

Lancashire SACRE - Quality and Standards Sub-group

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 20 January 2014 at 2.00 pm in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Present

Mr P Martin
County Councillor P Buckley
County Councillor A Cheetham
Mrs K Cooper
Dr M Craig
Ms J Harris
Mr S Jones
Mr L Ridings
Mrs H Sage
Mr J Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mr J Hewitt
Mr J Mynott
Mrs K Dale

Representing

ASCL (Chair)
Lancashire County Council
Lancashire County Council
LASGB
Bahai Observer
Teachers in the Secondary Sector
Roman Catholic Church
ATL
Church of England
Church of England

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Brennand, Ms J Clarke, Rev Phil Clarke, Miss L Fenton, CC Y Motala, Mrs K Murry, Mr I Nakhuda, Kelsang Pagpa, Mrs J Sabour and Mrs H Shukla.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

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

3. Support for RE

It was reported that a meeting had been held on 26 November 2013 with teacher members of SACRE to discuss the range of options for offering support for the teaching and learning of RE in 2014/15 when the Lancashire Consultant for RE planned to step down from her role.

Four models were considered:

- Commissioning leading teachers in RE to support schools
- Providing marketed training through a marketed support programme
- Commissioning a specialist consultant to provide support (for example: from a national RE organisation)
- Signposting schools to national/regional providers of training and support

It was considered at that meeting that a mixed approach was more likely to meet the differing needs of schools and to be feasible in terms of delivery.

A draft programme of support for schools to be provided by four teacher members of SACRE, who had agreed to be commissioned, was outlined and comments were made at the QSS, as follows:

- Marketed Network Meetings :
 - 3 primary network meetings per term
 - 2 secondary network meetings per term
- A range of marketed courses - to be run as required by teacher members of SACRE as follows:
 - An introduction to the Agreed Syllabus (primary)
 - An introduction to the Agreed Syllabus (secondary)
 - Support for RE subject leaders (primary)
 - Support for RE subject leaders (secondary)
 - Developing approaches to teach RE (primary)

The courses could be tailored to fit schools' individual needs.

- A marketed primary RE conference – to which national RE figures could be invited and which could be used to advertise the network groups
- Support in developing the assessment of RE – considered to be of particular importance since the current system of 'levels' used to report children's attainment and progress was expected to be removed with the introduction of the new curriculum in 2014. Joanne Harris would be commissioned to work on this area.
- Support from Specialist Leaders in RE through the Teaching Schools – it was hoped that there would soon be a greater number of specialist leaders in RE coming via the Teaching Schools.
- Marketed Support from "Hubs of good practice" to include visiting "Hub schools" to observe good practice and gain consultancy support (Hubs to include: Secondary – Broughton, The Hollins; Primary – Brunshaw, Clifton, Hapton)
- The promotion of the RE Quality Mark (REQM) – this could be done via 'hub' schools who have gained this award. Members of the QSS commented that the REQM was one of very few awards to be gained for RE, was a useful model to follow and also carried a professional development element.
- The continued offer of "Youth Voice" – the comment was made that this was key in light of future revision of the syllabus
- Access to the Lancashire RE website – the website could become an income generator for schools beyond Lancashire if schools bought into its resources and would therefore need to be continuously updated. Schools would need to be provided with individualised passwords which could be

activated/de-activated as required. The suggestion was made that design of the web site could be an area for the Youth Voice to work on.

- Access to national RE websites (Teaching RE, REC)

It was suggested that since Blackpool schools used the Agreed Syllabus, the marketed elements of the support should also be marketed in Blackpool.

Resolved: That a report on the proposed support for RE, post March 2014, be presented to the full SACRE at its next meeting.

4. Review of the Lancashire SACRE Development Plan 2013/15

Members considered the four priorities of the Development Plan, the objectives for each and the criteria for success by which they were judged. The progress of each to January 2013 was evaluated.

Priority 1: to fulfil SACRE's statutory role by providing effective leadership of RE and Collective Worship, Priority 2: To raise achievement in RE and Priority 4: To ensure that the provision of RE is informed by the views of the stakeholders were all considered to be 'On track'.

Despite the online Collective Worship tool kit Mirrors and Doors having been re-advertised in the last year and SACRE having drawn up a protocol for SACRE members to visit schools to take part in Collective Worship, Priority 3: To improve the provision of Collective Worship, was not considered to be on track with work remaining to be done. It was suggested that:

- Highlighting Mirrors and Doors in schools on an annual basis would help raise the profile
- The role of the Class Teacher in Collective Worship needed exploring
- SACRE members could take a more active role in visiting schools to participate in Collective Worship

Resolved: That Collective Worship be considered at the next meeting of the full SACRE.

5. Monitoring the Quality of RE

In order to support SACRE in considering how best to carry out its monitoring and evaluation role, members considered suggestions under the headings: Achievement; Teaching and Curriculum; Leadership; Attitudes to learning RE. The following comments were made:

- Finding out how many and which schools were pursuing the RE Quality Mark
- Comparing Lancashire against the national picture
- The possibility of raising the profile of RE by visiting schools and obtaining feedback

- Discussing with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools and the Lead Member for Schools the possibilities for other elected members to engage further with schools in their Divisions, perhaps with a SACRE member 'buddy.'
- That Ofsted had so far not made any proposals which would help SACREs in their monitoring role

Resolved: That the issue of monitoring the quality of RE be considered by the full SACRE at a future meeting.

6. Information from NASACRE

The Lancashire Consultant for RE demonstrated the NASACRE web site: <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/> which provided a wealth of resources and contained a password protected area for members of NASACRE (of which Lancashire SACRE is one). The password has previously been circulated to SACRE members for their use.

The Consultant for RE also informed members that she had been asked to speak on the Lancashire SACRE to a group of MPs in London.

7. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Quality and Standards Sub-group was noted as Monday 12 May 2014 to be held at 10am in Cabinet Room C, County Hall, Preston

Roy Jones
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston