

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At a meeting of the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** held in Meeting Space, Block 1, Floor 2, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF on Wednesday, 2 February 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT

D. Van-Der-Valde
Vice-Chair, in the Chair.

COUNCILLORS

L. Bowman

N. Morphet

TEACHER'S ASSOCIATIONS/UNIONS REPRESENTATIVES

A. Duffield

CHURCH OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVES

C. Hudson
P. Rusby

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CHURCHES & FAITHS

J. Miller
T. Marley

CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES

S. Dearlove

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

D. Cookson

Head of School Improvement

Ch.'s Initials.....

R. Little
C. Weir

Assistant Democratic Services
Officer

RE Consultant

There was one observer present.

64. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Renner-Thompson, Councillor Thorne, J. Cousin and B. Rasa.

65. MINUTES

T. Marley stated that he had given apologies for the last meeting.

D. Van-Der-Velde made a comment from Holocaust Memorial Day explaining that she felt perturbed that there had been no involvement from schools and she would be willing to assist and work with Northumberland County Council, Newcastle Council and North Tyneside Council by sharing ideas and collaborating.

L. Bowman followed on by stating that the Holocaust Memorial Day service was solemn and the Rabbi had been well received, but reminded members that there had been many incidents since WW2 and up to the present day including the situation in Ukraine.

C. Weir explained that she had not received any advice on the service to give to schools, which was corroborated by D. Cookson who explained that the information had not been provided until two days before the service.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on Wednesday, 8 December 2021, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

66. AN UPDATE OF CONTACTS WITH SCHOOLS AND TRAINING PROVISION

C. Weir updated members explaining that she had been completing work on a new syllabus, which would be discussed in more detail in the ASC meeting following SACRE and had been providing informal support to schools regarding curriculum queries.

Ch.'s Initials.....

RESOLVED that the report and information discussed be noted.

67. NASACRE NEWSLETTER

RESOLVED that members had received this information via email.

68. NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE ACTION PLAN SEPTEMBER 2021 - AUGUST 2023

D. Cookson explained to members that whilst the aim to have a new syllabus by January 2022 had not been achieved, work was underway to finalise a new syllabus which would be discussed at the ASC.

KS4 and KS5 results would be monitored for the exams that were expected to take place in the summer term, however monitoring of collective worship had been paused due to Covid but would restart when able to.

The SACRE newsletter had moved to an online format with 113 views since it had been set up. Members discussed how to engage more with RE teachers and promote the newsletter, suggestions included utilising Northumberland Communications team and sending letters to teachers.

There had been some interest in sending a delegate to the annual NASACRE conference, a handful of parties had shown interest and would be granted funding, but numbers were yet to be decided.

Members discussed collective worship in school with the statement on the action plan regarding monitoring the number of pupils withdrawn and offering advice on schools on how to make collective worship inclusive to all pupils.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

69. SACRE SUB-COMMITTEE

J. Miller addressed members and explained the reasons behind creating a sub-committee to promote SACRE, generate enthusiasm, discussion and debate to understand the issues RE teachers were facing in schools.

D. Cookson explained the terms of reference on agenda item 9 could be adopted into the SACRE sub-committee.

Members of the sub-committee were agreed as follows:

Ch.'s Initials.....

J. Miller – Chair and Clerk
Cllr L. Bowman
S. Dearlove
A. Duffield
C. Hudson
T. Marley
D. Van-Der-Velde

RESOLVED that this was noted.

70. STATUTORY ANNUAL NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE REPORT FOR 20/21 ACADEMIC YEAR

A draft report had been circulated following the previous meeting for comments from members. J. Miller had noted the absence of exam result figures but this was due to the impact of Covid and pupils not sitting traditional exams.

J. Miller asked that School Workforce Census data be circulated to members for discussion at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that this was noted.

71. TERMS OF REFERENCE

It had been agreed at the previous SACRE meeting that S. Dearlove would be moved from a co-opted member to a member of Committee A “REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CHURCHES AND FAITHS”, which required the constitution to be updated and refreshed.

D. Cookson suggested any comments should be emailed to him within the next four weeks, and that members would vote next meeting to adopt the updated terms of reference.

RESOLVED that this was noted.

72. URGENT BUSINESS

Members enquired if “Introductions” could be added to the agenda and “Urgent Business” could be changed to “Any Other Business”

M. Khan and C. Naylor advised that they wished to resign from their positions.

Ch.’s Initials.....

D. Cookson informed members that the clerk to SACRE would contact the National Bodies for their nominations on potential members.

73. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted for 27 July 2022, but this could potentially be moved to two weeks earlier.

RESOLVED that this was noted.

CHAIR: _____.

DATE: _____

Ch.'s Initials.....