

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

At the meeting of the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)** held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF on Wednesday, 14 July 2021 at 4:00pm

PRESENT

G Renner-Thompson (Chair)

COUNCILLORS

L. Bowman
N. Morphet

T. Thorne

TEACHER'S ASSOCIATIONS/UNIONS REPRESENTATIVES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVES

Hudson, C.

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CHURCHES & FAITHS

Marley, Rev. E.H.
Miller, Dr, J.

Van Der Velde, Mrs. D.

CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES

Dearlove, S.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bennett, L
Cookson, D
Little, R.
Weir, Ms. C.

Senior Democratic Services Officer
Commissioner for Secondary Education
Assistant Democratic Services Officer
RE Consultant

Ch.'s Initials.....

It was noted that this meeting was not quorate due to the absence of a Teacher Association/Trades Union representative. Members would only be able to make recommendations which would be subject to formal ratification at the next quorate meeting.

1 MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (a) The membership and terms of reference of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the 2021/2022 Council year.

RECOMMENDED that this was noted

- (b) The committee was asked to consider making the Humanist representative a member of Committee A (Other Faiths)

RECOMMENDED that a Humanist representative be added to the membership of Committee A (Other Faiths).

2 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Renner-Thompson had been appointed Chair by Council but was happy to stand aside should another member be preferred for the post. No nominations were received.

RECOMMENDED that the appointment of Councillor Renner-Thompson be noted.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs. E. Bainbridge and Bhakti Rasa Adhikhara

4 MINUTES

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on 3 February 2021, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

RECOMENDED that Mrs D. Van-Der-Velde was elected as Vice-Chair of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

6 AN UPDATE OF CONTACTS WITH SCHOOLS AND TRAINING PROVISION

Ms. C. Weir, RE Consultant, informed Members that she had been preparing for the Agreed Syllabus Conference meeting. She had been gathering data from teachers on a one-to-one settings as well as conferences, networking meetings with primary, middle and special schools, however there had been no secondary schools to take part in these meetings.

The committee discussed what options there were available to better support

Ch.'s Initials.....

special schools, including bringing in objects so students could feel and interact with such as “David’s Harp”. There was also discussion of possibly taking the students to places of worship, however, Covid restrictions prohibited that for the time-being.

It was also noted that there was a lack of students in secondary schools taking RE as a GCSE and A-Level due to the schools not providing it, therefore, there was also a lack of degree-level RE education and nowhere in Northumberland to train teachers in this specialist subject in RE.

The committee thanked Caroline for her continued work.

RECOMMENDED that the verbal report from the RE Consultant be noted.

7 **NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE NEWSLETTER**

The committee discussed the option of changing the format of the SACRE newsletter, as the current format was one term behind due to printing deadlines and was expensive to create and publish. This money could be better spent elsewhere.

The committee discussed options on types of format and it was agreed that delivering the newsletter on an online format would be looked at rather than printed as that would be more effective due to cost benefits, printing schedules and would be able to engage a wider audience.

RECOMMENDED that

(1) the 43rd issue of the Northumberland SACRE newsletter, dated April 2021, be received.

(2) future editions of the newsletter be published online rather than on paper

8 **NASACRE ISSUES**

The committee discussed whether SACRE members could work together to apply to the Westhill awards on behalf of teachers.

Update to follow at next meeting

(a) It was **RECOMMENDED** that the copy of the NASACRE newsletter – Issue 28, had been received.

(b) **RECOMENDED**. There had been no new applications for the Westhill Awards in the 2021/22 round.

9 **A REPORT FROM NASACRE: SACRE FUNDING IN ENGLAND**

D. Cookson – Commissioner for Secondary Education and Post 16 Provision, made the committee that there had been a freedom of information request around funding for SACRE.

Ch.’s Initials.....

SACRE was funded differently across the country with Northumberland being on the lower end of funding. Northumberland SACRE had received double funding this year, as it did every five years. SACRE received 0.06% of the Dedicated Schools Grant and members had the ability request up to 2% of funding if required.

10 **NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE ACTION PLAN JANUARY 2019 TO DECEMBER 2021**

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education agreed that a new action plan should be written, as these ran in line with academic years and the new plan should be in place by September 2021.

Since the start of the pandemic there had been no collective worship in schools, this should also return in September 2021, and the SACRE committee would look at how to support that.

The SACRE committee discussed the ongoing issues with attendance and membership, it was suggested that the membership of those who did not regularly attend should be reviewed. Consideration should be given to identifying new potential members, and to include representatives from teacher associations.

RECOMMENDED that this was agreed.

11 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS**

Wednesday, 17 November 2021
Wednesday, 2 February 2022

RECOMMENDED that the dates of next future meetings be noted.

CHAIR.....

DATE.....

Ch.'s Initials.....

