

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

26 Nov 2020

Meeting commenced: 4:00pm
Meeting ended: 5:30pm

PRESENT:

Committee A:

(Christian Denominations & Other Religions + Religious Denominations)

Alex Klein
Jeremey Michelson
Patricia Wilson
Imran Kotwal
Sandra Burgess

Committee B:

(Church of England)

Rev. Daniel Burton

Committee C:

(Teachers Associations)

Anne Broomhead
David Levien (CHAIR)
Kerril Casey (VICE CHAIR)

Committee D:

(Local Authority)

Councillor Burch
Councillor Critchley
Councillor Collinson
Councillor Mullen
Councillor Saunders
Councillor Wilson

Other:

David Milne

Officers:

Kindra Belcher – SACRE Consultant
Sophie Wroe – SACRE Clerk

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Sophie informed the meeting that there were no apologies for absence submitted.

Councillor Brocklehurst and David Milne were not in attendance.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 12TH 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting held on March 12th 2020 were agreed as a true and correct record.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The minutes of the meeting held on March 12th 2020 were agreed as a true and correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

It was agreed that there were no matters arising.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

4. PRIMARY AND SECONDARY UPDATE

Primary:-

Kindra Belcher informed the meeting that she had no Primary updates due to the ever-changing situation surrounding COVID-19.

Sandra Burgess informed the meeting that section 48 inspections had been cancelled and postponed to January. The new framework is now expected to come into catholic schools in 2022.

Secondary:-

Kerril Casey informed the meeting that she has been working with some secondary schools in Salford where RE is combined with PSHE, meaning that there are only around 6-10 explicit RE lessons per year for each year group. Kerril has been looking at the curriculum and trying to support schools to make the RE input as meaningful as possible, linking across other aspects of the curriculum. Kerril has also been supporting the PRU to access the syllabus and create a meaningful RE curriculum.

David Levien gave praise to teachers and their efforts through the pandemic.

Jeremy Michelson informed the group that he has been running voluntary sessions on Judaism via zoom.

Imran Kotwal advised he has done similarly for sessions on Islam, whereby 90

percent of sessions have been virtual, including virtual assemblies during interfaith week.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

5. NASACRE EGM

Alex Klein informed the meeting that the NASACRE EGM went well and the highlight for him was the Westhill awards, by which Salford should be inspired and follow suit.

Alex advised there is information on the NASACRE website for teachers in need of virtual tools.

David Levien suggested SACRE share this information with schools wherever possible so that it can be properly utilised.

Councillor Burch was also in attendance at the EGM and commented how it was good to see so many people in attendance, with a great spirit of unity working across different religions.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

6. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Alex Klein informed the meeting that there will be 10 LA's in attendance, with 1 rep each. Salford schools are encouraged to join in with the event and Mayors will be involved. Alex advised the meeting that Michael Isdale is going to do a memorial prayer and King David Junior may provide a choir. Alex stated he would ask Magda to provide a further update via email.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

RESOLVED: THAT (2) Alex to ask Magda to provide update to Sophie

7. R.E Syllabus Renewal

Kindra Belcher informed the meeting that pre-pandemic she had been contacting R.E today regarding syllabus renewal. The current syllabus compiled by R.E today in 2016 is due renewal in 2021.

Kindra informed the meeting that Trafford, Stockport, Tameside, and Manchester are all due renewal at the same time, so she via Lat had been liaising with these LA's.

Kindra stated that in terms of the syllabus itself and the options for renewal there are three;

- 1) R.E today can write Salford a bespoke syllabus

- 2) Salford can continue with the thematic syllabus we have now, making some slight updates
- 3) A new/systematic syllabus could be introduced, which would match the diocese of Manchester understanding Christianity

Kindra gave the opinion that a bespoke syllabus would be expensive and that updating the current syllabus would be best, as Schools are still adjusting to the current syllabus and have enough changes to manage in the current climate surrounding COVID.

The following comments and questions were raised surrounding cost.

- Options 2 and 3 would equate to a similar cost.
- A bespoke syllabus would cost around £16,000 whereas collaborating with other authorities holds a 25% price advantage.
- We should focus on quality, not cost.

David Levien suggested funding and costs be discussed with Cathy Starbuck and the LEA.

Imran Kotwal posed the question as to whether SACRE could create the syllabus themselves, however members agreed it would be extremely time consuming and they wouldn't have capacity to do so. David Levien advised he was involved in syllabus construction in the past and it requires extensive time and guidance.

Alex Klein informed the meeting he would speak with NASACRE to see if they could create the new syllabus.

Jeremy Michelson asked Kindra if Schools are happy with the current syllabus, to which Kindra replied that Schools are still adjusting but they are very happy with it. Kerril added that it is very accessible and gets Secondary approval also. David Levien stressed the importance of listening to the opinion of Schools.

Councillor Burch stated that any more pressure or change is not justifiable at this time and updating the current syllabus is in her view the most favourable option.

Anne Broomhead commented that from her experience in Primary schools, it takes around seven years for a syllabus to work, and any additional changes right now will cause more problems for children. Anne spoke in favour of updating the current syllabus and working with other LA's so that ideas and best practice can be shared.

Kindra informed the meeting that Lat has given all authorities access to a survey monkey with a section of the thematic vs systematic syllabus, so that Schools can get a feel for both. The results of the survey will be back by December 2020, and a decision must be made by March 2021. The syllabus will be launched in October 2021 with implementation over a year, so that Schools can adjust, and legal requirements of renewal can be met.

As the meeting was quorate, Kindra asked the meeting for a vote as to whether SACRE is in favour of a Manchester Hub where Salford works with other authorities. The majority vote was in favour of the proposal.

Members in favour of the proposal were:

David Levien
Kerril Casey
Sandra Burgess
Rev.Daniel Burton
Jeremey Michelson
Patricia Wilson
Councillor Wilson
Councillor Saunders
Imran Kotwal
Councillor Burch
Anne Broomhead

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

RESOLVED: THAT (2) Kindra to continue work with Lat and other local authorities.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business

David Levien gave thanks to all members of SACRE for their efforts.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting agreed that Sophie would send out some potential dates for the February 2021 meeting in order to maximise attendance and ensure we are quorate.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The next meeting of SACRE will be scheduled on a date
In February 2021 and members will be notified accordingly.