

Lancashire SACRE - Quality and Standards Sub-group

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 11th January, 2016 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston

Judaism	Rabbi Ephraim Guttentag
Teacher Associations	Mr P Martin (ASCL) - Chair Mrs A Robinson (ATL)
Church of England	Mrs J O'Rourke
LCC	County Councillor A Cheetham County Councillor P Buckley
Co-opted	Mrs K Cooper (LASGB)

Officers in attendance

Mrs A Lloyd – School Improvement Advisor, Lancashire County Council

Mr H Patel – Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council

Mr A Anwar – Asset Management Community Faith Coordinator, Lancashire County Council

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Helen Sage, Malcolm Craig, John Wilson, Moira Pate, Kelsang Pagpa, Steve Jones, Joanne Harris, County Councillor Yousuf Motala, Jo Crabtree and Francis Williams.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

3. Monitoring Report

The monitoring report was presented to members, and it was noted that more primary schools had submitted their results this year compared to 2015; the report showed that standards were continuing to rise and that pupils were generally performing as well in RE as they were in English and mathematics. Members were also informed of changes to the Ofsted framework from September 2015. Good schools would now only receive 1 day of monitoring from inspectors and visits would be bespoke for each school.

Members also noted that the number of inspections had greatly reduced when compared with the same period 12 months previously. In order to continue monitoring progress effectively it would be essential that the SACRE maintains a positive relationship with the schools it covers within Lancashire. The report showed that Key Stage 2 results were now above the national average, but with the new framework in place it was noted that the detail and quality of the report information would be reduced as most of the reviewing focus would be on reading and writing.

Resolved: That, following the suggestions of members:-

- i. Formal correspondence of thanks be constructed and provided to schools which have provided results, in recognition of their help towards the development of the SACRE.
- ii. Schools be invited to provide feedback reports to the SACRE on the performance of SACRE/faith centre visits to schools.

4. Training and Support for Teachers

It was reported that Alison Lloyd would be meeting with Joanne Harris and Jo Crabtree later this evening – suggestions for discussion, from members, included the collation of data from teachers who completed the training.

Resolved: That, following recommendation from members of the SACRE, the following ideas be considered for discussion:-

- i. The collation of data from teachers, having completed training, to gather information on the training's effectiveness and feedback for improvement.
- ii. The potential for schools that have been deemed excellent to visit developing schools for the intended purpose of support.
- iii. The SACRE newsletter be considered for resurrection so that schools and associated bodies can be kept up to speed with relevant issues and updates.

5. Update on ASC Progress

It was reported that the Agreed Syllabus Conference met on Wednesday 6 January to begin the process of reviewing the current Agreed Syllabus – Harsha Shukla's apologies were received for this meeting. It was noted that it would be unlikely that the Syllabus could be signed off by March 2016 due to the amount of information needing to be analysed.

It was resolved that the agreed strategy for moving forward would include:

- Looking at the terminology within the document with a view to amending any out-of-date wording to suit the present time
- Relaunching the revised Agreed Syllabus on the SACRE website, whilst also improving this to make it more accessible to teachers
- Developing the training programme(s) and subject knowledge for participants

- Building a support network for communities across Lancashire
- Revising the current assessment system to respond to beyond level, age-related expectations.

Members were made aware of the Conference for Chairs of Governors due to take place on 5 March 2016, and it was felt that this would be the best opportunity to raise a reminder to governors about raising the profile of Religious Education in schools, to ensure they present questions on faith in schools and ensure schools are made aware of the revised Agreed Syllabus.

6. Community Cohesion Feedback

Afrasiab Anwar reported to the board that the workshops currently offered were enticing more schools to get involved and that up to 35 schools had now bought into the service; Offered services continued as per the norm – sessions provided in schools, visits to faith buildings, training for teachers etc. – but it was felt that a need for co-ordination was required. Members were informed that a lot of work needed to be put into the Prevent agenda in order to appropriately address extremism. Early high-schoolers had sent artefacts to places of worship as part of Interfaith Week last November. It was felt that this was a positive sign for the possibility of scope for carrying further sessions out in schools and delivering training through the SACRE.

Resolved: That, following recommendation from members:-

- i. That the Department of Education be contacted as part of a proactive proposal to look into service development.
- ii. That an example of outstanding practice be drawn up whilst highlighting the message that funding is still required in order to develop and continue
- iii. That the Faith Centre title be considered for revision to provide a wider-ranged image

7. NNW Hub Meeting Report

It was reported that, following the most recent meeting of the NNW Hub, the representatives of other SACREs around Lancashire discussed in wider forum the issues they were currently facing – this included monitoring, determinations and support in schools.

Members suggested that the SACRE could provide support to other SACRE groups if they are struggling, and it was reported that some areas were struggling to find representatives for different areas covered by the SACRE. On the back of this, the Chair recognised and welcomed Rabbi Ephraim Guttentag, representative of Judaism for St Anne's Hebrew Congregation, to the Quality & Standards Sub-group.

8. Youth Voice

This item has been deferred to the next meeting of the full SACRE on 22 February 2016.

9. Visit to Schools

Resolved: That visits to schools continue to be arranged on behalf of the SACRE.

10. National Update

The board discussed the 'Living with Difference' document which was commissioned by the Rt Hon Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss GBE., looking at the national report from a Lancashire perspective and highlighting areas of the document where previous challenges of the SACRE were mentioned, which included making minorities aware of the ongoing difficulties in other countries due to divides in religious belief.

Resolved: That a note be sent out to all members of the SACRE, prior to the next full meeting on 22 February, that everyone should have thoroughly read through the 'Living with Difference' document.

11. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Sub-group will be held at 10am on 9 May 2016 in Cabinet Room B – the Diamond Jubilee Room at County Hall, Preston.

Paul Bond
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall
Preston