

**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, 10 October 2018 at 10.00 a.m.

**PRESENT**

Mrs. D. Van Der Velde  
Vice-Chairman, in the Chair

**COUNCILLORS**

Crosby, W.  
Pidcock, B.

Thorne, T.N.

**TEACHER'S ASSOCIATIONS/UNIONS REPRESENTATIVES**

Shaw, Mrs. H.

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVES**

Bainbridge, Mrs. E.  
Hudson, C.

Scott, Rev. J.

**REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CHURCHES & FAITHS**

Cousin, Mrs. J.  
Khan, Ms. M.

Marley, Rev. E.H.

**CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES (Observers)**

Dearlove, S.

North East Humanists

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

P. André  
D. Cookson

Part-time RE Consultant  
Commissioner for Secondary  
Education

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**13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W. Daley, A. Duffield, Bhakti Rasa Adhhikhara, Ms. M. Wardingham and Mr. S. Gibson.

**14. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on 6 June 2018, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**15. AN UPDATE OF CONTACTS WITH SCHOOLS AND TRAINING PROVISION**

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 A).

The Vice-Chair advised that she had been involved in a visit that had taken place with schools within the Longhorsley Federation. Following on from the success of the visit it was hoped that a Holocaust event would be arranged at one of the local village halls.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

**16. NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE NEWSLETTER**

(a) Members received a copy of the 38<sup>th</sup> issue of the Northumberland SACRE Newsletter, dated April 2018, that had been circulated to all schools and is published on the schools' website (a copy of which has been filed with the signed minutes).

Members were made aware that every SACRE newsletter was readily available online and sent to all schools for information. It was stated that the newsletter always strived to be inclusive of all religions and beliefs. The SACRE newsletters were also intended to encourage schools to share with each other successful RE lessons and acts of collective worship and include information about new RE resources and best practice in the County.

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

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(b) Consideration was given to the arrangements for the articles to be included in the next edition of the SACRE Newsletter, Issue No.39, for January 2019.

It was suggested that an article on the RE Quality Mark recently awarded to Dr. Thomlinson CE Middle School, Rothbury be drafted for the next edition of the 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 to Mr. André for proof-reading by mid-December. The aim was to have the next newsletter printed over the school holidays for distribution in schools in January 2019.

**RESOLVED** that the position be noted.

## **17. NASACRE ISSUES**

### **The NASACRE Newsletter – SACRE News**

Members received the NASACRE Briefings No. 19 and No. 20, for information (copies of which were filed with the signed minutes).

Members welcomed the content and information provided in the NASACRE newsletters. Members queried if Northumberland SACRE should apply for a Westhill/NASACRE Award for 2019/20. It was suggested that the RE survey outcomes might suggest a project to be put forward for the award.

Reminder of the web site link: [www.nasacre.org.uk](http://www.nasacre.org.uk) for other articles of interest.

**RESOLVED** that the NASACRE Briefings No. 19 and No. 20 be received.

## **18. 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 2017-18 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 Christmas 2018, if at all possible bearing in mind current demands on officers' time.

**RESOLVED** that the arrangements be noted and that a draft SACRE Annual Report for 2017-18 academic year be prepared.

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## 19. SACRE DEVELOPMENT DAY

SACRE members discussed the following items that they did not have time to consider at the development day held on 18 July 2018.

- Effectiveness of SACRE

SACRE Members agreed that they were working as effectively as they could.

Members continued to promote the SACRE but was this enough? In previous years SACRE meetings had taken place in schools to help promote SACRE and inform others of the work it carried out. It was suggested this could be one option to promote SACRE and for Members to engage more with teachers.

Was a more grassroots approach needed to seek views from schools as to what they wanted from the SACRE? Could the SACRE take a more proactive role in helping to deliver RE within schools?

It was reported that the Commission on RE's final report would probably shape the way SACREs work in the future.

- Representations of faiths and teachers on SACRE

It was reported that a representative of the Quakers was interested in joining the SACRE. Members welcomed this and hoped to see him at a future meeting. It was stated that anyone wishing to be part of the SACRE would be welcome.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

## 20. THE COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION'S FINAL REPORT

SACRE members were provided with the final report from the Commission on Religious Education which detailed its findings and list of recommendations. Members were advised to retain their copy of the document as the SACRE would be discussing elements of the final report at its future meetings.

**RESOLVED** that the Commission on Religious Education Final Report be noted.

## 21. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2019

Councillor Pidcock reported that there was to be another Holocaust Memorial event at County Hall, Morpeth. The working group had agreed that the event next January was to focus entirely on the Holocaust. However, it was noted that

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nationally it had been confirmed that there was to be an emphasis on not only the Holocaust but other genocides at Holocaust Memorial events.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

## **22. SACRE CONFERENCE**

SACRE Members were provided with a draft agenda for the conference to be held on 16 November 2018 (a copy of which has been filed with the signed minutes).

Members discussed the proposed agenda and made the following suggested changes:-

- rename the 'speed dating' activity to 'speed faithing'.
- include within the last workshop a time for teachers to share good practice and discuss/reflect on the issues talked about by Mark Evans, Ofsted National Lead for RE.

It was reported that save the date invites had been sent to schools and Choppington Welfare had been booked for the conference.

Along with the workshops and guest speaker SACRE members were asked if they would like to have a table at the conference. Both Chris Hudson and Mariam Khan both said they would like to take up this invitation.

It was emphasised that all SACRE members were welcome to attend and take part in the conference.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

## **23. UPDATE ON RE EXAM RESULTS, SUMMER 2018**

It was noted that the validated GCSE and A Level results were not available yet. It was agreed to report the results to the next meeting of the SACRE.

It was also noted that the RE exam results would be included in the SACRE Annual Report at a date after Christmas 2018.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

## **24. SURVEY OF SCHOOL RE PROVISION**

SACRE members were informed that the survey of school RE and collective worship provision had been sent to all schools. The deadline for responses was the

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end of the following week. So far only three responses had been returned. Although there had been very few returned it was hoped that by the end of the deadline more would have been received. It was advised that the results of the survey would be presented to SACRE at their next meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

## **25. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS**

Wednesday, 16 January 2019

Wednesday, 10 April 2019

Councillor Pidcock advised members of the SACRE about an event arranged by the Blyth Valley Labour Party on 24 November 2018 where the Shadow Minister for Education would be in attendance. There would be an opportunity for a question and answer session with the Shadow Minister and it was confirmed that there was an open invitation for SACRE Members to attend.

**CHAIRMAN** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

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