

Minutes



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Tuesday 8th November 2022 at 6.45pm held at Sutton High School, Cheam Road, Sutton

Present: (Groups in brackets)	Miss V M Stone (C) (Chair) Mrs M Cockram (C) Mrs Usma Mobin (C) Mr S Uddin (A) Mr Abhinav Kant (A)	Mr Vince Burke (A) Mr Lewis Owens (B) Mrs R Johnson (A) Councillor Christopher Woolmer (D) Mr S Ellingham (C)
In attendance:	Mrs Penny Smith-Orr (Consultant) Mrs Penny Garry (Clerk)	
Apologies:	Mrs Justine Speck (C) Mrs Uzma Hussein (C) Mr Paul Solomon (A)	Councillor Patrick Ogbonna (D) Ms Rebecca Bishop (C) Ms Megan Morgan (B)

	ITEM	ACTION BY
1.	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Mrs Speck, Mrs Hussein, Mr Solomon, Councillor Ogbonna, Ms Morgan and Ms Bishop and were consented.</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8TH JUNE 2022</p> <p>The minutes were agreed and will be signed as a true record.</p>	
4.	<p>MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA</p> <p>Outstanding Actions:</p> <p>Attendance by LA - Ms Stone had emailed the Education Department to request attendance at the next SACRE meeting.</p> <p>WIRE Award – the Clerk advised that she had not yet sent the information to Cognus but would do so. Mrs Smith-Orr is still to contact Bandon Hill. Mrs Smith-Orr will send the information to Mr Burke for him to take to the next Headteacher’s meeting</p> <p>Collective Worship and Determination Training – Mrs Smith-Orr is still to circulate this to members.</p>	PG/PS-O

<p>5.</p>	<p>APPOINTMENT OF SACRE MEMBERS</p> <p>Members noted that Mr Mukesh Rao was stepping down due to other commitments. The committee welcomed Mr Abhinav Kant who had been put forward to replace Mukesh as a Hindu representative. The Clerk had received the recommendation letter.</p> <p>Mr Leslie Bracken, the humanist representative had stepped down from SACRE. Mr Bracken had been a member for many years and the Chair will write a letter of thanks to him for his service on SACRE.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>MONITORING RE AND CW IN SUTTON</p> <p>WIRE Award</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr explained to the new members what the WIRE Award is.</p> <p>As mentioned under Matters Arising, there are still some outstanding actions to be completed.</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr is aware of four schools who are collecting evidence and working their way through the award.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>UPDATE ON SUTTON FAITH & BELIEF FORUM</p> <p>Mr Solomon was not present at the meeting to provide an update.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>RE CO-ORDINATORS MEETINGS AND SCHOOL VISITS</p> <p>A meeting took place in person recently at Victor Seymour as RE Co-ordinators wanted to look at the RE resources held there. Unfortunately due to a change in staff at Victor Seymour the school were unaware of the visit. Only 6 Co-ordinators attended. The next meeting will be on 2nd February 2023.</p> <p>One of the Co-ordinators mentioned that they have only half an hour a week to deliver RE lessons so Mrs Smith-Orr is going to meet with her and help her to plan how to get all of the content into such a short time.</p> <p>Mr Ellingham asked if there were any secondary teachers attending and heard that they have been invited but they are not as interested.</p> <p>Action: Mr Ellingham will ask those Co-ordinators he is aware of to raise awareness of these meetings.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>UPDATE ON FAITH AMBASSADORS</p> <p>As Ms Speck was absent from the meeting there was no update.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>SACRE SELF EVALUATION</p> <p>Members had agreed at the last meeting to re-visit the evaluation in person, with guidance from Mrs Smith-Orr.</p>	

Discussions took place around each of the areas and SACRE's current position as follows:

1a Funding and Professional Support

A budget of £8k is given to SACRE by the local authority which provides for the RE Consultant, Clerk, membership of NASACRE and attendance at the annual AGM.

As previously mentioned there is still a need for another LA representative for group D.

Decision: Established

1b SACRE meetings

Attendance is not 100% and the Chair has chased up members. There is a need to meet in a variety of venues but members recognised that this is not always easy and that they were grateful to Sutton High School for allowing use of the hall and providing refreshments free of charge. There will be an effort made to hold the meeting at a different venue in the summer. Mr Uddin offered a venue.

Decision: Developing

1c Membership and training

There is a need to expand membership but overall there is good representation.

Sutton SACRE now buys into a full package with NASACRE which includes free access to all online training. Mrs Hussein has recently attended training on What Makes an Effective SACRE and Mr Burke had attended training with the Diocese of Southwark.

Decision: Established

1d Improvement/development planning

The Sutton SACRE Development Plan is in place and is informed by self-evaluation. The plan is reviewed at each meeting. Actions are taken and updated.

Decision: Advanced.

1e Information and advice

There is limited information from the local authority on exam results. This action will be updated on the Development Plan.

Decision: Developing

1f Partnerships with key stakeholders

Members recognised that there is gap in gathering information and views of pupils. A new action will be to invite a teacher who has completed the WIRE Award and also to view Faith Ambassador videos.

Decision: Established

- 1g Relations with the Academies sector**
 Members felt it would be good to have a teacher from an academy and Mr Ellingham said he will approach Leo trust.
- Members asked what will happen when all schools become academies and heard that only community schools must use the Sutton Agreed Syllabus although academies can choose and many have used it. Some Church of England schools also use Sutton's syllabus alongside the Diocese syllabus.
- Decision: Developing**
- 2a RE provision across the LA.**
 There is a scheme of work/syllabus. A member asked how effectively SACRE gains information about provision. Mrs Smith-Orr said that she gets information from primary school Co-ordinators. In response to a question around whether SACRE could look at Ofsted reports, Ms Johnson commented that Ofsted reports no longer mention RE in the new format report.
- Decision: Developing**
- 2b Standards of achievement and public examination entries**
 It is very difficult to get any data from the local authority.
- Decision: Requires Improvement**
- 2c Quality of learning and teaching.**
 The SACRE Consultant interacts regularly with RE Co-ordinators to help them with delivery of RE and the agreed syllabus supports teaching. As mentioned there is no feedback on RE in the new Ofsted reports.
- Decision: Established.**
- 2d Quality of interaction and communication with leadership and management of RE in schools**
 SACRE has ways to communicate with schools but needs to link this to leadership and management in schools in a better way.
- Decision: Established.**
- 2e Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools**
 Relations with academies are more difficult to establish but there is a proactive strategy. SACRE is reaching out to a local academy to see if they will send a representative.
- 3a The review process**
 The locally agreed syllabus was reviewed in 2020 and include additional information around assessment.
- Decision: Established.**
- 3b The quality of the local Agreed Syllabus**
- Decision: Established.**

3c Launching and implementing the Agreed Syllabus

Not applicable – done in 2020.

3d Membership and training of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)

Not applicable – done in 2020

3e Developing the revised agreed syllabus

Not applicable – done in 2020

SE left the meeting at 8pm.

3f Making best use of National Guidance

Not applicable.

In terms of Collective Worship, school websites have been reviewed to see if it is mentioned. Schools still carried out collective worship during Covid. Mr Owens reported that it was really important at their school and Mr Burke said that his school did this with the teachers delivering it.

Decision: Established.

4a Supporting pupil entitlement

SACRE issued guidance on Collective Worship.

Decision: Established.

4b Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship

Mr Burke asked how SACRE know what non-faith schools do. Mrs Smith-Orr said that they usually have good collective worship but SACRE have not visited schools recently. Ms Johnson said that they are often non-faith based and don't include RE.

Mr Uddin asked what the definition of collective worship is and heard that it is when a section of the school comes together and it must include time for reflection. There is a story and often the teacher will give a prayer from a faith. Ms Stone said that she had seen schools do this with year groups. Mrs Smith-Orr reminded members that there is a difference between assembly and collective worship. Assembly is a gathering to hear about things and collective worship is around reflection with a moral and spiritual feel.

Mr Owens said that his school keeps collective worship separate from RE and there is a sign that worship is beginning and ending. The school also sometimes has children delivering worship.

SACRE could consider an action around developing and offering training on collective worship.

Decision: Established.

4c Responding to requests for determinations

Sutton SACRE has not received any requests for determinations but SACRE members have received training.

	<p>Decision: Advanced.</p> <p>5a SACRE’s membership Sutton SACRE has a varied membership but still requires another LA representative.</p> <p>Decision: Established.</p> <p>5b SACRE’s understanding of the local area Sutton SACRE has links with the local Interfaith Group.</p> <p>Decision: Established.</p> <p>5c SACRE’s engagement with the community cohesion agenda. Sutton SACRE has links with the local Interfaith Group.</p> <p>Decision: Established</p> <p>5d SACRE’s role within wider LA initiatives on community cohesion SACRE members do not know what the local initiatives are as there is no representative on SACRE.</p> <p>Decision: Requires Improvement</p>	
12.	<p>SACRE 2022 DEVELOPMENT PLAN</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr will update the development plan to reflect the discussions and actions from the meeting and the self-evaluation exercise.</p>	PS-O
13.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>SACRE Annual Report.</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr had circulated the draft for comments. She explained that as the report covered an academic year now, some members appeared to have low attendance. The suggestion was made to word attendance as X out of X to make it more reflective for new joiners.</p>	
14.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 6.45pm – PLEASE NOTE NEW, EARLIER TIME.</p> <p>Venue: Sutton High School</p>	

Closing Time of Meeting: 8.36pm

Chair’s Signature Date.....