

Lancashire SACRE - Quality and Standards Sub-group

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 9th February, 2015 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston

Christian and other religious groups appropriately reflecting the principal traditions in the area.

The Free Churches Group
Teacher Associations

Rev. P Clarke
Mr P Martin (ASCL) - Chair
Mrs S Greenhow (NAS/UWT)
Mrs A Robinson (ATL)
Ms J Crabtree (NUT)
Mrs J O'Rourke
County Councillor P Buckley
County Councillor A Cheetham
County Councillor Y Motala
Mrs J Hamid
Ms J Harris

**Church of England
LCC**

Co-Optee Members

Officers in attendance

Mr J Hewitt – Head of Quality and Continuous Improvement, Lancashire County Council, Children and Young People Directorate

Mr J Mynott – Committee Support Team Leader, Lancashire County Council, Office of the Chief Executive

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Ben McMullen, Colin Wills, Anita Tidswell, Vijayanti Chauhan, Kelsang Pagpa, John Wilson, David Fann, Francis Williams, Carrie Mercier and Dr Malcolm Craig.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

3. Monitoring Report

As requested by the SACRE, the QSS received a Monitoring Report for 2014 setting out a range of indicators on the quality and impact of religious education in Lancashire.

Members noted that the report on a small sample of schools was not yet complete, but that the current report included information on achievement, quality of provision, and pupils' views.

On attainment, it was reported that the position in Lancashire was improving, and was at the national standard at all Key Stages. It was recognised that a comparison of community schools with other community schools nationally was not possible, as that data was not collected nationally.

Whilst the general picture was positive, there were a few schools at primary and secondary level where fewer than 70% of pupils reached the expected levels at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3. It was felt that there may be a number of factors in these cases, for example, the quality of assessment, teacher confidence, or a strong focus on core subjects. It was confirmed that school advisors would discuss any issues with the head teacher where it was appropriate.

It was noted that, at primary level, there was no clear link between the overall Ofsted judgment and the attainment in RE. However, in the secondary phase, 3 of the 4 schools with attainment below 70% were in an OfSTED category of concern.

The report also presented Ofsted comments on Social Moral Spiritual and Cultural development from all inspections undertaken of community schools from 23 October 2014, as well as pupils' views taken from the Pupil Attitude Questionnaire.

Resolved: That the full report be taken to the next SACRE meeting with key issues highlighted.

4. Letter to SACREs from Lord Nash

The QSS considered a letter received from Lord Nash, Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Schools, addressed to all SACREs.

It was noted that, whilst the letter appeared to contain some misunderstandings of the role of SACREs, the principal points made in the letter were positive and significant and demonstrated the renewed interest from central government in the role of RE in supporting the promotion of British values.

It was agreed that a response to the letter should be considered at the next meeting of the NW SACRE Hub in order that a joint reply could be drafted. It was also recognised that this would provide a good basis for future face to face meetings with appropriate government representatives.

Resolved: That NW SACRE Hub be requested to consider drafting a joint response from all members, and that efforts be made to organise discussion with government representatives on the issues covered.

5. Review of SACRE Development Plan

The QSS considered an update on the Development Plan.

In relation to Priority 1, it was reported that NATRE were working on content knowledge for teachers, in recognition of the number of non-specialist teachers leading on or teaching RE.

In relation to Priority 5, it was reported that head teachers were keen to develop contacts with people of different faiths to come in to schools to work with pupils. It was confirmed that SACRE itself did not have the resources to provide an "authorisation" system, but it was highlighted that individual members of SACRE who represented different faiths may wish to acknowledge the position and how they could respond.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

6. National Update

1. It was reported that the guidance had now been published by the government on British Values and that copies of this will be circulated to members.
2. It was noted that RE continued to feature in Ofsted inspections, largely in connection with SMSC and the promotion of British values. However, there was some concern that inspectors would not be familiar with the content of locally agreed syllabuses when carrying out inspections.

7. Planning for Hub Meeting

Plans for the next Hub meeting will be to address Lord Nash's letter; and professional development opportunities for teachers.

8. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the SACRE QSS committee will take place on 18 May 2015, at 10:00am in Cabinet Room B (the Diamond Jubilee room), County Hall, Preston.

Roy Jones
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston

