

Minutes



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 6.45pm

held at St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School, London Road, Sutton, Surrey SM3 9DL

Present: Miss V M Stone (C) (Chair) Mr Lewis Owens (B)
 (Groups in Mrs Claire Ramalli (Consultant) Mr S Ellingham (C)
 brackets) Mrs Rosey Johnson (A) Mrs Uzma Mobin (C)
 Mr Vince Burke (A) Councillor Patrick Ogbonna (D)
 Mrs Uzma Hussein (A)

In attendance: Mrs Penny Garry (Clerk)

Apologies: Ms Kareen Hewitt (B) Ms Pia Longman (B)
 Mr Chris Lynch (A) Councillor Christopher Woolmer (D)
 Ms Megan Morgan (B) Mr Abhinav Kant (A)

Absent: Mr Paul Solomon (A) Miss Rebecca Bishop (C)
 Mr Sal Uddin (A)

	ITEM	ACTION BY
1.	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Ms Kareen Hewitt, Councillor C Woolmer, Mr C Lynch, Ms M Morgan and Ms Pia Longman and were consented.</p> <p>Mr Sal Uddin, Miss Rebecca Bishop and Mr Paul Solomon were absent from the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25TH JUNE 2024</p> <p>The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>	
4.	<p>ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR</p> <p>Miss Stone said she was willing to stand as Chair for a further year and there were no other nominations. The current Vice-Chair, Sal Uddin was absent from the meeting. Mr Burke agreed to take up the position of Vice-Chair if Mr Uddin does not wish to stand again.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to email Mr Uddin to see if he wishes to remain as Vice-Chair. If not, Mr Burke will take up this position.</p>	

5.	<p>MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA</p> <p>There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.</p>	
6.	<p>APPOINTMENT OF SACRE MEMBERS</p> <p>There were no new appointments to the membership of SACRE.</p> <p>Miss Stone had managed to contact Ms Longman (Southwark Diocese rep) and the email the clerk had been given was incorrect.</p>	
7.	<p>REPORT ON SACRE MEMBERS TRAINING</p> <p>Mr Burke had attended training on the Ofsted report on RE. The general findings had been that RE was not a priority and there was no cyclical curriculum</p> <p>Ms Ramalli had attended NASACRE in Conversation.</p> <p>All SACRE members were reminded that Sutton SACRE buys into an annual webinar training programme with NASACRE and they should all try to undertake at least one training course across the year.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk will send details out again of how to access and register for the online courses.</p>	PG
8.	<p>MONITORING RE AND CW IN SUTTON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIRE Award – update on re-design of application forms The clerk has updated the application form and certificate but would like SACRE members views on the new form/logos etc. <p>Action: Clerk to circulate the revised forms for comment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results from School Website Reviews SACRE members were thanked for their input in reviewing the websites. The clerk had collected the results of these onto a spreadsheet. <p>In summary, the mention of collective worship is almost non-existent on websites. Mr Ellingham observed that some schools have said that the local vicar visits but in his experience they don't.</p> <p>Cllr Ogbonna said that some are simply saying that they do not do it.</p> <p>Mr Burke said that Ofsted require schools to publish their curriculum and would check this is you were being inspected. They must also publish the content of subjects and information about the parents' right to withdraw a child from RE.</p> <p>Following a discussion about how to address this, Ms Ramalli agreed to raise it at the RE Co-ordinators meetings. The general view was that schools must be told as it is a responsibility of SACRE to monitor this. A letter could be written highlighting that the website mentions RE (or not) and also informing them that there will be a new syllabus coming out next Autumn.</p>	PG

	<p>Action: Ms Ramalli will mention the school website to RE Co-ordinators and Miss Stone will write a letter to headteachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith ambassadors - Redbridge example SACRE members discussed the previous efforts to get this initiative up and running but it had not happened. Ms Mobin said that pupils could do this as part of the volunteering element of their Duke of Edinburgh award. Ms Johnson mentioned the need for training and heard that this could be an hour with an RE Co-ordinator. Ms Ramalli said that there is some training on the Interfaith website. <p>Action: Ms Ramalli will talk to RE Co-ordinators about the possibilities of using Faith Ambassadors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grill A Faith Mr Ellingham reported that some events had taken place at Sutton High recently. Secondary schools are interested and this will be followed up. The feedback from Carshalton girls was that it was very helpful to help them understand and build their knowledge for GCSEs. Ms Ramalli said she would like to attend one of these events. 	<p>CR/VS</p> <p>CR</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>RE CO-ORDINATORS MEETINGS AND SCHOOL VISITS</p> <p>RE Co-ordinator Meetings The next meeting will be taking place on 14th January and Ms Ramalli will feedback at the next meeting.</p> <p>School Visits Ms Ramalli has not yet made any visits to schools.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>SACRE 2023-2024 AND 2024-2025 DEVELOPMENT PLAN</p> <p>2023-2024 PLAN Members noted the completed plan and updates within it.</p> <p>2024-2025 PLAN Ms Ramalli has changed this to a three year plan and linked the sections to the Toolkit. Ms Ramalli suggested that it was Rag Rated and SACRE members discussed each element and completed this at the meeting. Highlights of the discussion are as follows:</p> <p>Section 3c – there is a need to think about the launch of the syllabus – it would be good to have a high profile event if possible. Mr Burke suggested it could be pre-launched at the Epsom Headteacher’s Conference in March.</p> <p>Section 3f – this would link to the Ofsted Deep and Meaningful Report.</p> <p>Section 3e – a member asked if this is about writing new units and heard that it is not because it is not a revised syllabus but a completely new one.</p> <p>Section 4 – Mr Burke asked if there is a need to look at the Collective Worship guidance. Ms Ramalli said that there is something called Picture News. SACRE recognises the challenges and that schools are not referencing collective worship. Mr Ellingham said that there is a need to</p>	

	<p>establish what staff understand about collective worship as some schools are concerned about incorporating faith because they might have parents who are upset with this so they avoid it. In his experience schools will provide a topic and Sutton Schoolswork talk for 9 minutes about how a Christian might think about it recognising that other faiths might do it differently. Ms Ramalli acknowledged that collective worship is very different from an assembly.</p> <p>Action: Mr Ellingham will ask Cheam High what their understanding of collective worship is.</p> <p>Mr Burke added that there is a bill going before parliament to look at removing the Christian act of worship.</p> <p>Section 4C – Determinations. SACRE members confirmed that no schools have asked for determinations but there is a policy in place and SACRE members had some training in 2022.</p>	SE
11.	<p>SACRE ANNUAL REPORT.</p> <p>Mrs Ramalli had produced a first draft for comment. SACRE members provided some comments around some typos/formatting.</p>	
12.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Cognus and Sutton Council websites.</p> <p>The clerk had noticed that the name of the RE Consultant needs to be changed on Sutton’s SACRE page and also an update to say the syllabus is currently being reviewed.</p> <p>Cllr Ogbonna highlighted Cognus’ website where this is some information on SACRE – some amendments were also needed to this.</p> <p>Action: Clerk will contact the web admin team at Sutton Council and Cognus to request the updates.</p>	PG
13.	<p>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 6.45pm PRECEDED BY Agreed Syllabus Conference at 6.00pm • Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 6.45pm <p>Venues: Spring term – St. Cecilia’s Primary School, North Cheam. Summer term– possibly Wallington Mosque - to be confirmed in the Spring term.</p>	

Closing Time of Meeting: 8.45pm

Chair’s Signature Date.....