

## **Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 11th February, 2019 at 10.00 am in Committee Room 'D' (The Henry Bolingbroke Room) - County Hall, Preston**

### **Attendees**

<b>Teacher Associations</b>	Mr P Martin (ASCL) (Chair) Ms J Gordon (ATL)
<b>Church of England</b>	Mr J Wilson Mrs J O'Rourke Mrs H Sage Ms L Horobin
<b>Roman Catholic Church</b>	Mr B McMullen
<b>Lancashire County Council</b>	CC A Cheetham CC S Malik CC Y Motala (Deputy Chair)
<b>Representing Islam</b>	Mr A Qureshi Mufti K Ibrahim
<b>Representing Hinduism</b>	Mr I Tailor
<b>Representing Higher Education Sector</b>	Ms C Reade
<b>Representing the LASGB</b>	Mrs J Hamid substituting for Mrs K Cooper
<b>Representing Building Bridges Burnley</b>	Mrs S Majeed

### **Observers**

<b>Representing the Bahá'í Faith</b>	Dr Malcolm Craig
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### **Officers**

Mrs A Lloyd – Advisor (School Improvement), Lancashire County Council, Children and Young People Directorate

Mrs M Mahmood – Senior Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council, Legal and Democratic Services

Mr G Harbison – Committee Support Officer, Lancashire County Council, Legal and Democratic Services

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs H Shukla, Ms J Harris, Ms J Roper, Ms S Elton-Chalcraft, Mufti J Pathan, Mrs T Safraz and CC P Steen.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 26 November 2018**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26 November 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

## **3. Secretary of State's Response to the Final Report on the Commission on Religious Education**

The Chair, Mr P Martin informed members that a response would be made to the Secretary of State's response to the final report on the Commission on Religious Education.

Lancashire SACRE could comment on the response through the NASACRE. A draft response to the Secretary of State's letter would be brought to the next SACRE meeting in April.

## **4. Report on Training Opportunities and Advice Provided to Schools Since the Start of Term**

Mrs A Lloyd updated SACRE members on training opportunities and advice provided to schools since the start of term.

There was positive feedback on the free training provided to teachers who had contacted the LA officer to express difficulties in the delivery of the Agreed Syllabus.

It was hoped the postponed pupil debate would be reconvened in March.

Three primary school teachers had been invited to join a working group to write the remaining exemplification material, this would be led by Joanne Harris.

Training had been provided by Ms J Harris and Mr L Blaylock, on assessments using the new syllabus materials. The course had been fully booked with 24 attendees and the feedback had been positive.

Network meetings were taking place as follows:

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Hapton Primary, Burnley  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Lea Community Primary, Preston  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Bowerham Primary, Lancaster  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Pinfold Primary, Scarisbrick

Bespoke consultancies had been bought in by St Nicholas CE Primary, Newchurch and the 'Shares' Cluster, Skelmersdale.

The Chair thanked Mrs A Lloyd and Ms J Harris for the support they provided to schools and teachers.

In terms of advice provided, a school in Preston had sought advice on how to respond to a request for withdrawal from a parent seeking alternative Religious Education provision for their child. A school in Chorley had requested advice on how to respond to requests for Muslim pupils to pray in school. It was noted by members that prayers could be performed in approximately five minutes and it was felt schools should be willing and open to provide a quiet sheltered area for this purpose.

## **5. Sample New Exemplification Units**

Mrs A Lloyd shared new exemplification units with SACRE members for Sikhism and Hinduism. The exemplification units that had been completed had been received very positively to date and as discussed under the previous item a working group would be convened to complete the remaining exemplification units.

Members enquired what remit, if any, the SACRE had on Religious Sex Education (RSE) in light of all the recent press coverage. It was noted that RSE did not fall in the remit of the SACRE and was a separate subject area. Ms C Reade was due to attend an upcoming conference on this and would be happy to report back to members. The consultation document was readily available online.

It was highlighted that schools must comply with the Equality Act, however in all schools the religious background of all pupils must be taken into account when planning teaching so that sensitive topics were appropriately handled.

It was agreed that this item could be considered further at the next SACRE QSS meeting.

## **6. QSS Agenda**

It was noted that the QSS meeting in January had been cancelled. Items for the next QSS agenda included the following:

- A draft response to the Secretary of State for Education, Damian Hinds' letter.
- Withdrawal Policy
- RSE – Draft for consultation document If possible a SRE advisor could also be invited.

## **7. Building Bridges Report**

Mrs S Majeed informed SACRE members that 14 schools had signed up to the Service Level Agreement with Burnley Building Bridges (BBB). The project had gone live at the end of November 2018. There was also 26 schools pending who were still sorting out their SLA documents.

Mrs S Majeed explained the various ways of delivery including visits to places of worship and school assemblies and sessions were made as fun and interactive as possible for students.

A discussion took place about online booking systems for schools and Mufti K Ibrahim shared details of the online booking system his mosque used, Quwwatul Islam Masjid for school visits which was a very simple online form and was very effective. The Gujrat Hindu Society also had a similar online booking system for schools.

BBB would be holding a three day training session in conjunction with Lancashire Forum of Faiths with the aim of increasing the network of available volunteers.

SACRE members thanked Mrs S Majeed for the update on progress with schools.

## **8. SACRE Representation and Membership Update**

It was hoped that a Jewish representative had been found for the SACRE. Representatives for Buddhism and Sikhism were still required and a discussion took place about useful contacts who may be able to help.

## **9. School Visit - Final Preparations**

SACRE members were informed that Mr P Martin, Ms C Reade and Ms J Roper would be visiting a school in Lancaster in February and an update could be included in the next Newsletter.

## **10. NASACRE Conference Information**

The next NASACRE conference would be taking place on 22 May 2019 in Manchester and the Chair and Mrs A Lloyd would be attending.

## **11. Newsletter - Gathering Content**

SACRE members were informed that some topics in the next newsletter would include:

- Mrs J O'Rourke's update on her visit to Marsden Heights.

- Information on the withdrawal process.
- A brief comment on the Secretary of State for Education's response letter to the final report on the Commission on Religious Education.

## **12. Lancashire Youth Voice**

There was no report on Lancashire Youth Voice.

## **13. Members' News**

The Lancashire Council of Mosques in partnership with the Physics Department at UCLAN were holding a seminars on the 26 March 2019 on the universe, explaining how it started and where we are at now.

## **14. Observers' Contributions**

There were no observers' contributions.

## **15. Correspondence**

There was no further correspondence to discuss.

## **16. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the SACRE would be held at 10:00am on Monday 29 April 2019 in Cabinet Room D – The Henry Bolingbroke Room, at County Hall, Preston.

Paul Bond  
Clerk to the SACRE

County Hall  
Preston