.

Resolved: That an item for discussion on the revision of the SACRE Development Plan be brought to the next full meeting of the SACRE.

8. Collective Worship

Further to the agreement of the protocol for visits to schools at the last meeting of the SACRE, the Officer to the SACRE provided the group with a draft sample letter for members to send to Head Teachers setting out the purpose of the visit prior to a visit being made. This letter could be personalised by each member with their own biographical details. It was suggested that this letter be considered by the full SACRE at its next meeting.

Resolved: That the draft letter to Head Teachers setting out the purpose of Collective Worship visits be considered by the SACRE at its next meeting.

9. National Update

The RE Consultant presented a report on the current national picture for RE.

The All Party Parliamentary Group Inquiry into the supply of and support for teachers of RE had held its second Oral Evidence Session which the RE

Consultant had attended and at which she had voiced support for the Lancashire Youth Voice.

With the review of the National Curriculum taking place, the Religious Education Council (REC) was carrying out a subject review in order to produce new RE documentation which clarifies the subject's distinctive place in the wider school curriculum and giving guidance about suitable content. It was envisaged that the final report would be published around July 2013.

It was reported that the government had reaffirmed its view that all schools would be expected to become Academies. As Academies were not required to follow the agreed syllabus, this raised issues for the future of SACREs in the sector.

The REC was also launching a Young Ambassadors for RE scheme for 11 – 18 year olds.

Members of the QSS thanked the RE Consultant, Helen Harrison, and the team in the Directorate for Children and Young People for the work undertaken recently on the RE Primary Conference which had received a great deal of positive feedback.

Resolved: That the RE Consultant and the team from the Directorate for Children and Young People be thanked for the work undertaken on the successful RE Primary Conference.

10. Dates for future SACRE meetings

Members considered dates for the next schedule of SACRE meetings. It was suggested that the date provisionally set as 23 September 2013 be moved to Monday 30 September to accommodate the Church of England group representatives who already had a Diocesan meeting on that date. The dates for consideration were therefore as follows:

Monday 30 September 2013
Monday 25 November 2013
Monday 3 March 2014
Monday 16 June 2014

Members were asked to inform the Clerk to the SACRE if they knew of any reason why the suggested dates would not be suitable.

Resolved: That the proposed schedule of meeting dates for the full SACRE be presented to the SACRE at its next meeting for approval.

11. Date of the next meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Quality and Standards Sub-group was Tuesday 21 May 2013, to take place at 10am at County Hall, Preston.

Members also set a date for a QSS meeting prior to the SACRE meeting in September 2013 as Wednesday 17 July 2013, to take place at 1.30pm, in County Hall, Preston.

Roy Jones
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston