

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At a meeting of the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** held at County Hall, Morpeth on Wednesday, 15 November 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.

Scott, Rev. J.

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CHURCHES & FAITHS

Coulson, Mrs. J.

Bhakti Rasa Adhikhara.

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES

Nicholls, T.

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

Mrs. A. Todd

Democratic Services Officer

Ch.'s Initials.....

11. MEMBERSHIP

Members were informed of the resignation of Cloud Singh from the Northumberland SACRE. It was noted that a letter had been sent on behalf of SACRE to thank Cloud for his valued contribution to the work of the Standing Advisory Council.

It was confirmed contact had been made with Mariam Khan to attend future meetings of SACRE as a representative of the Muslim faith. It was anticipated that arrangements would be in place in time to welcome Mariam to the next meeting of SACRE.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from A. Duffield, F. Gannon, Rev. E.H. Marley, Mrs. D. Van Der Velde and Councillor B. Pidcock.

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on 7 June 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

14. AN UPDATE OF CONTACTS WITH SCHOOLS AND TRAINING PROVISION

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 was filed with the signed minutes as Appendix A). Phil André drew the attention of members to the issue of needing to complete a Provider Form for health and safety reasons before a house of worship hosted a school visit. Members were advised that the issue of health and safety and safeguarding as they related to schools undertaking visits to places worship was also a national issue which had been highlighted within a recent NASACRE briefing.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

15. NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE NEWSLETTER

Members considered the arrangements for the contents to be included in the next edition, Issue No. 36, of the SACRE newsletter (for January 2018).

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It was reported that due to unforeseen circumstances the September 2017 newsletter had not been produced. All articles still relevant and appropriate would now be included in the January 2018 edition.

It was agreed that an email be sent to schools seeking any interesting articles for inclusion in the January edition. It was suggested that an article regarding Holocaust Memorial Day be included. Members were also made aware of arrangements being made to plant 150 trees around Ashington High School to commemorate 150 years of Ashington. It was suggested an article on this also be drafted for inclusion in the next newsletter.

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 December 2017. The aim was to have the next newsletter printed for distribution in schools in January 2018.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

16. NASACRE ISSUES

(a) The NASACRE Newsletter – SACRE News– Issues 15 and 16

Members received the NASACRE Briefing No. 15 of June 2017 and No. 16 of October 2017, for information (a copy of which has been filed with the signed minutes).

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

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

RESOLVED that the NASACRE Briefing No. 15 and No. 16 be received.

17. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND ANNUAL SACRE REPORT

Members discussed the arrangements to be made for the preparation of the (statutory) draft Annual Report of Northumberland SACRE for the 2016/17 academic year.

It was agreed that the usual arrangements would apply, i.e. the Chairman and Dave Cookson to liaise with Phil André to draw up the draft Annual Report before

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Christmas 2017, if at all possible bearing in mind current demands on officers' time. It was noted that the validated GCSE and A Level results would not be available until January 2018 but it was anticipated these could be included in the Annual Report at a date after Christmas 2017.

RESOLVED that the arrangements be noted and that a draft Annual Report of SACRE 2016-17 academic year be prepared.

18. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2018

Members were asked to consider suggestions towards holding a Holocaust Memorial Day event in 2018. A working group had been established to arrange the event and Members of SACRE had been asked for their views.

Members suggested topics of interest which could be addressed within the event included the persecution of the Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar, the plight of the Yazidis and the persecution of Christians in in the Middle East.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

19. FEEDBACK ON THE SACRE CONFERENCE

Members received an update on the recent RE Conference which was held on 9 November 2017 at Choppington Welfare Centre. The main thrust of the day was to examine, in a carousel of workshops, how no religion or belief was monolithic. Following the workshops those attending had the opportunity to network, chat with like-minded colleagues and form working relationships to hopefully bring benefits to RE provision in the months and years ahead.

It was reported that overall the conference had been a huge success. Feedback received had been positive with those attending suggesting it become an annual event. Following on from the conference the main areas to come out of the feedback were around the possibility of organising twilight sessions and if practical teaching and learning by key stage or school phase could be arranged. It was reported the feedback from the conference would be shared with SACRE following the meeting. It was proposed a small working group be established to consider the feedback received from the conference and plan future events.

It had been noted that 31 out of 170 schools attended with those attending commenting on how rewarding they had found the conference. It was confirmed invitations to attend had been sent to all schools and an advert was placed on the school's e-courier website. It was reported that due to the positive messages received by workshop leaders, a request would be made to Newcastle's SACRE to consider arranging a similar RE conference for Newcastle teachers.

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The great work carried out by Karenza Passmore at the NE Religious Resources Centre to assist schools and teachers was commended at the conference. A SACRE member suggested having a half way drop off and pick up point for the centre as it was sometimes too far to travel for schools in the north when collecting resources from the centre.

A suggestion was also made to roll out the conference in a similar format to County Councillors to advise them of diversity in religion and belief and update them on the RE provision in the County.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the information be noted
- (b) a special thanks be extended to workshop leaders, Dave Cookson and Phil André for a successful first RE Conference.
- (c) the proposal to create a working group to develop future RE events/conferences be considered.

20. INFORMATION ITEM

It was noted that the following email had been received for circulation, discussion and information:-

*"From: NASACRE <admin@nasacre.org.uk>
Date: 11 October 2017 at 19:43
Subject: Commission on RE Interim Report Consultation
To: NASACRE <admin@nasacre.org.uk>*

Dear SACRE Colleagues,

*The Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) has launched an online consultation based on their interim report, [Religious Education for All](#). The consultation will close at **9am on Monday 4th December**.*

In order to complete the consultation, please follow this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CoREConsult1>.

A PDF of the full set of questions, can be downloaded [here](#) to allow people to think about their responses before filling the call in online, if you wish. You are not required to answer all of the questions in the consultation. Please do not try to fill in your answers on the PDF: it is for your reference only. Some questions in the "About You/About Your School/About Your School or College/About Your University/About Your SACRE/About Your Organisation" sections shown in the PDF will only appear if you select particular options: please do not worry if you are not asked these questions when you complete the online consultation.

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Please respond to this consultation in a personal capacity as individual SACRE members, and/or as your SACRE as an organisation, and share the details of this consultation with your schools. It is important that CoRE hears from as wide a range of people and organisations as possible.

PS Don't forget to book for the Joint NASACRE/AREIAC conference discussing the interim report; details here <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/sacre-news-and-events>

Best wishes,

*Paul Smalley
Chair of NASACRE*

*chair@nasacre.org.uk
07952884795
@NASACRE
www.nasacre.org.uk*

Members were advised that this was a consultation on the interim report from the Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) in order to try to ensure RE continued to make its significant contribution to pupils' education. The consultation formed part of an exercise to gather views and report initial recommendations before a final report was published in September 2018.

Members were asked to complete this consultation and start to think of how they could input into the wider study before the final CoRE report was published.

It was noted that within the interim report the CoRE was seeking school case studies and evidence to help formulate views as part of the consultation. It was proposed an email be sent to schools to ask if any would be prepared to feed into the consultation and provide the required data.

It was agreed that the full CoRE interim report be circulated after the meeting. It was reported that within the report there were a number of recommendations and items specifically for SACREs to consider and answer and with this in mind it was suggested an item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting in order for members to discuss further.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

21. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman advised that he had been in discussions with the Interim Director of Children's Services to source some additional funds for SACRE. Discussions were ongoing but it was envisaged a specific budget and cost code will be identified to further help and support the work of SACRE.

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Regarding Cloud Singh's resignation it was confirmed that there was already a second Sikh representative on SACRE Harpal Singh. It was suggested discussions take place to see if Harpal had the capacity to attend meetings of SACRE on a more regular basis. If this could not happen it was suggested a new representative be sought. Phil André agreed to contact Harpal on behalf of SACRE.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

22. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 7 March 2018. However, it was agreed that an additional meeting of SACRE be arranged for January 2018 to discuss further the preparations for the annual SACRE report and the Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) consultation.

RESOLVED that an additional meeting of SACRE be arranged for January 2018.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

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