

Final Recommendations from SACRE sub-committee. For the academic year 2022-23

Conduct and content of SACRE meetings:

1. Meetings should be held in a space that is more conducive to conversation between members
2. Every SACRE meeting should include a time for discussion between members. It would be planned, led and would model good practice in discussion. Topics might include presentations by members on their worldview; a worldview in relation to classroom teaching; something that is problematic about a worldview; an issue where two members have different perspectives; the significance of an artefact etc
3. Teachers from schools where there is good practice in RE should be invited to present their work at one meeting each year
4. All meetings should have a key agenda item [which could include points 2) and 3) above]
5. SACRE should consider having hybrid meetings in an attempt to increase attendance and involvement by more members
6. The Chair should serve for a four-year period of office
7. A list of the CPD events held, their key topics, evaluation scores and attendance should be included in future annual reports, along with details of attendance at SACRE meetings by committee/ individual members

SACRE membership:

8. SACRE should meet its constitutional requirement to have a member to represent the NAHT to enable better communication with head teachers, and to consider inviting a lecturer from higher education to represent their organisation

SACRE support for CPD:

9. SACRE should support the roll-out of the new Agreed Syllabus and should consider ways in which this can be achieved, e.g. a CPD road-show and/or webinars
10. SACRE members, where appropriate, should support schools by visits to classrooms, accompanying teachers and pupils on visits to places of worship or other sacred spaces, and by offering Q and A Zoom sessions. A list of volunteers with their topics and special interests should be made available to teachers
11. SACRE should urgently investigate how it can support schools in relation to the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition in Newcastle

Additional support for schools

12. SACRE should seek ways in which it can play a greater role in Holocaust Memorial Day

SACRE monitoring duties:

13. SACRE should advise the Council on the need for support from school improvement services to gather data on how far schools meet their statutory duties, particularly with regard to the implementation of the new agreed syllabus
14. The Chair of SACRE and consultant/officer should have an annual meeting with the Director of Children's Services
15. Analysis of workforce data and examination results should be presented annually, along with any evidence from Ofsted reports on County schools

The Future of Northumberland SACRE:

16. SACRE should continue to pursue the question of its status in relation to the Local Authority through further discussion with NASACRE and other national bodies

For the academic year 2023-4

Conduct and content of SACRE meetings:

17. SACRE members should take responsibility for contacting the Chair and officers to raise agenda items before meetings and, where appropriate, provide papers for circulation to enable an informed discussion when SACRE meets. These would include, e.g., resources developed by worldview communities; conferences attended; relevant projects, reports or research that affect RE/ CW

18. The development plan should spread responsibility for actions beyond the officers to include SACRE members, where appropriate

19. The development plan should identify topics for SACRE members' training , determined at the end of each academic year for the following year

SACRE membership:

20. When the latest census data is published, we should look at the membership of Committee A and, if necessary, update the Constitution and seek new members

SACRE support for CPD:

21. SACRE should investigate ways in which it can support teachers' continuing professional development in RE and Collective Worship by providing or promoting existing CPD modules to Head Teachers

22. SACRE members, particularly on Committee A, should help the Consultant gather up-to-date information on places of worship and other centres, locally and regionally, that would welcome visits from school groups

23. SACRE members should help collate a list of names of people from religious communities and other worldviews who would be willing to visit schools or engage in Q and A Zoom conversations with pupils/teachers to support RE

24. When the AS is established, SACRE should work with the Consultant to identify and support training themes, including contentious issues, for teachers for the following academic year

Additional support for schools:

25. SACRE should make a bid for Westhill funding to run a project in schools that would culminate in a day conference to which teachers, headteachers and governors would be invited. This should become the basis for future annual conferences

26. We should run the first of biennial sixth form conferences

27. SACRE should seek other partners with a view to hosting the Anne Frank Exhibition, or another major exhibition, in Northumberland

28. As part of its annual review, members should evaluate SACRE's webpage

SACRE monitoring duties:

29. SACRE should work with the Governor Service so that school governors understand the Law and are able to provide challenge and support to their schools

The Future of Northumberland SACRE:

30. SACRE should consider developing closer ties with other Northern SACREs and dioceses, similar to Lead Teach RE in the South West of England, with a view to sharing support for teachers.

Joyce Miller, on behalf of the sub-committee
29 March 2022