

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At the Annual Meeting of the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** held at County Hall, Morpeth on Wednesday, 7 June 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillor W. Daley
Chairman, in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Crosby, W.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVES

Bainbridge, Mrs. E.

Hudson, C.

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CHURCHES & FAITHS

Van Der Velde, Mrs. D.

Singh, C.

CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES (Observers)

Gibson, Mr. S.

Principal - Secondary Years,
Northumberland Church of England
Academy

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

P. André
D. Cookson

Part-time RE Consultant
Commissioner for Secondary
Education
Democratic Services Officer

Mrs. A. Todd

1. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The membership and terms of reference of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the 2016/17 Council year were reported as set out in Appendix 1 (attached to the signed minutes).

It was noted that an expression of interest had been received from Mariam Khan to attend SACRE as a representative of the Muslim faith. Members welcomed the news and were hopeful arrangements could be made to invite her to the next meeting of SACRE.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that the election of Councillor W. Daley as Chairman of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the ensuing 2017/2018 Council year be noted.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B. Pidcock, Councillor T.N. Thorne, Rev. J. Scott, Miss. F. Gannon, Mrs. J. Cousin, Rev. E.H. Marley and Mrs. C. Butterworth.

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Mrs. Deanna Van Der Velde be re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the 2017/18 Council year.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on 11 January 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

With regard to page item 34 of 11 January 2017 minutes titled Sex and Relationship Education in Northumberland Schools, it was reported that a paper titled PSHE Education/Sex and Relationships Education had been circulated.

6. AN UPDATE OF CONTACTS WITH SCHOOLS AND TRAINING PROVISION

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The SACRE members received an update from Mr Phil André, RE Consultant, about his provision of RE in-service training and contacts with schools since the last related meeting (a copy of which is filed with the signed minutes as Appendix B).

Phil André drew the attention of members to the news regarding this year's Inclusivity Award for SACREs. Members were advised that although the Northumberland SACRE had not been a winner the bid had many strengths. Northumberland had received specific recognition within the awards findings report. It was reported that Peter Pettinger at Accord had indicated that there had been two matters that were crucial in making it difficult to recommend that Northumberland won; Northumberland SACRE did not have a fixed guaranteed budget and other SACREs had more full time in-house support for RE.

The Vice Chair advised that in the future there may be the opportunity to work more closely with neighbouring SACRE's as she was the Chairman of Newcastle's SACRE and had sought to join South Tyneside's SACRE.

The Chair suggested officers investigate the issue regarding a budget for SACRE and thanked all for the positively received bid submitted for the Inclusivity Award.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

7. RE CONFERENCE

SACRE Members discussed ideas for an RE Conference during Autumn Term, 2017 to offer an opportunity for teachers to come together and widen their knowledge and understanding of faiths. Mr Cookson advised that this would be a one day conference at Choppington between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 3.15 p.m. on a date to be confirmed, probably late October/early November. A timetable had been drafted including the opportunity for a number of workshops on all the religions and beliefs that must be taught within schools.

Queries were raised regarding the number of workshops, the time allocated to each workshop and the theme/topic to be discussed on the day.

It was suggested that a learning portal to network and gather resources and knowledge could be established to further help teachers keep up to date on RE. This proposed portal could be promoted at the conference.

Members welcomed the idea for an RE Conference and agreed that it would be a great event to establish networking links and hoped that teachers would find the event extremely valuable.

Officers agreed to advance further with the planning of the conference and advised

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SACRE members that they would be informed of progress made before the start of the school summer holidays.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

8. NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE NEWSLETTER

(a) Members received a copy of the 34th issue of the Northumberland SACRE Newsletter, dated April 2017, that had been circulated to all schools and is published on the schools' website (a copy of which is filed with the signed minutes).

Members welcomed the new style of the newsletter but suggested the faith symbols that were visible on the first page of the old newsletter be reintroduced within the document.

Members took the time to offer thanks to the former Chairman of SACRE Robert Arckless who had decided not to stand for re-election and it was agreed that a letter of thanks on behalf of SACRE be sent to wish him well for the future.

RESOLVED that the newsletter be received, with thanks extended to those involved in its production.

(b) Consideration was given to the arrangements for the articles to be included in the next edition of the SACRE Newsletter, Issue No.35, for September 2017.

Members were reminded that any copy articles were to be received in Word format documents, A4 portrait size and any accompanying photographs to be in jpeg format, and sent in the first instance to Mr. André for proof-reading by mid-July 2017. The aim was to have the next newsletter printed over the summer holidays for distribution in schools in September 2017.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

9. NASACRE ISSUES

Members received the NASACRE Briefing No. 14 of April 2017, for information (a copy of which is filed with the signed minutes).

Members welcomed the content and information provided in the NASACRE newsletter.

Following on from the newsletter, Cloud Singh informed members of the recent NASACRE Conference and AGM which was held in York. He advised that the meeting had been pleasant and a good networking event. Discussions around what

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takes place outside of SACRE were interesting although he found the aspect about members providing information about the monitoring of the quality of teaching unclear as it did not fall within the domain of SACRE as an advisory body.

Reminder of the web site link: www.nasacre.org.uk for other articles of interest.

RESOLVED that the NASACRE Briefing No. 14, be received.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, 11 October 2017
Wednesday, 7 March 2018

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

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