

Recent contacts, etc. with schools, County Hall, etc.
(from 11.1.17 to 29.5.17). Phil André

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11.1.17: attend the SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on RE) meeting, County Hall.

11.1.17: photocopying completed with the help of Vicky, Children's Services, for the 24.1.17 briefing about the new Agreed Syllabus at Lindisfarne Middle.

13.1.17 and 23.1.17: discussions with Tony Nicholls, Ashington High, about a proposed Agreed Syllabus briefing we would like to hold at Ashington High, and about the content of an all-day CPD conference the SACRE would like to arrange, perhaps in Autumn term 2017, utilising the knowledge, skills and understanding of existing SACRE members to help reduce costs.

15.1.17: discussions with Dave Cookson about a possible Agreed Syllabus briefing to be arranged at Ashington High and a cost implication.

15.1.17: discussions with Linda P. about matters arising as a result of the 11.1.17 SACRE meeting.

16.1.17: the SACRE Annual Report is amended to take account of some factual omissions (MBEs, name changes, etc.).

16.1.17: Lindisfarne Middle is updated about the number of teachers attending the 24.1.17 briefing about the new Agreed Syllabus, and domestic arrangements concerning light refreshments.

17.1.17: discussions with Dave C. about a possible RE conference in Summer or Autumn term, and additional people who may attend the 24.1.17 briefing about the new Agreed Syllabus (people representing the CE and RC dioceses).

17.1.17 and 19.1.17: On behalf of the SACRE, I confirm with the NASACRE that the Northumberland SACRE approves the key change to the NASACRE constitution, as contained in a briefing paper for SACRE members discussed during the 11.1.17 SACRE meeting.

18.1.17: the briefing paper mentioned in the item above is forwarded to the NASACRE in the hope our recommended changes to less important aspects of the constitution will enhance the constitution's clarity.

18.1.17, etc.: colleagues attending the 24.1.17 briefing about the new Agreed Syllabus are assured that the briefing will run because enough people are attending.

19.1.17: in the light cast by suggested changes recommended during the 11.1.17 SACRE meeting (a name change for the Distribution List, honours secured by SACRE members), the amended SACRE Annual Report is forwarded to Linda for distribution, etc.

19.1.17: Paul Pettinger at Accord writes to indicate we have not been a winner in this year's Inclusivity Award for SACREs, but Paul says that our bid had many strengths and that we were "a serious candidate" for winning. Off the record, Paul indicates two matters that were crucial in making it difficult to recommend we won.

23.1.17: last minute arrangements are clarified with Lindisfarne Middle for the 24.1.17 RE briefing. 25 people have confirmed they will attend/indicated they might attend.

23.1.17: a high school RE colleague makes contact to say the school is struggling to find him cover so he can attend the RE briefing, 24.1.17 (even though the school knew about the briefing from early November 2016). We discuss possible options to provide cover and what to do to share information should he be unable to join the group.

23.1.17: minutes for the 11.1.17 SACRE meeting are examined on behalf of Linda and a few changes

are made for technical purposes.

24.1.17: lead the briefing about the new RE Agreed Syllabus, 9.00am to 12 midday, at Lindisfarne Middle. 20 teachers attend including two heads of RE/RS in high schools and a middle school headteacher. Excellent buzz, with some teachers promising to liaise with their colleagues within the partnership to discuss who teaches what to enhance continuity and progression.

25.1.17: the contact details of the two heads of RE/RS in high schools who attended the briefing on 24.1.17 exchanged so they can meet to discuss matters of mutual concern.

25.1.17: Word versions of the whole syllabus forwarded to the head of RE, Chantry Middle, so she can begin the task of generating new long-term plans based on the statutory programmes of study, etc.

25.1.17: discussions with the head of RE, Collingwood School and Media Arts College, who seeks information about RE provision in special schools that supplements what was provided at the 24.1.17 briefing which she attended.

25.1.17: as a result of the 24.1.17 briefing, King Edward High offers to host any forthcoming RE/RS-themed events specifically for or relevant to high/secondary teachers.

25.1.17: the first person (the head, Hipsburn Primary) signs up for the second briefing about the new RE Agreed Syllabus, on 30th March at Ashington High. Over the next 5/6 days, 7 more people sign up, some also being heads. Bookings continue to be made up to mid-March.

4.2.17: text edited/drafted for the next SACRE Newsletter.

8.2.17 and 13.2.17: discussions with the head, Shaftoe Trust Primary (Haydon Bridge), and Dave C. about whether a briefing about the new RE Agreed Syllabus can be arranged for the west of the County. It is agreed that such a briefing will take place, and at Shaftoe Trust Primary on 4.5.17.

13.2.17: discussions with the head of RE, Collingwood School and Media Arts College, about a consultation to ensure RE is devoting sufficient time to the Prevent Agenda.

3.3.17: a visit to Swarland Primary near Felton to meet with the head who is responsible for RE. Together we produce a new RE long-term plan shaped by key questions based on the requirements of the new RE Agreed Syllabus and agree suitable assessment tasks linked to each key question. Because classes in Swarland Primary embrace more than one year group, care had to be taken to identify assessment tasks that can easily be differentiated.

5.3.17 and 11.3.17: text edited/drafted for the next SACRE Newsletter.

7.3.17: discussions with the head of RE/RS, The Duchess High, about how to arrange visits to the Islamic Society Mosque, Newcastle University, now that Mahmoud Kurdi no longer hosts such visits.

7.3.17: information about Sunni, Shia and Sufi Muslims forwarded to the head, Swarland Primary, for use in the classroom.

10.3.17: Dave C. and I liaise to provide information in response to a freedom of information request relating to collective worship in Northumberland schools, and whether applications for exemptions have been made in the last two years in relation to collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

10.3.17: the head at Swarland Primary forwards documentation about RE (in particular, documentation about the RE long-term plan and ideas for assessment based on the key questions in the long-term plan) for me to critically evaluate. I recommend only cosmetic changes because

the documentation is of a high quality - but the documentation runs to about 15 pages, so the exercise takes some time.

13.3.17: for both the head and the governing body at Swarland Primary, I write a report describing how work on RE progressed on 3.3.17 and any follow-up actions that resulted from the day, and the outcomes of an RE book scrutiny, also undertaken on 3.3.17.

14.3.17: discussions with Dave C. (and Robert Arckless) about the April 2017 SACRE Newsletter, photocopying for the 30.3.17 Ashington High RE briefing about the Agreed Syllabus, and text to advertise the 4.5.17 RE briefing (which is also about the Agreed Syllabus) at Shaftoe Trust Primary.

16.3.17: a half day consultation with the head of RE at Collingwood School and Media Arts College to update the RE Policy, update the RE long-term plan and ensure that matters to do with the Prevent Agenda and the British values are covered in suitable detail. Advice is provided about how important it is that a display about the British values exists somewhere, especially to keep Ofsted inspectors happy!

17.3.17: discussions with the RE subject lead in Bothal Primary about how to access electronic copies of the RE Agreed Syllabus, and to provide information about the 30.3.17 RE briefing about the syllabus at Ashington High.

24.1.17: discussions with the RE subject lead, Sele First, about how to arrange visits to the Islamic Society Mosque, Newcastle University, now that Mahmoud Kurdi no longer hosts such visits.

26.3.17: discussions with Robert Arckless, Chair of the SACRE, about an article for the April 2017 SACRE Newsletter.

30.3.17: lead (with Tony Nicholls' excellent support) the briefing about the new RE Agreed Syllabus, 9.00am to 12 midday, at Ashington High. 20 teachers attend including two heads of RE/RS in high schools, and middle and special school teachers. Excellent buzz, with some teachers promising to liaise with their colleagues within the partnership to discuss who teaches what to enhance continuity and progression.

3.4.17: contact made with various people to lay to rest the 30.3.17 RE briefing.

4.4.17: discussions with the RE lead, Seaton Sluice Middle, about the RE briefing, 30.3.17, and a forthcoming multicultural/multifaith day in the school (Summer term).

11.4.17: discussions with Robert and Andrea about a possible Muslim representative for the SACRE identified by Josephine Cousins.

24.4.17: discussions with various people, Dave C. included, about a last reminder to be sent to schools about the 4.5.17 briefing about the new RE Agreed Syllabus to be held in Haydon Bridge.

24.4.17: discussions with the RE subject lead, Ponteland First First, about how to arrange visits to the Islamic Society Mosque, Newcastle University, now that Mahmoud Kurdi no longer hosts such visits. If a visit cannot be agreed (the planned one is for CPD purposes), various CPD alternatives are discussed.

24.4.17: discussions with various people in County Hall to firm up arrangements for the layout and distribution of the Summer term SACRE Newsletter.

26.4.17: discussions with the RE subject lead, Seaton Sluice Middle, about arranging an all-day trip to Newcastle for Year 6 pupils with an emphasis on all things Muslim (mosques, supermarkets, Stanhope Street, etc., etc.).

3.5.17: meeting with Dave C. to discuss my work commitments/arrangements for the financial year April 2017 to March 2018, and to discuss ideas for an RE-focused conference to be arranged

for Autumn term 2017. Our ideas for the conference will be shared with the SACRE at its June meeting, and, once the SACRE approves a way forward, planning and preparation will begin in earnest.

4.5.17: lead the briefing about the new RE Agreed Syllabus, 1.00pm to 3.30 pm, at Shafto Trust Primary, Haydon Bridge. 10 teachers attend, including first, primary and middle school teachers and two heads. Excellent buzz, with some teachers promising to liaise with their colleagues to move things forward.

5.5.17: discussions with the head of a voluntary controlled CE school about the RE syllabus such schools must use and the circumstances in which another RE syllabus can be used.

8.5.17: discussions with Dave C. about teachers' responses during the 4.5.17 briefing when told that there might be an RE conference in Autumn term 2017 (the responses were very positive), and discussions with Dave C. about the strengths/weaknesses of the Islamic Diversity Centre based in Newcastle, which, among other things, visits schools to run workshops and CPD sessions.

9.5.17 and 11.5.17: discussions with the head of a voluntary controlled CE school about how to access the new RE Agreed Syllabus, and about possible support that the LA can provide as the syllabus is brought on-stream in-house. Also, discussions about how a voluntary controlled CE school can arrange for at least some pupils to use the CE diocesan syllabus rather than the RE locally agreed syllabus (not very easily, if the legislation and CE guidance is to be believed).

22.5.17: discussions with the RE lead, Seaton Sluice Middle, about a forthcoming Year 6 day trip to Tyne and Wear to focus on Islam. The trip includes a visit to the Al-Azhar Mosque, Laygate, South Shields, and, all being well, the Elswick Road Mosque (to examine the exterior of the building) and nearby M A Brothers halal supermarket.

25.5.17: discussions with staff in Cramlington Learning Village about arranging visits to the Sikh gurdwara at the Big Lamp and a mosque other than the Islamic Society Mosque at Newcastle University, where it appears that visits cannot at present be arranged. Re. the mosque visit, options are provided for Blyth and South Shields.

29.5.17: this list of contacts, etc. firmed up/completed and mailed to Andrea in advance of the next SACRE meeting.