

## **Lancashire SACRE - Quality and Standards Sub-group**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 17 July 2013 at 2.00 pm in The Duke of Lancaster Room (Formerly Cabinet Room 'C'), County Hall, Preston**

### **Present**

Mr P Martin  
Rabbi D Braunold  
County Councillor P Buckley  
County Councillor A Cheetham  
Mrs K Cooper  
County Councillor Y Motala  
Mr I Nakhuda

### **Representing**

ASCL (Chair)  
Judaism  
Lancashire County Council  
Lancashire County Council  
LASGB  
Lancashire County Council  
Islam

Helen Harrison

RE Consultant

### **Officers in Attendance**

Mr J Hewitt  
Mr J Mynott  
Mrs K Dale

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Brennand, Dr M Craig, Kelsang Pagpa, Mrs J O'Rourke, Mrs A Robinson, Mrs H Sage, Mrs J Sawyer, Mrs H Shukla and Mr F Williams.

## **2. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2013**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2013, be agreed as a true record.

## **3. SACRE Development Plan 2013 - 2015**

Members were asked to consider the process for reviewing the SACRE Development Plan.

At the full SACRE members had been presented with a draft outline version of the Development Plan for work to be done over the next two years and had been asked to complete a questionnaire commenting on the following:

Whether:

- they agreed with the priorities outlined
- there should be any additional priorities
- they agreed with the objectives outlined
- there should be any additional objectives
- they agreed with the activities outlined
- there should be any additional activities to consider

It was proposed, based on the responses to the questionnaires received and the suggestions made by members, to firm up the plan and present it to the SACRE for approval at the Autumn Term meeting.

The four draft priorities were as follows:

Priority 1: To fulfil SACRE's statutory role by providing effective leadership of RE and Collective Worship

Priority 2: To raise achievement in RE

Priority 3: To improve the provision of Collective Worship

Priority 4: To ensure that the provision of RE is informed by the views of stakeholders

Members commented on the responses to questionnaires as follows:

- With regard to the proposal to add a 5<sup>th</sup> priority – "To raise awareness of the status, importance and value of RE and Collective amongst different faiths, beliefs and traditions and appropriate community organisations", it was noted that this had already been drafted as an objective at 4c of the plan. However, it was suggested that this theme was integral to the plan as a whole and could therefore be treated as a subset running through all the priorities rather than being treated as something separate. It was also suggested that SACRE members who were faith representatives could be asked to consider the content of the Lancashire SACRE and RE Web site from their faith perspective, therefore helping to strengthen the community cohesion agenda.
- **Priority 1:** In response to a concern listed regarding accessibility of the web site – it was noted that the Agreed Syllabus was password protected since a great deal of County Council resource had been invested in it. However, all Authority schools were able to access the syllabus directly - teachers only needed a password if they wished to gain access to it from outside school.

A pdf version of the syllabus core (without the accompanying downloadable resources) was available free of charge, upon application, to those using it for RE training purposes.

It was suggested that there existed an opportunity to market the Agreed Syllabus by providing specimen pages on line with the facility for potential customers to progress and purchase the whole syllabus if they wished.

If teachers needed help/had an issue with the syllabus, there were various options available: the opportunity for Headteachers to buy in Helen Harrison's expertise as an independent RE consultant; attending the Primary conference; attending primary network cluster meetings; making

contact with good practice schools; making use of the point of contact indicated on the web site.

Studying results in the context of other subjects (with regard to Priority 1d) was not considered to be particularly helpful in terms of attainment as it was difficult to compare different subjects and gain meaningful information. It was, however, agreed that comparison with national figures and reviewing trends over time provided valuable information for SACRE.

- **Priority 4:** Members welcomed objective 4 a): Providing opportunities for Children and Young People to participate in the development of RE – commenting that the work being done by the Youth Voice was both challenging and inspirational. It was suggested that the SACRE consider the responses provided annually in the Pupil Attitude Questionnaire (PAQ) to find out on a District level what pupils thought about RE. It was felt important that Youth Voice feedback was incorporated in the SACRE's Annual Report.

It was noted that a letter had been sent to all governing bodies requesting that a review of RE was an agenda item for their next meeting and a piece had been written about RE for inclusion in the LASGB autumn newsletter. The RE consultant had been involved in curriculum training for governors.

In considering a question posed in relation to 4d): 'how the SACRE raised issues impacting on its effectiveness at a national level', it was suggested that this was already being done through the consultant to SACRE (Helen Harrison) who sits on various national bodies. This meant that the SACRE was extraordinarily well informed about national debates and had the opportunity to put its points forward at a national level. The SACRE could learn from what was being said nationally whilst continuing to provide what was right for Lancashire children.

It was proposed that the Officer to the SACRE and the RE Consultant should re-work the draft plan with regard to the comments made by members and that details listed under the priorities for objectives and activities would be expanded although it was envisaged that the Development Plan would not be a lengthy document. The priorities had already been shared with the Partnership Development Group which oversees the work of the Quality and Continuous Improvement Service and is made up of a range of key stakeholders in education in Lancashire. It was intended that the views of stakeholders in schools such as primary headteachers, heads of department at secondary level and teachers would also be gathered through focus groups and network meetings. The role of Youth Voice in feeding into the priorities was also emphasised. The revised draft plan would be brought to the SACRE for consideration at its next meeting.

**Resolved:** That the draft plan be re-worked with reference to the comments made by members and put before the SACRE at its next meeting for consideration and approval.

#### **4. The Revised Primary Curriculum**

Members noted a letter from Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education, regarding the current position of the National Curriculum Review.

#### **5. National Update**

The RE Consultant for Lancashire updated members on the national picture for RE, highlighting the following issues:

- The RE long report (three year review) was now likely to be available by mid-September
- At a recent event at Lambeth Palace, Mr Gove, Secretary of State for Education, accepted a point that Religious Education had been an "unintended casualty" of curriculum reforms and that he had thought that RE's 'special status was protection enough.' Since then John Keast, Chair of the Religious Education Council had written to Mr Gove asking for a face to face conversation regarding the current state of RE.

**Resolved:** That the update on the national picture for RE be noted.

#### **6. Date of the next meeting**

Members set the dates for the next meetings of the Quality and Standards Sub-group as:

Monday 21 October 2013 to be held at 2.00pm in County Hall  
Monday 20 January 2014 to be held at 2.00pm in County Hall

It was also agreed to change the date of the next meeting of the full SACRE from Monday 30 September at 10am to Monday 7 October 2013 at 10am to avoid a clash with a Jewish festival on 30 September.

**Resolved:** That:

- i. Dates of the Quality and Standards Sub-group be agreed as follows:

Monday 21 October 2013 to be held at 2.00pm in County Hall  
Monday 20 January 2014 to be held at 2.00pm in County Hall

- ii. The date of the full SACRE be changed from Monday 30 September at 10am to Monday 7 October 2013 at 10am, to be held at County Hall, Preston.

Roy Jones  
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall  
Preston