

Minutes



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Tuesday 6th November 2018 at 7.15pm

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

Apologies: Cllr N Patel (D)

Absent without
apologies: Mrs C Smyth (B)

In attendance: Ms P Smith-Orr - Consultant/Observer
Mrs P Garry – Clerk

	ITEM	ACTION BY
1.	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that, following the local council elections, Cllr Patel, Cllr Williams and Cllr Saqib had been elected to SACRE alongside the Conservative representative Mrs Huneke.</p> <p>The Chair also welcomed Mrs M Horlock representing the Diocese (Group B) and Mrs J Spreck from Sutton High School who, it is proposed, will join the committee under Group C (a letter from her school had been received) and Mr Simon Ellingham who will replace Sarah from Sutton Schoolswork.</p>	
2.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Cllr N Patel and were consented.</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2018</p> <p>The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.</p> <p>Some actions had been completed, and those not already elsewhere on the agenda are further discussed under Matters Arising below.</p>	
4.	<p>MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA</p> <p>Page 1 - SACRE Budget. MW explained that he had received some information from Cognus about the SACRE budget but that more analysis is needed. It would seem that Cognus take an administration fee from the</p>	

	<p>budget and clarity is needed around this. It is unclear whether room charges at the Civic Centre are applied. JS said that she would see if SACRE could use the facilities at Sutton High for their meetings and, subsequent to the meeting, this was confirmed.</p> <p>PS-O reminded everyone that the Council have a statutory duty to fund a SACRE and that the government provide money to do so.</p> <p>Action: MW and CW will look more closely at the SACRE budget and liaise with Cognus.</p>	<p>MW/CW</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>APPOINTMENT OF SACRE MEMBERS</p> <p>In addition to those new members listed under item 1. Welcome, it was noted that Rabbi Sagal had stepped down from SACRE as he had moved away to another area of London.</p> <p>It was noted that there is still a lack of diversity in terms of representatives from a wide range of religions.</p> <p>Action: MW still to liaise about Mr Siddiqi’s membership and also to contact John Dawson at the Methodist Church about having a representative.</p>	<p>MW</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>NATIONAL NEWS</p> <p>REC (Commission on Religious Education) PS-O advised that the final report was published in September and is on the RE Council’s website.</p> <p>The government have said that they will not look at changing any legislation until Brexit is complete.</p> <p>The recommendations are noted below and would require more than one change in the law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the name from RE to Religion and World Views • Have a national entitlement for the study of Religion and World Views (PS-O commented that RE is still a statutory subject and must be taught to all children through their school life). • Develop non-statutory programmes of study (PS-O added that this doesn’t seem sensible given the recommendation above). • SACREs will no longer have to have an Agreed Syllabus Conference because of the new national entitlement which would be prescribed. • Any review of GCSE and A Level should be done in line with the new national entitlement. • Initial and on-going teacher training (to give more help on how to teach the subject) • Government to allocate funding for CPD and support. • SACREs will still exist but will be called Local Advisory Network for Religion and World Views. They will still be required to submit an annual report. • Funding will be calculated by the size of the local authority in order to enable the group to carry out its activities effectively. • Suggestion to include governors on the new groups • Ofsted will be required to report on whether schools are meeting the new national entitlement. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DfE would consider the impact of school improvement partners on the delivery of RE. • The DfE should review the right of withdrawal from RE lessons and how schools manage this. <p>In response to a question about what RE must include PS-O explained that, currently, the law says that RE must take into account the majority religion of the country (which is Christianity) with input from the five other main faiths. World views are then added in.</p> <p>In response to a question about how this sits with faith schools, PS-O clarified that there is a distinct difference. Church schools have their own ethos but most are very community minded. PS-O added that the Roman Catholic schools have their own national syllabus and others follow the locally agreed syllabus.</p> <p>SACRE members noted that the Diocesan syllabus includes other faiths. PS-O further advised that the Muslim school in Croydon also use the local syllabus to teach about all faiths.</p> <p>DS commented that there is a big difference in teaching children to understand about different faiths and teaching them to practise a particular faith.</p> <p>In summary it would be for the DfE to implement these recommendations by instigating a change in the law.</p> <p>RJ added that RE was not being inspected by Ofsted but, from September 2017, they started looking at a broad and balanced curriculum of which they would expect RE to be included. There is no separate report for the subject.</p> <p>MC added that a lot of time was devoted at the NASACRE AGM to talking about the REC recommendations. Concerns were expressed by attendees that the DfE might not see the significance.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>COLLECTIVE WORSHIP DOCUMENT</p> <p>PS-O advised that she had received some comments from RJ prior to finalising the document. SACRE members had received the document with the meeting papers and noted that it has been sent to primary schools.</p> <p>Action: PS-O will see if the final version can be circulated to secondary schools.</p>	<p>PS-O</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>MONITORING RE AND CW IN SUTTON</p> <p>Members had each been given some school websites to look at and a table to be completed. PS-O advised that she had received some feedback from some SACRE members.</p> <p>There are around 45 primary schools and 15 secondary schools. Of those 22 sites had been checked and of those, 26% did have a reference to RE, 9% actually mentioned the Sutton agreed syllabus and 18% did not mention a syllabus. 1 school said that they were using Discovery RE (which is an external company who adjust the locally agreed syllabus for schools to use at a substantial cost to them). 19% of schools had a reference to collective worship.</p>	

	<p>PS-O noted that there are various schools that say RE is taught discretely – this means that it is not part of a topic.</p> <p>PS-O informed members that SACRE advisers had heard that a lack of any mention of Religious Education on schools’ websites could be a trigger for an inspection. PS-O is trying to establish if this is actually the case.</p> <p>Action: VM, MC, SE, AH, RJ, JS and LB and MW all volunteered to check some more schools by 15th December. PS-O will send them a checklist sheet.</p> <p>Action: PS-O will draft letters to those schools already reviewed and, following the review of more schools, she will write to them and flag up the locally agreed syllabus and the fact that they should have something on their website.</p> <p>SE advised members that he had heard that in one school (at GCSE level) pupils were told that they could not do RE as there were not enough students wishing to do it. PS-O agreed that this was happening and added that RE is no longer included in EBacc or Progress 8 measures.</p> <p>SE asked if SACRE could intervene but it was clarified that SACRE is an advisory body. SE added that schools are seeing, and will continue to see, the deaths of their departments. PS-O advised that an added difficulty is that academies are not required to teach the locally agreed syllabus.</p>	<p>SACRE Members listed and PS-O</p> <p>PS-O</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018</p> <p>The development plan was discussed and progress noted.</p> <p>Item 4 – Monitor standards of RE and CW in Sutton Schools. SE expressed the view that the majority of RE teaching in schools is being delivered by teachers with no specialist RE training. In primary schools it is often delivered by TAs or through PPA cover. MC said that one of the questions raised at NASACRE AGM was around encouraging more teachers into RE.</p> <p>SE said that he knew of one school where there was a particularly dynamic teaching group and they had achieved excellent results.</p> <p>Item 7 – Faith Ambassadors in Schools JS reported that Sutton High had Faith Ambassadors as part of a community service project run by the Head of the Sixth Form. Some of the children had a faith and others didn’t. RJ said that it had proved very difficult to get secondary schools on board. PS-O agreed and said that she had tried to reach a group of secondary school pupils with no success. A further idea was to ask a group of pupils in year 6. MH commented that this could be something that Faith Groups in schools could take up. MC added that there are some Youth SACRES across the country and they had attended the AGM.</p> <p>Actions: PG will update the progress against each item. PS-O will draw up the new Development Plan for January 2019 to December 2019.</p>	<p>PG PS-O</p>

<p>10.</p>	<p>SACRE SELF EVALUATION (RE TOOL)</p> <p>PS-O explained the purpose and method for carrying out the self-evaluation of SACREs. The self-evaluation is usually done in the summer and included in the Annual Report. She added that since there are now so many new members it would be good if they could look through the tool in advance of the next meeting in order to be more confident about the approach to be taken.</p> <p>In addition, there will also be more time available at the next meeting to devote to the exercise.</p> <p>Action: Members to read through the RE Tool in advance of the next meeting and come prepared with questions and to contribute to the evaluation.</p> <p>CW asked if SACRE is linked to any other community organisations but was advised that its only link is the Council and there is very little information provided through them. CW responded that social cohesion doesn't really appear under any Council committee and yet it should underpin the Sutton Plan.</p> <p>MW advised that the Faith and Belief Forum has re-started.</p> <p>PS-O further commented that in Croydon the Council promote community events e.g. Holocaust event and an Eid event with SACRE.</p> <p>Action: CW and MS to look further at community links and report back to the SACRE in February</p>	<p>All SACRE Members</p> <p>CW/MS</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>SACRE ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p>PS-O is working on this and will send to members for any comments prior to submission to NASACRE and the DfE in December.</p> <p>Action: PS-O will circulate the draft report to members for approval prior to submitting to NASACRE.</p>	<p>PS-O</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>RE CO-ORDINATORS MEETINGS AND SCHOOL VISITS</p> <p>The RE Co-coordinators meeting had taken place at Cognus offices and focused on festivals.</p> <p>PS-O had not yet visited any schools this term.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Clerking Costs The Clerk left the meeting at which point the proposed costs for the current academic year were discussed and agreed.</p> <p>Vice-Chair of SACRE MW asked members to think about nominations for the position of Vice-Chair from February 2019.</p> <p>Venue MW thanked Sutton High School for kindly hosting the SACRE meeting at</p>	

	the school. JS responded that this might be possible to do so for all future meetings and that she would let the Clerk know as soon as possible.	
14.	<p>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</p> <p>Tuesday 26th February 2019 at 7.15pm Tuesday 4th June 2019 at 7.15pm</p> <p>NEW Venue: The Study, Sutton High School, Cheam Road, Sutton</p>	

Closing Time of Meeting: 9.00pm

Chair's Signature Date.....