

Lancashire SACRE - Quality and Standards Sub-group

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 6th July, 2015 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston

Teacher Associations Mr P Martin (ASCL) – Chair

Church of England Mr J Wilson
Mrs H Sage
Mrs J O'Rourke

LCC County Councillor A Cheetham
County Councillor Y Motala

Officers in attendance

Mr J Hewitt – Head of School 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, Harsha Shukla, Lisa Fenton, CC Peter Buckley, CC Kevin Ellard, Francis Williams, Joanne Harris, Kath Cooper & Alice Robinson.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

3. Consideration of Dates in September for a Meeting of the Full SACRE

Resolved: That the next full SACRE meeting be held on Tuesday 29 September 2015.

4. SACRE Development Plan Review

The board was asked to consider future priorities for the SACRE development plan, and members felt the revision of the Agreed Syllabus would be one of the key priorities to focus on this year. Members also discussed the importance of updating the current SACRE's membership.

The Development Plan was looked at in detail; it was suggested for Priority 1 (Effective leadership of RE and Collective Worship) that Objective A be replaced by an objective focused on membership. Members discussed the importance of working with schools to try to raise achievement in RE with regards to Priority 2 (Raising achievement in RE).

There were concerns that Priority 3 (Improving the provision of Collective Worship) had little to show its impact with little interest in this area from schools. Suggestions were

presented by members for the use of hubs and Youth Voice, as well as working closely with head-teachers. Regarding Priority 5 (Community Cohesion), it was reported that training would be offered in September on the Prevent Duty Guidance, and the sub-group discussed the possibility of producing guidance for schools on this issue. The board was also asked to consider inviting the Community Faith Coordinator to the SACRE as an observer, to provide their knowledge and ideas with regards to community cohesion.

Resolved: That:

- i. The Development Plan be reviewed, in preparation for September and according to the agreed timescale of the plan.
 - i. Further to the review of the Plan, where a Priority was specifically mentioned:
 - a. **Priority 1** – That objective A, 'Providing an appropriate Agreed Syllabus', be removed as an objective and replaced as a separate priority, and that membership for future meetings of the SACRE be looked into.
 - b. **Priority 2** – That, through use of the quality mark framework, members continue to work with schools.
 - c. **Priority 3** – That conferences such as Youth Voice and the use of the NW Hub be considered for the successful progression of this Priority.
 - d. **Priority 5** – That the inclusion of Afrasiab Anwar (Community Faith Coordinator) to the SACRE as an observer be agreed.
 - ii. A conference to look at the reviewed Agreed Syllabus be added onto the back of a future meeting of the full SACRE, and that the November Annual General meeting be considered as the date for this.

5. NNW Hub Meeting Report

Members attended the Hub alongside several other local authorities– it was reported that, whilst there was much interest in SACREs working together and sharing ideas, there was a concern that some boards were unsure of their own constitutional procedures.

It was recommended that the Hub be continued in order to help continue to develop SACREs in the Northern part of the North West region, with the possibility of Youth Voice holding sessions in areas such as North Lancashire and South Cumbria.

6. Feedback from SACRE on Key Questions

The board agreed, following the meeting of the full SACRE in June, that there were different views from members when asked to consider the possibility of a national syllabus over a local syllabus.

The board noted that this item was a preface for item 6, the Agreed Syllabus Review.

7. Agreed Syllabus Review

The board discussed the 'review' and it was the agreed view of members that most elements of Section 1 in the Agreed Syllabus document would not require changing. It was also agreed that evidence from schools in Lancashire, from other local authorities and the Lancashire SACRE's own evaluation of the syllabus following the publication of the HMI report, "Realising the Potential", indicated that the current syllabus was fit for purpose. It was also noted that there was no requirement to change the Syllabus.

Resolved: That members monitor and review the Agreed Syllabus as necessary, with the view to avoid making any major changes should the information presented in the document be fit for purpose and acceptable at this time.

8. National Update

It was reported to the board that some other SACREs and Dioceses within Lancashire were not intent on making many changes to their current syllabuses. The board was also informed that the Church of England had been given a grant to develop character education through 'What If' learning – the board felt that community schools could benefit from this information.

9. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Sub-Group will be held at 10am on 13 October, in Cabinet Room B – The Diamond Jubilee Room at County Hall, Preston.

I Young
Director of Governance,
Finance and Public Services

County Hall
Preston