

Minutes



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Tuesday 13th June 2023 at 6.45pm held at Sutton High School, Cheam Road, Sutton

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| Present: (Groups in brackets) | Miss V M Stone (C) (Chair) Mrs Penny Smith-Orr (Consultant) Mr Sal Uddin (A) Mrs Rosey Johnson (A) Mr Vince Burke (A) Ms Megan Morgan (B) | Ms Kareen Hewitt (B) Mr S Ellingham (C) Councillor Christopher Woolmer (D) Councillor Patrick Ogbonna (D) |
| In attendance: | Mrs Penny Garry (Clerk) Ms Laura Compton (Cognus) | |
| Apologies: | Mr Chris Lynch (A) Mr Abhinav Kant (A) Mrs Uzma Hussein (A) Mr Paul Solomon (A) | Mr Lewis Owens (B) Mrs Uzma Mobin (C) Mrs Monica Cockram (C) Miss Rebecca Bishop (C) |

| | ITEM | ACTION BY |
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| 1. | WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. | |
| 2. | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies had been received from, Mr Chris Lynch, Mr Abhinav Kant, Mrs Uzma Hussein, Mrs Uzma Mobin, Mr Lewis Owens, Mrs Monica Cockram and Mr Paul Solomon, Mr Simon Ellingham, Councillor Christopher Woolmer and were consented. Mrs Smyth was absent from the meeting – the clerk will contact Southwark Diocese to enquire about each one’s membership of SACRE. | |
| 3. | MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13TH MARCH 2023 The minutes were agreed and will be signed as a true record subject to two typos highlighted on item 13 “interaction” and “Mosque”. | |
| 4. | MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA Outstanding Actions: RE Co-ordinators Meetings – raising awareness amongst secondary schools – see Item 8. | |

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| | <p>RE Co-ordinators Meetings – money paid by teachers to attend. There is a question around where the money goes. Ms Stone has contacted Cognus and is waiting for a response. Ms Compton said that she will raise this again with Kieran.</p> <p>Faith Ambassadors – Mr Lynch was going to see if there was any interest in some of his pupils at Wilson making some videos. Now that Ms Speck has left the committee, this initiative may need to be re-thought.</p> | |
| <p>5.</p> | <p>APPOINTMENT OF SACRE MEMBERS</p> <p>Councillor Ogbonna was to speak to a contact in the Sikh community to see if they might be interested in joining. He updated the members that he will chase this up.</p> | |
| <p>6.</p> | <p>REPORT ON SACRE MEMBERS TRAINING</p> <p>Councillor Ogbonna had attended the Collective Worship training and had found it useful.</p> <p>All SACRE members are asked to undertake at least one training course across the year. The Clerk will send details out of courses when she receives them but all details can be found on the NASACRE website.</p> | |
| <p>7.</p> | <p>MONITORING RE AND CW IN SUTTON</p> <p>WIRE Award Mrs Smith-Orr had presented the certificate to All Saints' Carshalton where there was a worship and also a celebration about heroes (using David Attenborough as an Example). Mrs Smith-Orr is arranging to visit Robin Hood Infants to present their award.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the new form is on the SACRE website and that she has asked for an article to be in the next Education Bulletin. Mrs Smith-Orr also highlights the award to the RE Co-ordinators.</p> <p>Councillor Ogbonna suggested publicising the WIRE Award in the Sutton Scene and will send details to the Clerk. He also suggested that it should be flagged up with NASACRE that Sutton has made some awards.</p> <p>Nonsuch Primary has contacted Mrs Smith-Orr about the award and were also looking for some training.</p> <p>Action: Mrs Smith-Orr to look to producing a small logo that schools can add to their letterhead and to go on their website.</p> <p>Collective Worship Mr Ellingham has been delivering assemblies in schools and might be able to provide some information on what schools are doing.</p> <p>Mr Burke asked if there is a national guidance document for non-faith schools and Mrs Smith-Orr confirmed that there are some documents available. She added that she had seen a really good collective worship led</p> | <p>PS-O</p> |

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| | <p>by Megan Owens at All Saint's Carshalton.</p> <p>Ms Stone added that the 44 Act is quite out-dated but still in place. Ms Johnson said that the guidance is that collective worship should reflect the fact that Britain is in the main Christian.</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr said that class assemblies often talk about subjects other than RE.</p> <p>Councillor Ogbonna asked how often collective worship must take place and heard that it is every day. It can be done by class, year group or whole school and children usually hear a story and/or prayer and then have a minute of silent reflection.</p> | |
| <p>8.</p> | <p>RE CO-ORDINATORS MEETINGS AND SCHOOL VISITS</p> <p>A meeting took place by Zoom on 12th June 2023 and 12 RE Co-ordinators attended. They discussed the WIRE Award and also talked about having some resources from the Jerusalem Trust including stories about a cat that have a Christian theme. They also looked at various dates coming up to Haj, International Friendship Day and linked this to the Hindu Festival, Rakshubanadu. They also discussed some art ideas in relation to the stories.</p> <p>RE Co-ordinators were all clear that they wanted to go on some visits to places of worship at their next meeting in October. They also wanted to know about the main purpose of each religion. Other things they were interested in were Collective Worship, Buddhism and Assessment.</p> <p>Ms Compton said that they are also welcome to meet at the Cognus offices in Wallington.</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr said that she and Ms Stone will be looking at the resources held at Victor Seymour Primary School. A discussion took place around the need to have resources available for all of the faiths and members felt sure that various religious organisations locally would donate items.</p> <p>Action: Mr Ellingham has links with various churches and places of worship and will ask. Mr Uddin will approach the Morden Mosque to see if there is anything that can be given.</p> <p>There were also discussions about having more than one set of resources possibly in three different areas of the borough. A suggestion was made that they are kept at the Central Library but Mr Burke said that each school should really have their own resources and Mrs Johnson said that, if kept at a school, they could then take ownership.</p> <p>Ms Johnson said that SACRE could also consider applying for a Westhill Award.</p> <p>Action: Mrs Smith-Orr will bring an idea for an application for a Westhill Award to the next meeting.</p> | <p>SE and SU</p> <p>PS-O</p> |

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| | <p>RE Co-ordinators from Secondary Schools Mrs Smith-Orr explained that it is very difficult to get them interested the meetings. Ms Johnson said that often they are specialists and perhaps don't see the need to attend. Said that there is a synergy between spirituality and wellbeing linked to RE. Mr Ellingham agreed and said that Sutton SchoolsWork has been offering projects with a link to RE. Some secondary schools have subsumed RE into PSHE or Philosophy.</p> <p>The suggestion was also made that these secondary RE teachers might be meeting other RE teachers in their own clusters.</p> <p>Action: Mr Ellingham will go out to his contacts in the secondary schools to raise awareness.</p> | SE |
| 9. | <p>UPDATE ON SUTTON FAITH & BELIEF FORUM</p> <p>Mr Solomon was not present at the meeting to provide an update.</p> | |
| 10. | <p>UPDATE ON FAITH AMBASSADORS</p> <p>Ms Speck has now left the committee and Mr Lynch was not present to give an update from Wilsons.</p> <p>It was agreed that further discussion will be needed about how this initiative can continue.</p> | |
| 11. | <p>UPDATE ON GRILL A FAITH</p> <p>Mr Ellingham had arranged this. Year 10 pupils asked some really good questions of a faith representative. There were representatives from Sutton Central Mosque and a local Rector. It was very successful and another event will be planned for the Autumn. Pupils have been invited to the Mosque.</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr said it would be good to have some pictures to include in the annual report. Ms Stone said that a SACRE had reported back on a project like this at the AGM.</p> <p>Councillor Ogbonna asked if some more lead in time could be given. Mr Ellingham said that he will try and get some dates in and invite SACRE members to attend.</p> <p>Action: Mr Ellingham will see if there are any pictures available and also circulate the next date/s in advance and invite SACRE members.</p> | SE |
| 12. | <p>SACRE 2022-2023 DEVELOPMENT PLAN</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr went through the development plan – some progress has been made and, in some other areas, it has stalled.</p> <p>Item 4 – Monitor Standards/Exam Results – these were not included in the Annual Report as they were not available.</p> | |

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| | <p>Item 5 – new course for RE Co-ordinators. Mrs Smith-Orr will be doing a course in September for new RE Co-ordinators.</p> <p>Item 6 - support for RE Co-ordinators. Mrs Smith-Orr had visited Donna Pullen at Stanley Park to help her with RE.</p> <p>Item 7 – Faith Ambassadors – a conversation need to take place about how to take this forward.</p> <p>Item 8 – Guidance document for RE Teachers. Mrs Smith-Orr suggested a document around different considerations for different faiths in terms of arranging events that might clash with festivals, clothing, jewellery etc. Members felt that there was information available and that this would not be a good use of Mrs Smith-Orr’s time.</p> <p>Item 9 – Widening membership of SACRE. As previously mentioned Councillor Ogbonna will ask the Sikh person he knows if they would like to attend.</p> | |
| 13. | <p>NASACRE AGM</p> <p>AGM Ms Stone circulated a written report from the Conference with summaries of the two speakers’ presentations. The speeches are on the NASACRE website.</p> <p>Ms Johnson said it had been interesting to hear other SACREs are facing similar issues.</p> <p>SACRE Budgets were discussed and Ms Johnson reported that many SACREs received large amounts for syllabus reviews. Mrs Smith-Orr said that it should be available but is not always forthcoming. Prices for external syllabi are extremely high and can be up to £20,000.</p> <p>Members heard that £1.8m is given to schools and it is recommended that 2% (£37,000) is given to SACRE but most get less, although some were getting more. There was a big difference across the country.</p> <p>Action: Ms Compton said that she would be happy to arrange to send budget information to the Chair quarterly.</p> | LC |
| 14. | <p>ANALYSIS OF SACRE ANNUAL REPORTS.</p> <p>This was discussed at the AGM. There are one or two SACREs who have not completed reports and it is not known if this is because they are not active.</p> | |
| 15. | <p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>No other business had been submitted to the Clerk.</p> | |
| 16. | <p>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 6.45pm | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 6.45pm*• Tuesday 25th June 2024 at 6.45pm* <p>Venue: Autumn term - St. Cecilia's Primary School in North Cheam.</p> <p>*Spring and Summer Venues to be confirmed in Autumn term.</p> | |
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Closing Time of Meeting: 8.38pm

Chair's Signature Date.....