

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, 8 December 2021 at 4.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor. G. Renner-Thompson
Chair, in the Chair.

COUNCILLORS

Bowman, L.

TEACHER'S ASSOCIATIONS/UNIONS REPRESENTATIVES

Nicholls, T.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVES

Hudson, C.

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CHURCHES & FAITHS

Miller, Dr. J.

CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES

Dearlove, S.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Cookson, D.	Commissioner for Secondary Education
Greally, R.	Assistant Democratic Services Officer
Weir, Ms. C.	RE Consultant

Ch.'s Initials.....

57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor N. Morphet, C. Naylor, M. Connolly, D. Van Der Velde, P. Rusby, B. Rhasa, J. Cousin.

58. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on 14 July 2021, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

59. AN UPDATE OF CONTACTS WITH SCHOOLS AND TRAINING PROVISION

Ms. C. Weir informed Members that she had been researching syllabus options for the agreed syllabus conference.

She had led two network meetings; a primary and special and a secondary meeting. In the network meeting teachers were signposted to various educational sites and the Ofsted RE subject review (May 2021) was discussed. The key concern raised in the network meeting was the new syllabus. It was explained that as the last ASC meeting had not been quorate the syllabus was yet to be agreed.

Ms C. Weir had also attended NASACRE webinars ('New SACRE annual report template' and 'How to apply for a WESTHILL/NASACRE award')

She also highlighted the training session; "How to be an effective Chair" which was to be held on 18th January. It was agreed that the information would be shared with the Chair in the hope that he would be able to attend.

RESOLVED that the report and information discussed be noted.

60. NASACRE NEWSLETTER

Mr D. Cookson, Commissioner for Secondary Education, presented the newsletter to the committee. There was nothing specific to highlight to members.

All Members were encouraged to look at the training packages and attend any training that they felt was relevant to them as the training package had been purchased.

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There was also a new template for the SACRE annual report which would be looked at for the future.

The following comments were being made in response to questions:

- It was confirmed that an annual report was always submitted and the intention was to continue this.
- There were provisions in place for one attendee to the NASACRE conference that was scheduled to be held in May. Anyone who was interested in attending could raise this with D. Cookson.
- The self-evaluation tool on the NASACRE website was a new tool. It had not yet been used by Northumberland but could be looked into.

60. NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE NEWSLETTER

Mr D. Cookson updated the SACRE on the newsletter arrangements. The new arrangement meant that the newsletter was published online with a link on the website. The positives of this were that the newsletter was always up to date. If any members had anything they wanted added to the newsletter they were to contact Mr D. Cookson.

There was an awareness that the newsletter needed to be promoted and publicised as there was a hope that it would be the place for RE teachers to go to for information. Mr D. Cookson was going to investigate if there was a way to indicate how many times the website link had been used.

It was noted that SACRE tried not to send round robin emails to schools to promote the newsletter as it was not an efficient way to promote it. Headteachers received a large amount of emails anyway and it was difficult to maintain an up to date list of RE teacher contacts. It was suggested that Union reps could distribute the message at Union meetings.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

61. NORTHUMBERLAND SACRE ACTION PLAN SEPTEMBER 2021 - AUGUST 2023

Mr. D. Cookson updated the committee on the action plan and assured Members that it would be shared with them after the meeting. Mr D. Cookson noted that there were two actions that were to be completed by the end of the year;

- produce a SACRE action plan

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- produce a SACRE newsletter.

Both of which were to be completed by the agreed time.

It was suggested that a sub-committee be formed. Dr J. Miller agreed to draw up terms of reference and membership details for the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

62. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Members noted that there would be an event held in County Hall. Information regarding it would be shared in due course. The members agreed that it was good that there was going to be an event held for Holocaust Memorial Day.

Members noted that a Councillor had a knowledgeable friend who was a Rabbi that had previously been involved in the Memorial Day previously. The connection would be passed on to colleagues who were organising the event.

Members noted that schools were provided with information regarding the holocaust and how to mark it and the school was left to organise the event in their own way.

RESOLVED that the information on the Holocaust Memorial Day be noted.

63. URGENT BUSINESS

Members noted that legal services were looking into the constitution in regard to moving the Humanist member to committee A. Once an agreement had been made members would be informed.

Members questioned whether future meetings were able to be held virtually. Mr D. Cookson would confirm this and get back to members.

Members requested that workforce data including number of hours given to Religious Education was included on the next agenda.

Members noted that expenses forms would be emailed out to members again.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

Ch.'s Initials.....

CHAIR: _____

DATE: _____

Ch.'s Initials.....