

Lancashire SACRE - Quality and Standards Sub-group

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 18th May, 2015 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston

Hinduism	Ms V Chauhan
Teacher Associations	Mr P Martin (ASCL) – Chair Mrs A Robinson (ATL)
Church of England	Mr J Wilson
LCC	County Councillor A Cheetham County Councillor P Buckley County Councillor Y Motala
Observers	Dr M Craig (Bahá'í Faith)

Co-Opted Members Mrs K Cooper (LASGB)

Officers in attendance

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

Mr H Patel – Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council, Office of the Chief Executive

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Rev. Phil Clarke, Zakarya Anwar, Harsha Shukla, Joan O'Rourke, Helen Sage, Jacquie Clarke and Carrie Mercier.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

3. Update on Development Plan

The board was informed that, whilst little had changed since the Development Plan was last discussed, the plan was on track and a full draft of the new plan would be presented to the QSS in autumn.

Resolved:

That, following discussion with the board, information be sought and presented in the Development Plan for:

- a. The review of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education
- b. Potential educational resources for communities
- c. Provision of RE through Higher Education training
- d. Support for governors

4. Visit to Schools

Members of the board expressed interest in visiting schools on behalf of the SACRE.

Resolved:

That details of applications for the visits to schools, in schools identified by the Officer to SACRE, be issued at the meeting of the full SACRE in June, following contact with the head-teachers.

5. Support for SACRE 2015/16

The board was informed that, as per the budget for 2015-16, the council remained supportive of SACRE and also recognised the great value of the continued development of Youth Voice.

Resolved:

That, following discussion on acknowledging the support provided by Lancashire County Council, a brief note of thanks will be constructed by the Chair addressed to the Chairperson and the Leader of LCC.

6. Support for Teaching RE

The board was informed that teaching networks were in existence and continuing into the future – it was discussed that the autumn term would be an ideal period to offer support to teachers and head teachers relating to the Agreed Syllabus, though further discussion may be required if the board believes the syllabus should be amended to suit nationally-set standards. The importance of supporting head-teachers in implementing the Agreed Syllabus was highlighted.

It was reported that Joanne Harris, who, along with Jo Crabtree, currently leads much of the work in schools from the perspective of the SACRE, was in possession of guidance from the 1990's syllabus which holds a substantial amount of basic information on the different world faiths.

Resolved:

That the 1990's guidance material be considered for reissuing if it can be tailored to fit the current curriculum and be suitable to appear on the website for the SACRE.

7. Reviewing the Agreed Syllabus

Resolved: To continue to work with teachers and key parties to review the current Agreed Syllabus with a clear and concise approach for its future use. It was agreed that the syllabus must be developed to reflect the Lancashire context.

8. Community Cohesion - Prevent Duty Guidance

Members noted that the Prevent Duty Guidance document presented some concerns including some of the terminology used within. Further, on page 6 of the guidance, members noted that the local authority has a key duty to maintain, and a number of important matters were considered in the discussion of this, including partnership working and development. The board agreed that the SACRE's best approach to make sure young people and communities continue to feel valued was to be resilient and value their own sense of identity. It was also noted that the current Agreed Syllabus promotes this aim through its enquiry approach to learning.

Resolved:

That the Prevent Duty Guidance document be examined thoroughly, and that particular aspects and issues of it are addressed at the meeting of the full SACRE.

9. Higher Education representation on SACRE

The sub group was informed that Carrie Mercier was leaving the University of Cumbria and will no longer be able to represent HE at the SACRE. Members of SACRE mentioned that they were very impressed with Lancaster Universities Religious Education department and we should consider sending an invitation to the university to join the Lancashire SACRE

Resolved: Higher Education representation on the board to be considered.

10. Youth Voice Update

It was reported that Joanne Harris agreed to become the Youth Voice coordinator following Helen Harrison's resignation from this role – this would be effective later this term.

Resolved: That the official confirmation date will be provided to members via email correspondence.

11. National Update

The board was informed that GCSE content had now been set out but there was still a major concern in the recruitment of RE teachers.

Helen Harrison, who is playing a lead role in the Young Ambassador Scheme, provided information to be noted by the board.– It was considered by the board that the SACRE should monitor any possible links between the Young Ambassador Scheme and Youth Voice.

12. Date of the next meeting

No further meetings have yet been scheduled for the Quality & Standard Sub Group.

Resolved: It was agreed that suitable new dates be identified and considered at the full meeting of the SACRE in June 2015.

Paul Bond
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston