

# Minutes



## STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7.15pm

Present: Rev M Williams (B) (Chair) Mrs M Cockram (C)  
(Groups in Mrs R Johnson (A) Miss V M Stone (C)  
brackets) Mrs J Speck (C) Mr S Ellingham (C)  
Revd. D Smith (A) Mrs A Huneke (D)  
Cllr C Williams (D) Mrs M Horlock (B)  
Cllr N Patel (D)

Apologies: Mrs C Smyth (B)  
Cllr M Saqib (D)

Absent without Mr L Bracken (A)  
apologies:

In attendance: Ms P Smith-Orr - Consultant/Observer  
Mrs P Garry – Clerk  
Mr Mukesh Rao, Hindu Community  
Ms Karen Stanley-Bristowe, Deputy HT at  
All Saints' Benhilton  
Mr Paul Solomon, Sutton & District United  
Synagogue

|    | ITEM   | ACTION BY |
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| 1. | <b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b><br><br>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.<br><br>The Chair also welcomed Mr Mukesh Rao, Mr Paul Solomon and Ms Karen Stanley-Bristowe who were joining the meeting as observers and who would hopefully, following nominations, join Groups A and C. |           |
| 2. | <b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b><br><br>Apologies had been received from Cllr M Saqib and Mrs Christine Smyth and were consented. Mr Bracken was absent from the meeting.  |           |
| 3. | <b>MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018</b><br><br>The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.<br><br>Some actions had been completed, and those not already elsewhere on the agenda are further discussed under Matters Arising below.                 |           |

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| 4. | <p><b>MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA</b></p> <p><b>Page 1 - SACRE Budget.</b> MW explained that he had been in touch with Cognus but was still waiting for a full breakdown of some of their charges against the SACRE budget.</p>  |    |
| 5. | <p><b>APPOINTMENT OF SACRE MEMBERS</b></p> <p><b>Constitution</b><br/>MW explained to all new members how the constitution was set up and that in order to be quorate at least one third of all members need to be present with at least one representative from each of the four groups. MW also discussed some changes required to wording in respect of membership of the various groups. He proposed the following changes:</p> <p><b>Group A.</b> To read ‘up to 8 members other than Church of England and other religions and belief systems <i>who are nominated by a recognised and approved body within the faith.</i></p> <p><b>Group C.</b> The Title should simply be “Teachers”. And should read “<i>nominated by local schools or organisations</i>”.</p> <p>Under item 2.7 <b>Clerk to the Council</b> and 2.8 <b>RE consultant.</b> Both should say “<i>appointed by Sutton Council or their agent</i>”.</p> <p><b>RESOLUTION: SACRE Members agreed the proposed changes to the constitution.</b></p> <p>It was noted that there is still a lack of diversity in terms of representatives from a wide range of religions and this will be addressed as an item within the Development Plan.</p> <p><b>SACRE Membership</b><br/>MW has emailed Mr Siddiqi but has not followed up with Mr Dawson as yet.</p> <p><b>Outstanding Action: MW to confirm at the next meeting in respect of Mr Siddiqi’s membership and also to contact John Dawson at the Methodist Church about a representative.</b></p> <p>MW discussed the current membership and which group the new members would belong to should they decide to join. Groups B and D will still be one member short.</p> | MW |
| 6. | <p><b>MONITORING RE AND CW IN SUTTON</b></p> <p>Members had further looked at some school websites and updated SACRE on their observations.</p> <p>Out of 28 schools, 10 mention the Sutton RE Syllabus. In 19 schools there was mention of collective worship. The references to RE were mostly on the primary school websites with the secondary schools really only referencing if they offer RE at GCSE level. SE agreed that there is often very little mention of collective worship.</p>  |    |

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|    | <p>RJ had observed that Wallington Boys' RE Syllabus for KS3 was taking a philosophical approach and at GCSE referenced Christianity and Buddhism. MC agreed that there was more at KS3. Westbourne's website showed a high regard for RE. All Saints Benhilton's references were very good.</p> <p><b>Action: PS-O will now send letters to schools in a more general fashion commenting about the review and that some really good examples have been seen etc. She will also flag up the locally agreed syllabus. Following a later discussion in item 9. PS-O will also include a paragraph around Faith Ambassadors.</b></p>   | PS-O          |
| 7. | <p><b>SUTTON SACRE ANNUAL REPORT</b></p> <p>RJ noted some duplication on pages 4 and 6. The attendance table also needs to be updated to reflect attendance out of a possible number for those people who left SACRE before the end of the summer term.</p> <p><b>Action: PG will update the document and re-submit for uploading to the SACRE page. PS-O will submit the revised version to NASACRE.</b></p>   | PG            |
| 8. | <p><b>NASACRE AGM IN MANCHESTER</b></p> <p>The AGM will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> May in Manchester. SACRE members were asked to consider attending as a representative of Sutton SACRE. PS-O will try and establish what the themes are this year.</p> <p><b>Action: SACRE members to advise the Clerk if they are able to attend the conference. The first member to express an interest will be booked onto the event.</b></p>   | SACRE members |
| 9. | <p><b>SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019</b></p> <p>The new January 2019 to December 2019 development plan was discussed and progress noted.</p> <p><b>Actions: PG will update the progress against each item.</b></p> <p>An in depth conversation took place around Item 6 – Faith Ambassadors in Schools.</p> <p>Members noted that the original idea was to get secondary school children to visit primary schools (following some training) to talk about a festival or particular practice within a faith.</p> <p>SE commented that there are already a few young people running Christian Union groups within schools. JS said that although the previous initiative had been with Sixth Formers it could be opened up to the younger children. PS-O said that they would need to be confident enough to do it and to be able to get to the primary school either independently or with parental support.</p> <p>MR said that he had someone in mind and asked if the children would have to be from Sutton, to which PS-O responded that the difficulty would be with schools allowing their pupils time out of school to visit schools that were not in their borough.</p> | PG            |

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|            | <p><b>Actions:</b><br/> <b>MR will make some enquiries and liaise with PS-O.</b><br/> <b>JS will send a brief report of how the Sixth Formers at Sutton High approached this previously</b><br/> <b>PS-O will include reference to Faith Ambassadors in letter to schools about websites (see Action under Item 6)</b></p> <p><b>Item 8 – Identify Key Stakeholders from the Faith Communities</b><br/> As discussed under Item 5 of these minutes, several potential new members have already been identified and MW is contacting the Muslim community and Methodists.</p> <p><b>Community Links</b><br/> CW reported back on what the Council are doing in this area. There is now another five years' funding allocated for Community Action Sutton which includes the Faith &amp; Belief Forum. There will be a Buddhist new year Festival event on 14<sup>th</sup> April and other events in May and June. MR reported that some of the Sutton Indian community held an open event with songs and praise recently. NP had represented Hinduism at a recent event at the Muslim Mosque.</p> <p>MW informed members of two Open Days on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> March at the Carshalton Mosque. The Clerk will circulate the flyer.</p> <p>SE informed members of some Easter Experience events (interactive events consisting of year 4 children where themselves and guests can act out Easter scenes). There is an event at Carshalton Methodist Trinity URC on 6<sup>th</sup> March and at North Cheam Baptist Church on 24<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p><b>Faith and Belief Forum</b><br/> MW and PS had both been unable to attend the last meeting of the forum. MW said that it is important to try and identify some links to open up discussions around SACRE and for places that schools can visit. DS commented that the old forum was very respectful and was about promoting social cohesion and recognising each other's beliefs.</p> | <p><b>MR</b><br/> <b>JS</b></p> <p><b>PS-O</b></p> |
| <b>10.</b> | <p><b>SACRE SELF EVALUATION (RE TOOL)</b></p> <p>Members split into mixed groups to read through the RE Tool and collated their feedback for PS-O.</p> <p>Further to the discussion under item 9. Above, some members had focused on local initiatives and how to get information in and out of SACRE.</p>   |  |
| <b>12.</b> | <p><b>RE CO-ORDINATORS MEETINGS AND SCHOOL VISITS</b></p> <p>The RE Co-coordinators meeting had taken place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January at Cognus' offices and focused on assessment. The next one will be on 21<sup>st</sup> May and PS-O is trying to see if there is a local place of worship that the Co-ordinators could visit on that day.</p> <p>PS-O had not yet visited any schools this term.</p>   |  |
| <b>13.</b> | <p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>Education Terms</b></p>   |  |

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|            | Members noted the useful list of educational terms produced by PS-O and circulated with the papers.   |  |
| <b>14.</b> | <b>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</b><br><b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 7.15pm</b><br><b>NEW Venue: The Study, Sutton High School, Cheam Road, Sutton</b> |  |

Closing Time of Meeting: 9.05pm

Chair's Signature ..... Date.....