

Minutes



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.15pm held virtually using Google Meet

Present: Miss V M Stone (A) (Chair) Mr Paul Solomon (A)
(Groups in Mrs R Johnson (A) Mrs A Huneke (D)
brackets) Mr L Bracken (A) Mrs Uzma Mobin (C)
Mrs M Cockram (C) Mrs Usma Hussein (A)

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

Apologies: Mr S Ellingham (C) Mrs Justine Speck (C)
Cllr C Williams (D) Ms Rebecca Bishop (C)

Absent: Mr Mukesh Rao (A) Mr L Morrell (B)
Cllr M Gonzalez (D) Cllr N Patel (D)
Mr S Uddin (A)

	ITEM	ACTION BY
1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies had been received from Mr Ellingham, Ms Speck, Cllr Williams and Ms Bishop. The meeting was, again not quorate as there was no representative from Group B. Mrs Smith-Orr had been told by Southwark Diocese that they would be putting forward one or two representatives but nothing more had been heard. Mrs Huneke said that she would see if she could find someone. Action: Mrs Smith-Orr will contact Southwark Diocese about representation for Group B.	PS-O
3.	MINUTES OF MEETING 15 JUNE 2021 The minutes were agreed and will be signed as a true record.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA Item 7 - Monitoring of RE. Mrs Smith Orr explained that she had not pursued the action to contact schools about their websites as she wanted	PS-O

	<p>to allow staff time to settle back in after the disrupted year.</p> <p>Item 12 – NASACRE Funding. Cllr Williams was not at the meeting to give feedback. Carry forward to next meeting.</p> <p>Item 13 – Video Clips from NASACRE Conference. Mrs Smith-Orr has not been able to find out if she can obtain these.</p>	CW
5.	<p>APPOINTMENT OF SACRE MEMBERS</p> <p>Mr Kemp had emailed the clerk indicating that he was stepping down from SACRE.</p> <p>Mr Uddin had been contacted to request his reference letter as the Clerk has still not received this.</p> <p>Action: Mr Uddin will arrange for a letter of representation to be sent to the Clerk.</p>	SU
6.	<p>MONITORING RE AND CW IN SUTTON</p> <p>WIRE Award One school achieved their award and three or four others had indicated that they were completing it but during lockdown Mrs Smith-Orr had been asked about how to cover the evidence re. visits. No-one has since sent in a completed application.</p> <p>Action: Mrs Smith-Orr will promote this when she sends out her newsletter in January and will then chase up the schools that have indicated that they are in the process of completing an application.</p> <p>School Data on Hours of RE Taught in Schools Mrs Smith-Orr talked about the information sent to all SACREs by Deborah Weston, a Research Officer of NATRE. Not all schools responded to the survey and Mrs Smith-Orr highlighted that lots of other local authorities show a decrease in RE and it is felt that this is due to Covid.</p> <p>In response to a question around whether it is likely that SACREs will receive this information regularly, Mrs Smith-Orr said that she was unsure and that this census was done in 2020 and that it would be interesting to see what the situation is in a year's time. She added that SACRE could advise the local authority that schools in their area are not always compliant with the law.</p> <p>Mrs Cockram commented that Greenshaw pupils have RE up to year 10 and then take their exams and so do not do it in year 11. Sutton SchoolsWork is going into some more high schools.</p> <p>Action: Mrs Smith-Orr will update Simon Ellingham around this conversation and see if he could highlight the survey in schools and will also write back to Deborah Weston to explain that SACRE would really welcome another set of data in 2022.</p> <p>SACRE members also heard that Wilsons School call RE Philosophy.</p>	<p>PS-O</p> <p>PS-O</p>

7.	<p>UPDATE ON SUTTON FAITH & BELIEF FORUM</p> <p>Mr Solomon said that it has been very quiet but that he will contact them to see what plans they have.</p>	
8.	<p>UPDATE ON RE AMBASSADORS</p> <p>Ms Speck was not at the meeting but it is assumed that it has still not been possible for pupils to go into schools because of Covid.</p>	
9.	<p>RE CO-ORDINATORS MEETINGS AND SCHOOL VISITS</p> <p>A virtual meeting took place on 6th October and an activity around signs and symbols took place as well as a discussion around the festivals coming up and what people could do to celebrate them. Attendance continues to be higher virtually. Break out rooms were set up which enables teachers to talk to each other.</p> <p>There are some new co-ordinators and, in fact, most RE Co-ordinators are either long standing or new to the role. Mrs Smith-Orr is setting up a new Co-ordinators meeting for 30th November to help them understand what their role entails.</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr still receives emails from Sutton teachers asking questions about RE or the syllabus.</p> <p>Miss Stone suggested that they could set up meetings between themselves and feedback to the Co-ordinators' meetings.</p> <p>The next meeting will be on 3rd February 2022.</p>	
10.	<p>RELIGION AND WORLD VIEWS</p> <p>Presentation on Religion and World Views</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr reported back on a talk given by Professor Trevor Cooling. The core report came out around 2017 and the media picked up on the idea of a national entitlement and took this to be a national syllabus and then reported that people wanted to change the name to Religion and World Views.</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr said that Sutton schools do better than many others.</p> <p>To expand on what world views are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The philosophy of life or an approach to life. • Each person's world view is different and is influenced by a belief system or values taught to them, behaviour, experiences. <p>Professor Colling says that schools teach world religions separately and suggests that a world view paradigm is the way to proceed.</p> <p>He also says we have already had a shift and that in 1944 Education Act, RE was specifically around how to be a good Christian through Bible stories and rules of Christianity (e.g. the ten commandments). From 1988 onwards there has been a shift to not teaching how to be "something" but</p>	

	<p>to educating children about the world's faiths and beliefs.</p> <p>He suggests that there are currently a set of boxes and that each religion or faith is taught separately. Mrs Smith-Orr said that in the Sutton syllabus there is already comparative teaching and look at the similarities in writings and the rules that faithful people follow.</p> <p>World Views should show that religion is an experience which is not fixed and that we should be teaching about the context of religion in the current time. Mrs Smith-Orr said she feels that we know that we have different strands of religions but the law says we can't teach with a denominational approach.</p> <p>There are differences in the world religions paradigm but Professor Cooling wants a move to interpreting significance and interpreting and taking into account pupils' personal knowledge.</p> <p>The National Entitlement will be localised syllabi but with provisos that you will recognise and reflect on the different complexities of worldviews.</p> <p>NASACRE are offering online training events around this.</p> <p>Mrs Mobin asked if the local authority will be changing the syllabus. Mrs Smith-Orr replied that this is not imminent and will require a lot of discussion should it be proposed. The current syllabus has developed anyway and does encompass world view ways of teaching.</p> <p>Mrs Johnson said that religion is now definitely more about lifestyle than facts and rules and it is good to encourage students to follow their own world views. It is hoped that schools are providing a variety of activities. Mrs Mobin said it is about looking for the similarities across the religions and views.</p> <p>Mr Solomon commented that as a child he went to a secondary school that only had Protestants and Jews and there was no RE taught. Mrs Johnson said that there are so many more religions now represented across the population of the UK. Miss Stone agreed and said that the teaching of RE has changed a lot over the years.</p> <p>Mr Bracken said children should understand the emotions behind some of the religious beliefs. Mrs Mobin cautioned that some of these beliefs are more about culture and economics.</p>	
11.	<p>SACRE SELF-EVALUATION</p> <p>There is a new format for SACRE evaluation and with a lot of new SACRE members now since the last evaluation was carried out, it was felt that some time would be needed to fully digest and complete the evaluation.</p> <p>Action: All SACRE members are asked to read the guidance document and complete, by 19th December, the evaluation questions on a separate spreadsheet which the Clerk will format and circulate. This will enable further analysis of SACRE's strengths and areas for development</p>	<p>All SACRE Members / PG</p>

12.	<p>SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021</p> <p>The 2021 plan was reviewed and most updates had been discussed as part of the item discussions. The updates for the Spring & Summer will be added to the plan.</p> <p>It was agreed that a new plan should follow the academic year i.e. Sept 21 to July 22.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk/Mrs Smith-Orr will update the current plan and finalise with progress and circulate to members. Mrs Smith-Orr will create a new plan for 2021-2022</p>	Clerk/ PS-O
13.	<p>SACRE ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr is writing the annual report which will be sent to the DfE and NASACRE by 31st December.</p> <p>There is a new template which is standardised across SACREs and the DfE now have a dedicated person to analyse these reports. Most SACREs are now writing their reports to match the academic year.</p> <p>Action: Mrs Smith-Orr will finalise the report and Miss Stone will add her commentary.</p>	PS-O- VS
14.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Thanks from the previous Chair of SACRE Mrs Stone had received a letter thanking everyone for the very kind gift he had received from SACRE.</p> <p>NASACRE AGM Miss Stone prompted members in advance that the next AGM would be on 23rd May 2022. She also drew members' attention to the awards for SACREs which might provoke some ideas and also the training programme for 2021-2022.</p> <p>Interfaith Week and Holocaust Memorial Day SACRE members noted the Interfaith Week which takes place 14th – 21st November and also the upcoming Holocaust Memorial Day in January.</p>	
15.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 7.15pm</p> <p>Venue: To be confirmed but likely to be held virtually using Zoom.</p>	

Closing Time of Meeting: 8.45pm

Chair's Signature Date.....