

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

29 March 2022

Meeting commenced: 4:00pm
Meeting ended: 6:00pm

In Attendance:

Committee A:
(Christian Denominations & Other Religions + Religious Denominations)

Alex Klein
Patricia Wilson
Sandra Burgess
Joyce Yap
Andrew Gallimore
Sandra Dutson
Ruth Watson

Committee B:
(Church of England)

Rev. Karen Owen

Committee C:
(Teachers Associations)

Anne Broomhead
David Levien (CHAIR)

Committee D:
(Local Authority)

Councillor Saunders
Councillor Brocklehurst

Other:

Victoria Ross
Jo McGarry
Natalie Stables

Officers:

Sophie Wroe – SACRE Clerk

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS TO NEW MEMBERS

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

David gave mention to the two new additions of Salford SACRE, Sandra Dutson of the religious society of friends and Ruth Watson of the united reformed church.

David welcomed the co-opted members in attendance, Jo McGarry of St Marys CE Primary School, Natalie Stables of Moorside High, and Vicky Ross, head of school provider arm attending on behalf of Neil Fazackerley.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of: Kindra Belcher, Imran Kotwal, Chris Rice, Martin Shaw, Rev. Gareth Thomas, Councillor Baily, David Milne, Rev. Daniel Burton and Neil Fazackerley.

Councillor Bellamy declined invitation and Councillor Coen, Councillor J. Walsh, Prof. Nawal Prinja and Kerril Casey were not in attendance.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD OCTOBER 7TH 2021 AND MATTERS ARISING

Joyce Yap noted a spelling error of the Bahai faith. There were no further amendments or objections

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

4. THE ANNUAL REPORT

Referencing the handouts provided, David asked members to look at the recently submitted Annual Report. David explained to members that the format used is advisory of NASACRE.

David highlighted the positives and achievements of the last 12 months and stated that whilst Salford SACRE are to stay conscious of the improvements yet to be made, there is also lot to celebrate. Examples being that Salford SACRE's membership is growing (8 new members over the last six months) and the LA is also offering more co-opted members. David said that the best SACRE's have close relationships with their LA and this mutual support is vital to grow stronger as a SACRE.

David told members that together they have the expertise to deliver, for Salford, and will soon be standing shoulder to shoulder with the best of the best in the country.

David referenced to the section of the report covering the Holocaust memorial event. David gave mention to the participation of Westwood Park, Christ the King, Walkden Academy and Oasis academy, saying that the event would not have been as great without the involvement of these children. Each of the children received a certificate of excellence.

Alex Klein stated that he has been a participant in Holocaust Memorial Day for many years. Alex spoke of how there were lots of last-minute changes on the day, but it was a great success in the end and received a huge response from right around the world.

Reverend Karen Owen informed members of a speaker which coincided with Holocaust Memorial Event, Judith Haman. Karen informed the group of a project called love thy neighbour which will link up with Manchester Diocese, for which their involvement is welcomed.

David asked the group for feedback on the Annual report. Alex Klein said it reflected excellence across the board. Councillor Brocklehurst suggested that first names could be used for Councillors in the next Annual report. Anne Broomhead advised of changes within the structure of the teacher associations, meaning she is now a member of the NEU.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted

5. AGREED SYLLABUS UPDATE

David informed members of the newly launched agreed syllabus. David gave credit to the work of all involved including Neil Fazackerley, Anne Tattersall and Phil Beeston.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

6. THE NEWSLETTER INITIATIVE

David informed members that Magda Sachs has produced a report on the Holocaust Memorial Event, which will be included in the next SACRE newsletter.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

7. SEF UPDATE

David advised members that the SEF is a self-evaluation form whereby SACRE are to review their responsibilities. Sandra added that NASACRE have provided this as a useful toolkit which breaks focus into 6 areas and aids the writing of the annual report.

Sandra explained that a lot of progress has been made in terms of the business section i.e. SACRE membership is growing, SACRE has subscribed to NASACRE, members have been on training and the annual report has been submitted.

Sandra explained that the subgroup has also given focus to other sections, and members in attendance would focus today on the Standards and Quality of RE. Collective Worship and Community Cohesion/Equality and Inclusion, thus forming an action plan for next meeting.

Sandra offered a list of Primary and Secondary Schools in Salford and asked members to note their names besides any Schools they have good links with.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

8. PANEL TASKS

Members were asked to split into three groups and discuss the following sections of the SEF.

Panel 1 - Standards and Quality of RE.

Vicky Ross
Sandra Burgess
Alex Klein
Ruth Watson

Panel 2 - Collective Worship.

Jo McGarry
Rev.Karen Owen
Joyce Yap
Andrew Gallimore
Patricia Wilson

Panel 3 - Community Cohesion/Equality and Inclusion

David Levien
Natalie Stables
Cllr Saunders
Anne Broomhead
Cllr Brocklehurst
Sandra Dutson

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

9. FEEDBACK FROM GROUPS

David thanked members for their input and suggested they get together virtually over the coming months to discuss further.

Standards and Quality of RE.

- Set up Primary and Secondary Network. CPD will drive standards in R.E.
- Emails heads directly from a supportive angle. Use people's links to Schools to assess quality of R.E.
- Find out from R.E leads what they need help with and how SACRE can support.
- Questionnaires and presentations.
- Ensure new early career teachers are supported.
- Use NASACRE materials.
- Encourage R.E teachers to share their practice.
- Look at R.E examination results
- Analyse OFSTED reports and feedback at meetings (Ruth volunteered)
- Understand what Schools need to create the right support.

Collective Worship.

- Raise the profile of SACRE as Schools aren't fully aware
- Need to increase understanding of SACRE's role
- Face to face meetings to make teachers aware of statutory responsibilities
- Role of governors, are they aware of legal responsibility? Agenda at Governors meetings.
- Template of legal phrases and how they're implemented in Schools
Governors could check against an audit.
- SACRE advisor to make clear statutory requirements
- Explore the role of a pupil voice.
- Quality over quantity.
- Assess long term and short term timescales

Community Cohesion/Equality and Inclusion

- How representative are we of our community?
- Salford is very diverse, and people are coming into the Country under difficult circumstances. Reps of various groups could be reached via the Salford Newsletter, weekly comms, CVC.
- How do we engage with local faiths and communities?
- Non-believers should also be included
- Liaise with Salford Council equalities team to find out what groups there are
- Liaise with the Youth Service
- Salford is committed to being a city of sanctuary
- Multi faith groups in Salford could offer reps
- R.E teaching can be good, but is it reflected throughout the schools?

David advised members Martyn Shaw (Youth Worker) and Chris Rice (LGBTQ+) will attend the next meeting, with a view of giving some good input towards community cohesion.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Saunders informed members that on 30th March 2022 he will be a guest at the Manchester Cathedral, sitting on an interfaith panel and speaking about different religions attitudes towards safeguarding. Members requested that he gives feedback of this at the next meeting.

Ruth Watson, serving as a minister in Oasis Academy Hub, invited members to an upcoming culture day on 10th May.

Councillor Saunders gave apologies for June's meeting.

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The information is noted.

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on June 16th at Buile Hill Park Hall, 4pm

RESOLVED: THAT (1) The next meeting of SACRE will be held on 16th June 2022 at Buile Hill Hall Park, 4pm.