

Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 20 November, 2023 at 10.00 am in Committee Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston

Attendees

Mr Peter Martin (Chair)
County Councillor Anne Cheetham (Representing Lancashire County Council)
County Councillor Stewart Jones (Representing Lancashire County Council)
Ian Watkinson (Representing NEU)
Peter Lumsden (Representing Building Bridges Burnley)
Aruna Patel (Representing NASUWT)
Mr John Wilson (Representing the Church of England)
Joan O'Rourke (Representing the Church of England)

Observers

Keith Pennington (Representing Humanists)
Jaspal Kooner (Representing the Sikh faith)
Dr Malcolm Craig (Representing the Bahá'í faith)

County Councillor Jayne Rear, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills,
Lancashire County Council

Officers

Mrs Alison Lloyd, School Improvement Service
Elaine Cluet, School Improvement Service
Bryan Magan, Democratic Services Manager

1. Annual General Meeting: Election of Chair and Deputy Chair

Peter Martin was proposed and seconded as Chair and John Wilson was proposed and seconded as Vice Chair respectively of the Lancashire SACRE until the Annual General Meeting in November 2024.

There were no further nominations.

Resolved: - That Peter Martin and John Wilson serve as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, of the Lancashire SACRE until the Annual General Meeting in November 2024.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received and noted.

Ian Watkinson replaced Julie Gordon at the meeting.

It was noted that some members of the Committee had not attended meetings for some time and that the Terms of Reference stated at 4(g) 'following non-attendance of a member at three consecutive meetings without apology, the

SACRE will recommend to the LA that a replacement nomination be sought from the relevant nominating body.

The clerk to the Committee undertook to review attendance data and action accordingly.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 October 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

4. Governor Services - Recruitment and Training

Elaine Cluet, SI Secondary Lead, Head of Governor Services, Education Improvement, Lancashire County Council and County Councillor Jayne Rear, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, Lancashire County Council, attended the meeting to link up and seek the expertise of the SACRE members, using their knowledge and support to help in the recruitment of governors in schools, in particular the aim being to help improve the diversity in recruiting for governing bodies, which it was felt SACRE was very well placed to do with all the different faiths and non-faith groups being represented.

It was identified that SACRE members, and in particular those members who are also governors, would have a detailed understanding of the role and could possibly 'champion' the role in their communities.

The specific issue with the recruitment of foundation governors was noted.

County Councillor Rear highlighted just how well regarded the Lancashire SACRE is and the positive work it does.

SACRE members discussed the matter in some detail and made a number of observations and suggestions for improvement and offers for further discussion outside of the meeting.

The Chairman, Peter Martin agreed to work with Elaine to draft a note for circulation to a wider audience.

5. Draft Annual Report and Updated Development Plan (Including Recommendations of the QSS)

Alison Lloyd, Special Support Adviser, School Improvement Service, presented the Lancashire SACRE Draft Annual Report, which covered the work of the Lancashire SACRE for the period September 2022 to September 2023 and which had been considered by the Quality and Standards Sub-group at its recent meeting on 18 October 2023.

It was noted that it was up to SACRE members to decide what went in the Lancashire SACRE Annual Report.

At the end of the report, a revised Lancashire SACRE Development Plan 2023-2025 was also presented to Members. The Development Plan set out SACRE's key priorities for improvement. Progress in implementing the plan was evaluated on an ongoing basis so that priorities could be adjusted and revised as needed. The NASACRE evaluation tool was used to help identify areas for improvement. Comparison had been undertaken with other SACREs to pick up on good practice.

Peter Lumsden provided an update on the organisation of Building Bridges Burnley for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Alison Lloyd collated the feedback for inclusion in the final draft. It was noted that the Lancashire SACRE Annual Report had to be published by the end of January 2024.

The thanks and appreciation of SACRE were placed on record to Alison for her work in drafting the report and her support to SACRE.

6. Correspondence

The correspondence which had been circulated since the last meeting was noted.

7. Members' News (Including Feedback from Training and Development Undertaken)

Dr Malcolm Craig reported on a successful school invitation during inter-faith week.

8. Observers' Contributions

Jaspal Kooner, Sikh representative, thanked SACRE for the opportunity to attend the whole meeting and looked forward to contributing to SACRE's future work programme.

9. Proposed Dates of Meetings in 2023

Members of the committee recommended that the number of meetings scheduled for SACRE in 2024 be reduced from five to four, with the September meeting being considered for removal from future calendar of meetings.

SACRE (Mondays at 10am in County Hall)

5 February

22 April

8 July

30 September – meeting date deleted from the calendar

18 November

Quality and Standards Sub-group (Wednesdays at 10am - Virtual)

17 January
6 March
5 June
10 September
18 October

10. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Lancashire SACRE would be held at 10am on Monday 6 February 2024 at County Hall, Preston.

Paul Bond
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston