

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At a meeting of the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** held at Collingwood School & Media Arts College, Stobhillgate, Morpeth on Wednesday, 5 February 2020 at 4.00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

COUNCILLORS

Crosby, W.

TEACHER'S ASSOCIATIONS/UNIONS REPRESENTATIVES

Duffield, A.

T. Nicholls

CHURCH OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVES

Bainbridge, Mrs. E.

Rusby, P.W.

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CHURCHES & FAITHS

Marley, Rev. E.H.

CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES (Observers)

Wardingham, Ms. M.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

P. André
D. Cookson

Mrs. A. Todd

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

Ch.'s Initials.....

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W. Daley, Councillor D. Campbell, Councillor T.N. Thorne, C. Hudson, Mrs. J. Cousin, Bhakti Rasa Adhikhara and S. Dearlove.

24. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on 13 November 2019, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

25. 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).

RESOLVED that the report be received.

26. NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE NEWSLETTER

(a) Members received a copy of the 42nd issue of the Northumberland SACRE Newsletter, dated January 2020, that had been circulated to all schools and was published on the schools' website (a copy of which has been filed with the signed minutes as Appendix B).

Members welcomed the wide variety of articles within this edition of the Newsletter and the vast amount of information available to schools.

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.43, for April 2020.

Suggested items for the next newsletter included articles on:-

- The Easter Journey undertaken by Cambo First and other schools.
- The CPD Event: Visit to Houses of Worship.
- The Duchess's High School following their success with the HMD flame design. The students' flame was selected to be part of this year's ceremony and was being displayed alongside the other only 74 from across the country.
- Hopefully a few HMD articles from schools.

Ch.'s Initials.....

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-March. The aim was to have the next newsletter printed over the school holidays for distribution in schools in April 2020.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

27. NASACRE ISSUES

(a) The NASACRE Newsletter – SACRE News

Members received the NASACRE Briefing No. 24, for information (a copy of the briefing has been filed with the signed minutes as Appendix C).

RESOLVED that the NASACRE Briefing No. 24 be received.

(b) The Westhill/NASACRE Award for 2020-21

Members noted that SACREs had been invited to bid for Westhill Awards in the 2020-21 round. The closing date to submit a bid was to be 31 March 2020.

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

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

28. STATUTORY ANNUAL NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE REPORT FOR 2018/19 ACADEMIC YEAR

It had been proposed that members receive a copy of the (draft) statutory annual report of Northumberland SACRE, for consideration and approval. However, the annual report could not be completed due to the RE exam data not being released in time from the Department for Education.

RESOLVED that the Statutory Annual Northumberland SACRE Report for 2018/19 Academic Year be deferred to the next meeting of the SACRE until officers have received the RE exam data from the Department for Education.

29. POLICY ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Members were advised that NCC's most recent "Policy and Guidelines for Acts of Collective Worship" (ACWs) was formally adopted in September 2006. Since then it had not been updated because the advice it contained still complied with what was

Ch.'s Initials.....

deemed by a majority within the national RE community to be best practice. However it was suggested that it was time to review the document.

Mr Phil André suggested that in the first instance a quick review of the document could be done by him, followed by a small working party meeting to examine the document in full. Members could then decide whether to retain it as it was, engage in limited/small-scale improvement or engage in substantive/large-scale improvement).

RESOLVED that the SACRE undertake a review of the Policy on Collective Worship.

30. RE EXAM RESULTS

RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the SACRE.

31. LETTER TO SCHOOLS REGARDING THE DUTY TO TEACH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TO ALL PUPILS, IN ALL YEARS, IN ALL SCHOOLS

Members were advised that the letter regarding the duty to teach religious education to all pupils, in all years, in all schools had been sent to all headteachers, chairs of school governing bodies and placed on the Council's e-courier. An article in the latest SACRE newsletter also detailed the new Ofsted inspection framework and the potential for RE to become a curriculum focus during an inspection.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

32. RE CPD IN 2020

The SACRE were informed of the arrangements for a CPD event to be held on 18 March 2020 to visit four houses of worship. All four of the houses of worship were popular destinations for Northumberland schools and would give teachers a feel of what they could expect when they visited, meet the hosts and carry out any risk assessments needed prior to arranging a trip.

An invitation would also be extended to any members of the SACRE who would like to attend this CPD event.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

33. Any other business

(a) Phil André Retirement

It was reported that following on from the news that Phil had decided the time was

Ch.'s Initials.....

right to retire from his post as part-time RE consultant, a job description for his successor had been circulated. However, up to now there had been no expressions of interest received. If this avenue proved not to be successful then another option would be to offer a practising teacher the opportunity to become the RE consultant. Although Phil would be greatly missed, and difficult to replace, it was hoped to have someone in post by the end of the summer.

Members thanked Phil for all his work, help and enthusiasm throughout the years. He had become more of a friend than a work colleague to members of the SACRE and they all wished him well for the future. Enjoy your retirement Phil!

(b) Review of Agreed Syllabus

Members were reminded that along with the Policy and Guidelines for Acts of Collective Worship there would also need to be a review of the Agreed Syllabus in the near future.

(c) The Jerusalem Trust RE Resource Grant Scheme

The SACRE were made aware of the Jerusalem Grant Scheme that makes available to schools a number of grants to support the purchase of resources for teaching Christianity in RE. The scheme was open to all secondary schools including middle.

It was suggested that this information be included in the next edition of the SACRE Newsletter.

(d) Meetings of the SACRE

Following the success of today's meeting it was agreed to hold all future meetings of the SACRE at the later time of 4.00 p.m.

RESOLVED that the information above be noted.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

Ch.'s Initials.....