

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER, PLATER WAY, SUNDERLAND, SR1 3AA on Tuesday 22nd March, 2022 at 4.30 pm

ITEM	Page
1. Apologies for Absence	-
2. Minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on 19th October, 2021 (Copy attached)	1
3. Matters Arising	
4. SACRE Membership Report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (Copy attached)	6
5. Proposal to Change the SACRE Constitution Report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (Copy attached)	8
6. SACRE Annual Report (Copy attached)	19

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|-----|------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 7. | Work Programme | 27 |
| | (Copy attached) | |
| 8. | NASACRE Briefing | - |
| 9. | Newsletter Items | - |
| 10. | Any Other Business | |
| 11. | Date and Time of the next meeting – To be Confirmed | |

ELAINE WAUGH,
Assistant Director of Law and Governance.
City Hall,
SUNDERLAND.

3rd March 2022

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

HELD ON TUESDAY, 19th OCTOBER, 2021 AT 4.30 PM

VENUE: SUNDERLAND COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BURDON ROAD

Present: -

Local Councillors

Councillor Dodds
Councillor Farthing
Councillor McKeith
Councillor Samuels
Councillor P. Smith

Christian and Other Denominations

Andrew Barron
Matt Moore

Church of England

Caroline Weir
Stuart Bain

Co-opted

Valerie Blackett

In Attendance

Cathryn Forbes, Specialist Officer
Paul Wood, Principal Governance Services Officer

As the meeting was inquorate, the following discussions could not be viewed as having been approved and therefore, could not be acted upon until approved at a future quorate meeting.

SAC150 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Natalie Fountain, Jo McShane, Chris May, Richard Cullen and Sara Gummerson.

SAC 151 Election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman

As the meeting was inquorate this item was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

At this juncture, the current Chairman, Councillor Farthing wished to advise the Council that this was to be Stuart Bain's last meeting as he was retiring and she wished to pay tribute to Mr Bain for his work and contribution to the meetings over the years.

SAC152 Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 23rd March, 2021

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2021 were a true record subject to the following amendments:-

Page 3 Paragraph 4 – Under R.E. Training – Mrs Forbes updated the Group over what had taken place over the year in delivering the Primary PHSCE and RE.

Page 4 Paragraph 2 – Hetton Lyons not Heton Lyons school.

SAC 153 Matters Arising

Mrs Forbes referred to a Collective Worship – Review of Agreed Syllabus and advised that there would need to be an item on a future agenda concerning this.

The Chairman informed the committee that NASACRE had launched a handbook which she had found very useful and she would share this link for those that were interested.

SAC154 New Agreed Syllabus Launch

Mrs Forbes updated the group on the progress of the preparations for the new Agreed Syllabus Launch day due to take place on Wednesday 3rd November 2021. There had currently been 69 schools registered to attend the launch, 7 Secondaries (even though these were Academies) and 62 Primary Schools, which was very pleasing to see such interest. However, due to the requirement to meet Health and Safety around Covid measures, it may be required to move the location of the launch day from the Bunny Hill Centre and discussions were being had with the Clarion Hotel in Boldon as a possible larger venue depending on finalised numbers.

Mrs Forbes advised that all SACRE members were invited to attend and would be a good show of support if they could. All Members were requested to contact Paul Wood in the first instance of their intent to attend and he would pass details onto the relevant Officers.

The Chairman commented that it was amazing to get such a response from the schools as we had struggled in the past and she wished to congratulate Mrs Forbes for her work on this.

The Chairman also commented that unfortunately she had a prior engagement on the launch day and she would have liked to attend but encouraged anyone who wished to attend to please do so.

SAC155 Annual Report

Mrs Forbes advised that NASACRE was delivering various training programmes this year, one of which was on Annual Reports. The Annual Report was a statutory requirement, but one which had not historically been enforced. However it appeared a rethink on this had been given lately and an updated format had been provided.

Mrs Forbes advised that the format and presentation was on the NASACRE website if Members wished to look at this. The Annual Report was due in December/January but other SACRE's had raised the issue that this didn't fit in with the diaired meetings/term time format. They were going back to the DfE to say that this was not the best time to publish Annual Reports but those dates still stood at present.

Mrs Forbes requested that Members look at the website and send her any thoughts on this so she could start collating the report. It was also possible that a SACRE meeting could be convened in December to discuss this, should the possibility of holding the meetings virtually/remotely be confirmed to facilitate a quorum.

The Chairman requested that Mr Wood circulate the NASACRE website login details for Members once again as the site was well worth visiting for the training elements.

The Chairman also commented that the Self Evaluation and Action Plan would also given the Council a framework/something to work to.

It was AGREED to note the update

SAC156 Faith & Belief Forum

Mrs Forbes advised of the Faith & Belief Form which had been funded by Colin St Gabriel, the open University and King's College London to look at R. E and World Views.

A survey had been circulated and this was a big shift forward on different belief systems with every world view considered and was much more accessible for people.

Mrs Forbes commented that the launch had been very interesting and gave the opportunity to view what other SACRE's were doing around Collective Worship. Mrs Forbes advised that the Annual Conference in May would be also be a useful event to find out from other SACRE's and urged Members to complete the survey if they could.

The Chairman requested that Mr Wood recirculate the survey.

Ms Blackett commented that she had enjoyed the zoom meeting much more than she had expected and had found the subject of building understanding and what to share very interesting

It was AGREED to note the update

SAC157 NASACRE Briefing & Training

Mrs Forbes updated the group on the latest NASCARE Briefing and Training and advised that this and all presentations were on the NASACRE website.

With regards to the National Conference, this would be taking place on the 23rd May in Birmingham with the Theme of Ambitious SACRE's so if Members wished to attend this, to let us know as it was worth it for the workshops and the opportunity to network.

Mrs Forbes raised the issue of online meetings and the positive effect on attendances during lockdown. It had been suggested as part of the NASACRE briefing that despite the SACRE having Councillors as part of the Membership, it was independent of the Local Authority therefore should not be bound by its rules around having to carry out the meetings in person.

It was requested that Mr Wood liaise with Legal to enquire if it would be possible to revert back to remote meetings to allow greater attendance and help in achieving a quorum for future meetings.

In relation to training programmes on the NASACRE website, Mrs Forbes informed the group that some of these did include a fee but advised that if Members let Mr Wood know in the first instance, he could pass on Members request to enrol on a particular training course and SACRE may be able to fund this out of it's budget.

Ms Weir wished to thank Mrs Forbes for all her work and referred to the issue raised of the national recommendation that an LA should allocate at least 2% of the CSSB to SACRE in order that SACRE can carry out their statutory duties. Ms Weir queried what SACRE could do to support and help the Council get this 2% funding formula to be applied.

Mrs Forbes advised that Mr Cullen would have been best placed to comment on this as he held the budget for SACRE but unfortunately could not be at this meeting.

The Chairman commented that she was to attend a Schools Forum meeting this week where they were looking at funding and the direct schools grant so she would pose this question there also.

Mr Bain commented that it was not unreasonable to ask for a breakdown of what the SACRE's current £12,000 budget was spent on and in order to ask for more we needed to have ambition and a clear need of what it was required for.

Mrs Forbes commented that the opportunity of providing bursaries to schools had been pursued but there had been difficulty in attracting applicants.

Ms Weir agreed that it was up to SACRE to provide an ambitious Development Plan as it was an exciting time for Sunderland with the soon to be launched new syllabus that could help us ride a wave and get more people signed up to the Council.

The Chairman requested that Mr Wood ask Mr Cullen to provide details of how the £12,000 budget had been spent historically.

The Chairman also commented that she hoped the new members had enjoyed the meeting and that it was an exciting time for Sunderland and the new agreed syllabus which was an opportunity for children to discuss things going on in the world and she hoped the launch was successful and provided a link to a good group of RE teachers.

Mrs Forbes commented that hopefully it would provide a connection with SACRE and teachers so that they could feed backwards and forwards. The Chairman commented that it was very important we received first hand feedback.

SCA158 Date and Time of the next meeting

Tuesday 22nd March, 2022 at 4.30pm

(Signed) Councillor L. Farthing,
Chairman

Item 4

SACRE MEMBERSHIP

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW & GOVERNANCE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 For Members of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) to review and approve the list of volunteers (as listed in paragraph 3.1) onto its Membership and to consider and approve the reappointment of those Members of SACRE whose Membership was due to expire (as listed on paragraph 3.2 of the report): -

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Volunteers to become SACRE Members must be approved by the Council before formally being recognised as Members with voting rights (dependent upon their category).
- 2.2 Members are appointed to the Council for a period of 4 years as per the Constitution. At the end of this period, the Clerk notifies the Members in question and seeks permission to include the extension as an item on the next available agenda for the Council to approve

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The following representatives have volunteered their services to become a Member of SACRE

Gemma Hawley - Teachers Association
Louise Ridings - Teachers Association

- 3.2 The following representative's membership of SACRE are due to expire, and it is requested that these be extended for a further 4 years from the date of this meeting.

Matt Moore - Christian and Other Denomination
Andrew Barron - Christian and Other Denomination
Caroline Weir - Church of England
Lisa Quinn-Briton - Church of England
Natalie Fountain - Teachers Association

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To approve the new volunteers onto the Membership of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education and to extend the Memberships of those are due to expire for a further period of four years, starting from the date of this meeting.

Contact Officer: Paul Wood, Principal Governance Services Officer

Paul.wood@sunderland.gov.uk

Item 5

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE SACRE CONSTITUTION

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW & GOVERNANCE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 For Members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to discuss and approve the amendment of its Constitution in relation to Quorums and the minimum requirement of representatives needed in order to achieve a quorum.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At present the SACRE Constitution (attached as Appendix 1) requires one representative from each of the 4 Groups A to D to be present in order for the meeting to achieve its quorum and to allow for decisions to be made.
- 2.2 Members will be aware that discussion was had at previous meetings with regard to attendances and the possibility of holding meetings remotely, making the meetings more convenient and to improve the attendance of Members.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Upon review of the Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils) Regulations 1994 which govern the setting up of the meetings and conferences, these do not allow for the use of remote meetings at this present time, however, the legal guidance given suggested that amendments could be made to the wording of the SACRE Constitution with regards to the minimum number of representatives that would be required to achieve a quorum.
- 3.2 The suggested change is included under Section 13 in the proposed amended Constitution (attached as Appendix 2 of this report).

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To approve the proposed amended Constitution of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education as attached to the report under Appendix 2).

Contact Officer : Paul Wood, Principal Governance Services Officer

Paul.wood@sunderland.gov.uk

SUNDERLAND STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CONSTITUTION

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Sections 11 and 12 of the 1988 Education Reform Act, amended by Sections 15 and 16 of the 1993 Education Act and then by Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires Sunderland City Council (the Local Authority) to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (the SACRE) to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship. This constitution sets out the main functions of the SACRE; membership and voting arrangements; and rules on the conduct of business.

2 Relationship of the SACRE with the Local Authority

- 2.1 The SACRE will have a separate identity and is independent of the Local Authority. The SACRE shall be consulted by the Local Authority on any issues falling within its scope of interest.

3 Function

- 3.1 SACRE's main function is to advise the Authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in Community Schools and in Foundation Schools which do not have a religious character and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the Authority may refer to SACRE or as the SACRE may see fit.

Also it :-

- can require the Authority to review its current agreed syllabus; and
- must consider applications made by a head teacher that the requirement for collective worship in Community Schools or any Foundation School which has not been designated as having a religious character to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of the pupils at that particular school.

- 3.2 The broad role of the SACRE therefore is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and collective worship in schools.

4 Membership

- 4.1 The SACRE shall consist of:-

- 4.1.1 persons appointed to represent respectively:-
- such Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as, in the opinion of the Authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious

traditions in the area; (not including persons to represent the Church of England);

- the Church of England;
- such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the Authority, ought, having regard to the circumstances of the area, to be represented;
- elected members;
- Co-opted Members who shall hold office on such terms as may be determined by the members co-opting them.

4.2 The membership shall consist of:-

4.2.1 Group (A)

Roman Catholic representatives (nominated by the Roman Catholic)
Non-conformist representatives (Baptist, Methodist and the United Reformed Church)
Other Christian Denominations
Representatives of other faiths, including;
Jewish representative
Sikh representative
Muslim representative

4.2.2 Group (B)

Church of England representatives (nominated in consultation with the Durham Diocesan Board of Education)

4.2.3 Group (C)

Representation from such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the Authority ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area.

4.2.4 Group (D)

Elected Members of the Authority

The SACRE may also include co-opted members appointed in accordance with paragraph 5 below.

- 4.3 The number of members appointed to any representative group to represent each denomination or religion required to be represented shall, so far as is consistent with the efficient discharge of the groups function, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the City of Sunderland.

5 Co-opted Members

- 5.1 The members of the SACRE, who have not been co-opted themselves, may co-opt a person, and a person so co-opted shall hold office on such terms as may be determined by the members co-opting them.

6 Term of Office

- 6.1 Members of the SACRE (with the exception of those Members appointed by Sunderland City Council) shall hold office for a four year period or until he/she is re-appointed or the appointment of his/her successor. The Clerk to SACRE shall generate letters to those whose term of office is due to cease and ensure that re-appointment (should it be desired) is an item on the agenda at the next SACRE meeting.
- 6.2 Any person co-opted shall hold office on such terms as may be determined by the members co-opting them.
- 6.3 A member of SACRE may be removed from membership by the Authority if in their opinion s/he ceases to be representative of the religion, denomination or associations which s/he was appointed to represent or (as the case may be) of the Authority.
- 6.4 Should a member of SACRE not attend three consecutive meetings, the Clerk to SACRE shall write to that member informing them that their membership will lapse if they are unable to attend the next meeting. This does not apply to Members appointed on behalf of Sunderland City Council.
- 6.5 Any member of the SACRE may at any time resign his/her office.

7 Substitution

- 7.1 Any member of the SACRE unable to attend a meeting may appoint a named substitute to attend in his/her place.

8 Voting Arrangements

- 8.1 On any question to be decided by SACRE only the representative groups on the Council shall be entitled to vote and each such group shall have a single vote.
- 8.2 On formal votes it may be necessary for the four representative groups to meet separately to determine how their collective vote will be cast. To facilitate such a vote each representative group should elect a chair.
- 8.3 In the event of a tied vote groups are to revisit the issue in question until a decision has been achieved.
- 8.4 Co-opted members shall not have a vote.

9 Conduct of Business

- 9.1 Subject to the requirement of the voting arrangements above, the SACRE and, in relation to any question failing to be decided by members of the SACRE of any particular group, the members of that group may regulate their own proceedings.
- 9.2 The validity of proceedings of SACRE or of the members of the SACRE of any particular group shall not be affected:-
 - 9.2.1 by an absence or vacancy of a representative of any member of the SACRE
 - 9.2.2 on the ground that a member of the SACRE appointed to represent any religion, denomination or association does not at the time of the proceedings represent the denomination or associations in question.

- 9.3 The representative groups on the SACRE, other than that consisting of persons appointed to represent the Authority, may at any time require a review of any agreed syllabus for the time being adopted by the Authority.
- 9.4 Three weeks in advance of each meeting, the Chair shall consult with the Advisory Teacher for RE and the Clerk to SACRE to agree the agenda. SACRE members can propose agenda items by contacting the Chair or the Clerk to SACRE. An agenda for each meeting shall be distributed two weeks in advance of a scheduled meeting, by the Clerk to SACRE.

10 Frequency of Meetings

- 10.1 The SACRE shall normally meet termly on three occasions per year.
- 10.2 Meetings of the SACRE may be convened at the request of the Chairman or any of the representative groups.

11 Sub-Groups and Working Parties

- 11.1 SACRE may appoint members to working parties which may include non-members with expertise to contribute. The working party shall not make decisions on behalf of SACRE. The working party shall preferably include members from all representative groups.
- 11.2 There shall be a permanent sub-group of SACRE able to give immediate guidance to Local Authority officers and to deal with urgent business between meetings. This sub-group shall consist of the Chair and a representative from each of the remaining three groups. Members may meet formally or consult informally by letter, telephone or e mail.

12 Reports

- 12.1 The SACRE must in each year publish a report with respect to the exercise of their functions and any action taken during the preceding year which would be forwarded to QCA by the said deadline.

13 Quorum

- 13.1 No decisions can be made at the meeting unless all the representative groups are represented at that meeting.
- 13.2 Any business discussed at an inquorate meeting would be considered for formal approval at the next quorate meeting.

14 Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

- 14.1 The Chair of SACRE shall be elected annually at the first meeting of the new academic year, from amongst those members appointed by it. The new chair shall take up office from the beginning of that meeting.
- 14.2 SACRE shall adopt the same procedure for the election of the vice chair.

15 Observers

- 15.1 In accordance with the statutory requirements of the Education Act 1996 and associated regulations the press and public will be entitled to attend meetings of the SACRE. At the beginning of each meeting, for half an hour, members of the

public will have an opportunity to receive answers to any pre-received written questions they have submitted to the Clerk/advisory teacher.

- 15.2 In addition to an Administrative Officer appointed by the Local Authority to clerk the SACRE meetings, there will be in attendance an Advisory Teacher for RE and other persons on the staff of Children's Services, each of whom may speak but not vote.

16 Consultation Process

- 16.1 Members are advised to consult with the groups that they represent on a regular basis.
- 16.2 From time to time SACRE may, as and when appropriate, consult with parents and governing bodies of Community schools and Foundation schools and shall make contact with the parents and governors via the school.

17 Monitoring and Review

- 17.1 The effectiveness of SACRE will be assessed by internal review, annually via the SACRE Self Evaluation Form (SEF).
- 17.2 The SACRE will monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that the aims and the principles of the SACRE are given full effect and may make recommendations for ways in which it can be changed.
- 17.3 The SACRE is authorised at any time to make any variations to those parts of the Constitution to give effect to any changes in the law and where, in its opinion, needs and circumstances require it.

Appendix 2

SUNDERLAND STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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Also it:-

- can require the Authority to review its current agreed syllabus; and
 - must consider applications made by a head teacher that the requirement for collective worship in Community Schools or any Foundation School which has not been designated as having a religious character to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of the pupils at that particular school.
- 3.2 The broad role of the SACRE therefore is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and collective worship in schools.

4 Membership

- 4.1 The SACRE shall consist of:-
- 4.1.1 persons appointed to represent respectively:

- such Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such relations as, in the opinion of the Authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area; (not including persons to represent the Church of England);
- the Church of England;
- such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the Authority, ought, having regard to the circumstances of the area, to be represented;
- elected Members;
- Co-opted Members who shall hold office on such terms as may be determined by the members co-opting them.

4.2 The membership shall consist of:-

4.1.1 Group (A)

Roman Catholic representatives (nominated by the Roman Catholic)
 Non-conformist representatives (Baptist, Methodist and the United Reformed Church)
 Other Christian Denominations
 Representatives of other faiths, including;
 Jewish representative
 Sikh representative
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4.1.2 Group (B)

Church of England representatives (nominated in consultation with the Durham Diocesan Board of Education)

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Representation from such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the Authority ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area.

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Elected Members of the Authority

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- 4.2 The number of members appointed to any representative group to represent each denomination or religion required to be represented shall, so far as is consistent with the efficient discharge of the groups function, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the City of Sunderland.

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- 6.4 Should a member of SACRE not attend three consecutive meetings, the Clerk to SACRE shall write to that member informing them that their membership will lapse if they are unable to attend the next meeting. This does not apply to Members appointed on behalf of Sunderland City Council.
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- 8.3 In the event of a tied vote groups are to revisit the issue in question until a decision has been achieved.
- 8.4 Co-opted members shall not have a vote.

9 Conduct of Business

- 9.1 Subject to the requirement of the voting arrangements above, the SACRE and, in relation to any question failing to be decided by members of the SACRE of any particular group, the members of that group may regulate their own proceedings.

- 9.2 The validity of proceedings of SACRE or of the members of the SACRE of any particular group shall not be affected: -
- 9.2.1 by an absence or vacancy of a representative of any member of the SACRE
 - 9.2.2 on the ground that a member of the SACRE appointed to represent any religion, denomination or association does not at the time of the proceedings represent the denomination or associations in question.
- 9.3 The representative groups on the SACRE, other than that consisting of persons appointed to represent the Authority, may at any time require a review of any agreed syllabus for the time being adopted by the Authority.
- 9.4 Three weeks in advance of each meeting, the Chair shall consult with the Advisory Teacher for RE and the Clerk to SACRE to agree the agenda. SACRE members can propose agenda items by contacting the Chair or the Clerk to SACRE. An agenda for each meeting shall be distributed two weeks in advance of a scheduled meeting, by the Clerk to SACRE.

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- 13.1 No decisions can be made at the meeting unless a minimum of 3 out of the 4 representative groups are represented at that meeting.
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- 14.1 The Chair of SACRE shall be elected annually at the first meeting of the new academic year, from amongst those members appointed by it. The new chair shall take up office from the beginning of that meeting.
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- 16.2 From time to time SACRE may, as and when appropriate, consult with parents and governing bodies of Community schools and Foundation schools and shall make contact with the parents and governors via the school.

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- 17.2 The SACRE will monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that the aims and the principles of the SACRE are given full effect and may make recommendations for ways in which it can be changed.
- 17.3 The SACRE is authorised at any time to make any variations to those parts of the Constitution to give effect to any changes in the law and where, in its opinion, needs and circumstances require it.

New SACRE Annual Report framework

Format for the new Annual Report. NASACRE in conjunction with the DfE will be doing a national analysis of Annual Reports using this framework from September 2021.

1. An introduction including:

- Table of contents
- Words from the Chair of SACRE
 - welcoming new members, celebrating successes, thanks, etc.
- Overview, number of times SACRE has met and attendance at meetings, venues, and a brief overview of content of these meetings including Self-evaluation too – link to SACRE Development plan
- Overview as above for the ASC if this is currently sitting, working groups, progress
- *Executive summary (if report is over 10 A4 pages long this might be helpful as a separate document, so readable for schools?)*

2. A section on RE (statutory responsibilities) including:

- The local agreed syllabus and RE in schools, including whether any academies have adopted the LAS
 - Monitoring the AS, relationship with an AS review
 - Work of the ASC and associated working parties if this is currently sitting showing progress, links to other work nationally or locally
- Standards and monitoring of RE
 - This can include monitoring by scrutinising exam data, conversations with schools, teacher groups, website trawls, presentations from teachers. What has SACRE done and how has the monitoring helped SACRE to commend successes and support improvements?
 - Have any schools applied for or achieved REQM awards?
- Teacher training and materials and advice for schools
- Other information (withdrawals and how the SACRE monitors, advises or supports schools with this, complaints)
- Advice to the LA

3. A section on Collective Worship (statutory responsibilities) including:

- Standards and monitoring of CW
 - This can include monitoring by scrutinising Ofsted reports, conversations with schools, teacher groups, website trawls, presentations from teachers. What has SACRE done and how has the monitoring helped SACRE to commend successes and support improvements?
- Determinations
 - How many are current and how many have been applied for and what happened? Link to Determination Process documents online. Is that refreshed, or does it need updating?

- Teacher training provided (locally or national training circulated to schools) materials and advice for schools
 - Other information (withdrawals and how the SACRE monitors, advises or supports schools with this, Complaints)
 - Advice to the LA
4. A section on links with other bodies
- National bodies, e.g. NASACRE, the REC, central faith and belief organisations
 - Local bodies, e.g. Dioceses, Inter Faith Groups, Peace Walks, HMD events
5. A section on other areas of SACRE involvement locally
- Governor training
 - Advice on issues within the community, e.g. Ramadan advice for schools in partnership with the local communities
6. A section on SACRE's own arrangements (**statutory responsibilities**) including:
- Professional and administrative support and how the LA supports the SACRE (clerking, adviser, links to council initiatives)
 - Membership, representation & recruitment - quoracy, issues and successes with recruitment
 - Training for SACRE (and ASC) members
 - Finance given to SACRE for its work
7. Appendices
- Table of GCSE – short and full, A/S & A Level RS results
 - Details on CPD provided to schools
 - Any LA/SACRE policy statements on RE or CW
 - Development plan tied to funding
 - Circulation details for this AR

Introduction

Sunderland Council has statutory obligations relating to Religious Education in the City. This report summarises those statutory requirements and sets out key aspects of how they have been met in the academic year September 2020- July 2021.

This annual report has been prepared by the Sunderland Council Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE). Members of SACRE are representative of churches and non-Christian faiths in the region, teachers associations and elected councillors. SACRE members donate their time and are not paid for their services.

Religious Education is required by law and also contributes to community cohesion by promoting mutual respect and tolerance in a diverse society. It provides a key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values and to challenge racism and discrimination.

The Chair of SACRE Comment

The academic year 2020/21 was difficult for all members with disruption to face to face meetings. We found that online meetings despite their negative aspects were better attended and we intend to explore how we can ensure that future meetings are quorate.

The annual meeting of the Council introduced four new members to Sunderland SACRE some with previous experience. A very warm welcome too Cllrs Dodds, McKeith, Samuels and P. Smith. Valerie Blackett also joined us to provide insights from a humanist perspective.

At the end of the year we were saddened to receive notification of retirement from Rev Stuart Bain. Stuart had supported Sunderland SACRE very ably over recent years both his experience and expert knowledge will be greatly missed.

An Agreed Syllabus Conference got underway during the year, culminating in a completely new approach to RE teaching for Sunderland schools who wish to take on board the new syllabus. I intend that we build on the strong response to the new syllabus to create a supportive network for teachers of RE in Sunderland.

May I take this opportunity to thank all members of Sunderland SACRE for their support and wise counsel. I particularly wish to lay on record my thanks to Cathryn Forbes our adviser and Paul Wood our clerk as Sunderland SACRE would not function without their very able and dedicated service.

1 Meetings

This Academic year saw a great deal of disruption to our meetings with October meeting being cancelled. We met in January and were quorate. Due to elections and The Council business being in purdah meetings did not take place and the June meeting was cancelled.

ASC meetings took place in both January and March and approved approaching RE Today to provide a new Agreed Syllabus for Sunderland.

2 RE (Statutory Responsibilities)

2.1 Local Agreed Syllabus and RE in schools

The academic year 2020-21 saw the current Sunderland Agreed Syllabus ready for review. The current syllabus had been adopted by all schools in the LA. The profile of schools in Sunderland has changed since the existing syllabus had been produced and launched. In particular, most Secondary schools in the LA are now academies and some primaries are members of MATS.

Sacre approved the convening of an ASC in January 2020. However, the work for the group did not commence until 2021. The ASC met in accordance with the regulations and comprised all SACRE members and some co-opted teacher representatives who had expressed an interest in becoming involved in the process following requests for volunteers. The ASC explored several Agreed Syllabus provided by SACRE's in areas with similar demographics to the city. Presentations were then sort from two providers who we felt were of most interest in meeting our needs. The March meeting of the ASC voted to approach RE Today to work with us in using their Syllabus B as a template for our New Agreed Syllabus.

2.2 Training, Monitoring and Other Information

Through Together for Children channels the RE advisor for SACRE provides training to schools. Training provided was virtual and as follows:

- Primary Twilight Teaching Christianity
- Half day 'What makes an effective Primary RE Lead
- Primary Twilight Teaching Islam
- Half day 'Implementation and Impact of Primary RE
- Primary Twilight Creating Communities of Enquiry
- Half day 'How to monitor progress in RE'

These courses are well received and have good attendance. They also provide opportunities to discuss national RE trends and discussions. As well as feedback on what further support teachers require.

SACRE have noted that OFSTED no longer undertake any subject scrutiny visits in RE. In the past these were useful for analysing national issues of importance.

SACRE's capacity to conduct direct monitoring has always been limited and there is a need to consider how this activity will take place in the future given current budget pressures.

In preparation for the new Sunderland Agreed Syllabus a questionnaire was distributed to all schools asking what they liked about the current scheme and what they would like to change or improve.

SACRE provides a termly newsletter to all schools. Topics covered included:

Autumn 2020:

- New Syllabus update
- interfaith bursaries that had been awarded
- Primary 100 RE resources
- Archbishop of York YAA.

Spring 2021:

- New Syllabus Update
- Spirited Arts Competition
- Focus on the North East Religious Resources Centre.

Summer 2021:

- New Syllabus update
- Ofsted May 2021 report
- World Religions v World reviews discussion
- Spirited Arts

Each newsletter always includes CPD that is being provided and the following paragraph encouraging schools to get in touch:

“AND FINALLY...All of us involved in teaching RE are acutely aware of the number of demands we face and how busy life gets! But we want to keep the work of SACRE relevant to everyone and to take every chance to share experiences (good and less so), as well as to celebrate your hard-won successes as widely as possible. So, even though we know it takes time and even though we know how hard you're all already working, PLEASE do keep in touch! Let us know what you have found particularly useful of what we are sharing and what you have been doing that might helpfully be shared with others. You can always reach us by emailing [...] We are REALLY looking forward to your feedback and news (so get emailing!). “

Any queries about the provision of RE in schools and resources to support that are responded to by the RE advisor to SACRE who works on a non-contractual basis. In addition, RE specialist advisor supports SACRE by attending meetings, reviewing

policy documents and keeping the SACRE apprised of local and national RE issues. As well as when requested facilitating training and providing advice and guidance to schools within the Local Authority.

3 Collective worship

Having recently been remodelled SACRE has not as yet monitored collective worship but is seeking appropriate ways to do this.

4. Links with other bodies

Sunderland SACRE is a member of NASACRE and uses their briefings for discussion at meetings.

5. SACRE local involvement

The local Dioceses has members on the Sunderland SACRE.

6. Management of SACRE, working in partnership

6.1 SACRE membership

The membership of Sunderland Local Authority SACRE as of 22nd March, 2022 is listed in the Appendix. Membership in each of the four groups is inconsistent and as a result some meetings have been inquorate. SACRE has requested that the local authority supports them in identifying faith/community leaders to support their membership.

6.2 Training for SACRE members

Members have made use of the training materials offered by NASACRE.

6.3 SACRE funding and support

Sunderland LA has not reduced the SACRE budget and made a commitment to funding support for the Specialist RE advisor.

SACRE has made a commitment to use funding to provide bursaries to support the development of RE in schools.

SACRE has been well supported by the clerk to SACRE, provided by Law and Governance Team.

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2022

	SIGNATURE
CLLR DODDS	
CLLR FARTHING	
CLLR MCKEITH	
CLLR SAMUELS	
CLLR P. SMITH	

CHRISTIAN AND OTHER DENOMINATIONS

MR ANDREW BARRON	
MATT MOORE	

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

MRS WIN LUNDGREN	
MISS CAROLINE WEIR	
MRS LISA QUINN – BRITON	

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS

MISS NATALIE FOUNTAIN	
MS JO MCSHANE	
MRS LISA QUINN – BRITON	
MISS GEMMA HAWLEY	TO BE CONFIRMED MARCH 22
MISS LOUISE RIDINGS	TO BE CONFIRMED MARCH 22

CO-OPTED

MS FIONA BRIDLE	
MS VALERIE BLACKETT	
MR CHRIS MAY	

OFFICERS

RICHARD CULLEN	
CATHRYN FORBES	
PAUL WOOD	
SARA GUMMERSON	

	STANDING AGENDA ITEM	PREPARATORY WORK	NEXT STEPS	NOTES
AUTUMN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous Minutes • Elect Chair and Vice • Vote on submission of Annual Report. • SACRE-Self Evaluation Tool. • Agree work focus for this academic year & create short- & long-term action plan. • NASACRE Briefing. • Newsletter Items. • AOB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read last minutes. • Let P Wood know if you can attend. Think about candidates. • Read draft report be prepared with comments. • Read NASACRE SET document, and minutes of previous meetings to be able to comment on progress and suggestions on content of the SET. https://www.nasacre.org.uk/resources/sacre-management • Read previous academic years minutes & newsletters to formulate ideas for a focus on this academic year. What role can you take in the work of SACRE? • Read the NASACRE briefing for this term and be ready to discuss. https://www.nasacre.org.uk/sacre-briefing • Is there anything you want to draw to the attention of RE teachers? • Is there anything you want SACRE to consider? 		Item 7
SPRING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous Minutes • Review short term action plan. • NASACRE Briefing. • Newsletter Items. • AOB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read last minutes. • Read the short term action plan be ready for discussion. • Read the NASACRE briefing for this term and be ready to discuss. https://www.nasacre.org.uk/sacre-briefing • Is there anything you want to draw to the attention of RE teachers? • Is there anything you want SACRE to consider? 		
SUMMER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous Minutes • Discuss content of Annual Report. • Review Action Plans • NASACRE Briefing. • Newsletter Items. • AOB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read last minutes. • Review SACRE work this year. Use the NASACRE annual framework to aid your thoughts as what should go in the report. https://www.nasacre.org.uk/resources/sacre-management • Review Action Plans • Read the NASACRE briefing for this term and be ready to discuss. • Is there anything you want to draw to the attention of RE teachers? • Is there anything you want SACRE to consider? 		