

Minutes



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Tuesday 7th June 2022 at 7.15pm held at Sutton High School, Cheam Road, Sutton

Present: Miss V M Stone (C) (Chair) Mrs Justine Speck (C)
(Groups in Mrs M Cockram (C) Mr Lewis Owens (B)
brackets) Ms Megan Morgan (B) Councillor Patrick Ogbonna (D)
Mrs Usma Hussein (A)

In attendance: Mrs Penny Smith-Orr (Consultant)
Mrs Penny Garry (Clerk)

Apologies: Mr Vince Burke (A) Mrs R Johnson (A)
Mrs Uzma Mobin (C) Ms Rebecca Bishop (C)
Councillor Christopher Woolmer (C)

Absent: Mr S Uddin (A) Mr Paul Solomon (A)
Mr L Bracken (A) Mr S Ellingham (C)
Mr Mukesh Rao (A) Mr Marcus Cooper (B)

	ITEM	ACTION BY
1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies had been received from Mr V Burke, Ms R Johnson, Mrs Mobin and Ms Bishop and were consented. Action: there were several members absent and the Clerk will follow up and ask members to notify her in advance if they are unable to attend.	PG
3.	MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8TH MARCH 2022 The minutes were agreed and will be signed as a true record subject to noting that under item 8, the Ramadan guidance was sent to all schools not just Early Years.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA Ms Cockram confirmed that she had attended the NASACRE SEF Training.	

5.	<p>APPOINTMENT OF SACRE MEMBERS</p> <p>Members noted the contributions of the previous Group D LA Members and thanked them for their service to SACRE.</p> <p>Council elections have taken place and SACRE were pleased to welcome Councillor Patrick Ogbonna to the meeting. Councillor Woolmer has also been appointed but was unable to attend this evening due to a previous Council commitment.</p>	
6.	<p>UPDATE ON SUTTON FAITH & BELIEF FORUM</p> <p>Mr Solomon was not present at the meeting. The Clerk will follow up with him to see if there is any update that could be circulated by email.</p>	
7.	<p>MONITORING RE AND CW IN SUTTON</p> <p>WIRE Award Mrs Smith-Orr explained to the new members what the WIRE Award is.</p> <p>A member asked about how the award is publicised and heard that it is publicised at the RE Co-ordinators Network Meetings, it is on the SACRE webpage and also details of it were sent out to all schools when it was launched two years ago.</p> <p>Six schools in total have applied with two of those being in the last term. One school, Bandon Hill, has achieved the award and been presented with their certificate just at the beginning of the Pandemic. Mrs Smith-Orr has reminded those schools who are in the process of working on the award.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk will ask Cognus to send out details of the Wire Award for the attention of the RE Co-ordinator (or subject lead) in September. • Mrs Smith-Orr will arrange for her newsletter item on SACRE within the Council's bulletin to also mention it. • Mrs Smith-Orr will contact Bandon Hill to ask them if they could produce a testimonial around the benefits of undertaking the award. • Ms Cockram will ask Mr Burke to publicise the WIRE Award at the Headteacher's meeting. • Councillor Ogbonna will mention the WIRE Award when he visits schools. <p>Collective Worship and School Websites Mrs Smith-Orr is still in the process of checking the websites of those schools who made no mention of Collective Worship. She will then contact them in September.</p>	<p>PG</p> <p>PS-O PS-O</p> <p>MC PO</p>
8.	<p>SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022</p> <p>Actions against the plan were discussed and will be updated on the document. Some of the following were noted:</p> <p>Item 1– Self-Evaluation. Members agreed that it will be much better to</p>	

	<p>undertake the exercise in person, particularly as there are so many new members and it was agreed that this will take place in November.</p> <p>Item 8, SACRE membership. Only two new Councillors have been appointed for four vacancies.</p> <p>Item 1 – Training on Determinations. This has taken place this evening.</p> <p>Item 9 – WIRE Award. Mrs Smith-Orr has asked members to let her know of two places of worship that they are aware of in order that she can begin to compile a Places of Worship contact list for schools.</p> <p>Action: the new Development Plan for September 2022 to August 2023 will be sent out to members over the summer for comment.</p>	PS-O
9.	<p>RE CO-ORDINATORS MEETINGS AND SCHOOL VISITS</p> <p>A meeting took place today on 7th June and 10 people attended. The topic of the meeting was pilgrimage and The Haj and the skills that need to be taught in RE matched to the key skills in the curriculum. The group also discussed their concerns around having to write down questions for the children to answer about their prior learning as this takes up a lot of time which could be spent teaching the subject. Mrs Smith-Orr suggested that they could keep an RE book which travelled with them through each year group. The Sutton syllabus does provide for re-visiting of the same topics in greater depth.</p> <p>Councillor Ogbonna asked about the recommended teaching time for RE in school and heard that it is 50 minutes per week for Key Stage 1 and 1 hour and 10 minutes for Key Stages 2 and 3. The local syllabus is developed by SACRE and, by law, every child must be taught RE and yet it is often squeezed for time. Most church schools do teach more, around 40 minutes three times a week.</p> <p>The next RE Co-ordinators meeting will be on 11th October 2022 and will be held at Victor Seymour in order that the RE Co-ordinators can look at the resources that the school holds for RE teaching (and is happy to loan to other schools).</p>	
10.	<p>UPDATE ON FAITH AMBASSADORS</p> <p>Ms Speck updated members on progress. Four films have been made covering Catholicism, Hinduism and two for Islam and she will arrange to transfer these securely to Mrs Smith-Orr.</p> <p>There will need to be consideration of how these are stored and accessed. The suggestion is that schools will need a password to access them.</p> <p>Action: Mrs Smith-Orr will contact Sutton to see if there is a way to store the resources securely on their website.</p>	PS-O
11.	<p>NASACRE'S AGM</p> <p>The Annual General Meeting took place virtually on 23rd and Ms Stone had attended. Members received a copy of her written report.</p>	

	<p>There were two key note speakers at the conference, the first being Dr. Richard Keuh (from Ofsted) who talked about the Research Review from May 2021 and there was also a discussion around the annual SACRE reports.</p> <p>Ms Stone has also attended an associated workshop.</p> <p>There is also a new NASACRE website which now has a shared space for resources.</p> <p>Ms Stone flagged up some training sessions for SACRE members, the first being on 29th June for new members of SACREs.</p> <p>Analysis of SACRE Annual reports Previously reports were submitted but did not seem to be looked at by anyone. Last year NASACRE appointed someone to analyse these reports. A new template was introduced and Mrs Smith-Orr had used it but from the feedback at the conference it would seem that not everyone did. There were issues reported around meetings being inquorate, SACREs carrying vacancies and the lack of engagement by the local authority in finding members of different faiths for SACREs.</p> <p>Funding of SACREs was discussed but only 33% of the reports mentioned the amount they received. 77% said they received some funding.</p> <p>Only 50% of SACREs were monitoring collective worship.</p> <p>There was very little around what advice SACREs had given local authorities.</p> <p>The Sutton SACRE consultant is in contact with RE Co-ordinators and meets with them termly.</p> <p>Action: There needs to be more communication with the local authority and they should send a representative from the Education Department to SACRE meetings. Ms Stone will write to the Director of Education.</p>	VS
12.	<p>RE REPORT CARD</p> <p>Members were interested to note the report on the state of RE. They noted that GCSE RE entries had increased by 29.7% but it was noted that there was a lull previously as children chose RE rather than have to do it.</p> <p>The report card also mentioned the Ofsted Research Review.</p> <p>Members noted that the report states that there has been no funding for RE projects between 2016 and 2021 although all other subjects e.g. English, maths, science and music have received funding. There has been no funding for training for RE teachers.</p>	
13.	<p>TRAINING SESSION ON DETERMINATIONS</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr delivered a short session on determinations in order that</p>	

	<p>members could have a good understanding of what is involved.</p> <p>If a school does not wish to continue with a broadly Christian collective worship it must apply to SACRE for consideration of whether they can change. It is very rare that schools apply.</p> <p>SACRE members then need to consider all of the evidence and reasons put forward and make a “determination”.</p> <p>The main purpose of a collective worship must be to allow children space to reflect. This can be done through the use of a prayer or a story whereby children sit quietly and think about what they have heard.</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr gave some examples of good collective worship and members’ general view was that it is really important to bring children together.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to attend a collective worship at a school and Mrs Smith-Orr will circulate a document setting out some examples of what they could ask school leaders around this subject.</p> <p>Action: Mrs Smith-Orr to circulate the document on collective worship and determinations.</p>	PS-O
14.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>There was no other business to discuss.</p>	
15.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Tuesday 8th November 2022 at 6.45pm – PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME.</p> <p>Venue: Sutton High School</p>	

Closing Time of Meeting: 9.30pm

Chair’s Signature Date.....