

Lancashire SACRE
Meeting to be held on 17 June 2013

Report of the Quality and Standards Sub-group (QSS)

Minutes of the Meeting of the QSS held on Tuesday 21 May 2013 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'D' - County Hall, Preston

Present

Mr P Martin
Mrs K Cooper
Mr I Nakhuda
Mrs A Robinson
Mrs H Sage
Mr F Williams

Helen Harrison

Officers in Attendance

Jonathan Hewitt
Katrina Dale

Representing

ASCL (Chair)
LASGB
Lancashire Council of Mosques
ATL
CE Diocese of Blackburn
Lancashire County Council

RE Consultant

Officer to the SACRE, CYP
Democratic Services

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Brennand, Mr D Fann, Miss L Fenton, Ms C Mercier, Mrs K Murry, Mrs J O'Rourke, and Mrs J Sawyer.

2. Minutes and matters arising

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2013, be agreed as a true record.

3. Review of SACRE membership

Members discussed a possible review of SACRE membership taking into account the minute on membership from the draft minutes of the meeting of the full SACRE which took place on 4 March 2013.

It was acknowledged that the starting point of a review should be that the composition of the SACRE reflect its prime purpose - to support, in the best way possible way, the teaching and development of the Agreed Syllabus for RE in schools. In doing so it was felt that, in the interest of balance, representation should reflect not only the local faith community but also major world faiths.

Members commented on a review of membership as follows:

- that NASACRE guidelines on membership should be taken into account

- consideration should be given to the expertise that individual members on each representative group could bring to the SACRE
- umbrella organisations representing the views of various denominations within a certain faith should be the starting point for requesting nominations
- the constitution of the SACRE would need to be changed if any changes were required to the numbers making up Group 1 and there would need to be a clear policy setting out a number of tests for a compelling case to do so.
- the voice of Young People should be taken into account
- there should be a re-consideration of 'Observer' status
- a regular review of membership - suggestion of every four years in conjunction with the renewal of full membership which coincides with County Council elections

It was suggested that a report be brought before the full SACRE setting out a number of principles for a review of membership which included:

- Precedent
- Unpacking the purpose of SACRE
- NASACRE guidance
- Rationale for the current makeup of membership
- Review of the criteria previously agreed for appointing co-opted members
- Setting out possible options such as:
 - Altering the number of co-opted members
 - Altering the number of members in Group 1
 - Agreeing criteria for appointment within Group 1

Resolved: That a report on a review of the membership of the SACRE based on the comments made by members be brought to the next meeting of the SACRE.

4. Priorities for the SACRE Development Plan

Members discussed the process for revising and taking forward the SACRE Development Plan. To establish a process for identifying priorities for a revised plan it was suggested involving the following:

- SACRE members
- Headteachers/teachers by meeting with focus groups such as the network groups
- Governors, through the LASGB
- Pupils, through the Youth Voice
- Others – target interested parties such as:
 - parents via parent governors/Youth Voice
 - A draft Development Plan would be circulated with the agenda for the next SACRE meeting and members would be asked to consult their colleagues prior to returning a form prioritising what they think are the

key issues for the Development Plan. At the full SACRE meeting, members would be asked to split into groups to discuss these priorities.

Resolved: That SACRE members be asked to prioritise key issues for the revision of the Development Plan and submit them for consideration at the next SACRE meeting.

5. National Update

The RE Consultant for Lancashire gave a presentation on the national picture for RE and the following points were highlighted:

- Religious Education Council (REC) meetings continued with Elizabeth Truss, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education and Childcare, David Laws, Minister of State for Schools and the Cabinet Office and members of the DfE
- RE long report was still with senior Ofsted officials – to be launched possibly in July
- A level Religious Studies reform for 2016
- The REC budget for PR work was running out
- The REC Professional Development Committee was responding to 'The Truth Unmasked' the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) report about RE Initial Teacher Training and Continuing Professional Development
- The recommendation of the APPG was that: LAs should ensure sufficient resources are made available to enable SACREs to:
 - provide high quality RE support
 - monitor the quality of the provision and staffing of RE
 - develop networks to share good practice in RE
- 51 pupils at ten schools had been accepted as Young Ambassadors for the current school year. Broughton Business and Enterprise College and St Christopher's Academy were among the 10 selected nationally
- Broughton was now recognised by Ofsted as a Good Practice school and had obtained gold level in the RE Quality Mark
- The REC was carrying out a curriculum review for RE in parallel with the national curriculum review

Resolved: That the current national picture for RE be noted.

6. Interfaith Week 17 - 23 November 2013

Members noted that Interfaith Week this year would be taking place between 17 – 23 November and that Afrasiab Anwar at the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre would be approached to find out whether the SACRE could provide support for any events that might be taking place. It was also noted that the Preston Faith Forum had contacted the Chairman asking that SACRE members contact them if they were able to provide support for events.

7. Any Other Business

Helen Sage informed the group that the new Bishop of Blackburn, Julian Henderson, Diocese of Blackburn, had asked people to consider how he could get a snapshot of issues in the Diocese and Helen had suggested that he consider inviting members of SACREs to visit him.

Francis Williams informed members that former County Councillor, Chairman and Vice-chairman of the SACRE, Albert Thornton had recently suffered a heart attack and members agreed that a letter be sent wishing him a speedy recovery and thanking him for all the work he had done over the years for the SACRE.

Kathleen Cooper asked that the article on the SACRE drafted for the LASGB be finalised in time for inclusion in the next newsletter due out round Autumn Term half term.

8. Date of the next meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Quality and Standards Sub-group was Wednesday 17 July 2013, to take place at 2.00pm at County Hall, Preston.

Roy Jones
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston