

Minutes



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Tuesday 27th February 2024 at 6.45pm

held at St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School, London Road, Sutton, Surrey SM3 9DL

Present: Miss V M Stone (C) (Chair) Ms Megan Morgan (B)
(Groups in Mrs Penny Smith-Orr (Consultant) Mr Lewis Owens (B)
brackets) Mr Vince Burke (A) Ms Karen Hewitt (B)
Mrs Uzma Hussein (A) Mr S Ellingham (C)
Mr Sal Uddin (A) Mrs Uzma Mobin (C)
Mr Paul Solomon (A) Councillor Patrick Ogbonna (D)
Mr Chris Lynch (A)

In attendance: Mrs Penny Garry (Clerk)

Apologies: Mrs Rosey Johnson (A) Councillor Christopher Woolmer (D)
Miss Rebecca Bishop (C)

Absent: Mr Abhinav Kant (A)

	ITEM	ACTION BY
1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies had been received from Mrs Rosey Johnson, Miss Rebecca Bishop and Councillor C Woolmer and were consented. Mr Kant was absent from the meeting.	
3.	MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2023 The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA Outstanding Actions: Item 7 – WIRE Award Logo – Mrs Smith-Orr has produced something that is a word document. Mrs Johnson agreed to look at this to see what format it is in and look at the WIRE logo online. Item 8 – Collective Worship/WIRE Award. Miss Stone had emailed secondary Headteachers about a range of issues and directing them to the RE resources, the Collective Worship Guidance and reminding them about	

	<p>WIRE Awards.</p> <p>The Clerk is still to finalise a new Education Bulletin item about the WIRE award as she wants to get some photographs of presentations to include.</p> <p>Grill A Faith Mr Ellingham advised that the event planned for 7th December had been cancelled by Sutton High.</p>	
5.	<p>APPOINTMENT OF SACRE MEMBERS</p> <p>There were no new appointments to the membership of SACRE.</p> <p>Miss Stone had written to the Southwark Diocese about the lack of attendance of Mrs Smyth and advised that she will be removed from the membership of SACRE. She had not received a reply.</p> <p>Action: Councillor Ogbonna may have a potential Buddhist member and will contact them. Mrs Smith-Orr and Mr Ellingham will approach the Primary RE Co-ordinators to see if they would join as a representative of Group C.</p>	PO/ PS-O/SE
6.	<p>REPORT ON SACRE MEMBERS TRAINING</p> <p>Mrs Hewitt had attended the recent NASACRE online training on Life and Death and said it was very interesting.</p> <p>There is training on How to Convene and Agreed Syllabus Conference being held online on 12th March and SACRE members are strongly encouraged to attend.</p>	
7.	<p>MONITORING RE AND CW IN SUTTON</p> <p>WIRE Award Mrs Smith-Orr said that she had not received any evidence this term despite there having been some expressions of interest from some schools in completing the award.</p> <p>Collective Worship Mrs Smith-Orr suggested another exercise of looking at school websites. Schools are required to publish their curriculum on their website.</p> <p>Mr Ellingham wondered if SACRE could get a view from Ofsted and then communicate with schools as SACRE does have the responsibility of monitoring the quality of RE. Mrs Smith-Orr added that there is a national standards document which sets out what is expected and this should be considered alongside the Ofsted RE report. Mr Ellingham said that the message could be that SACRE are contacting them in advance of an approach by Ofsted who might ask what schools are doing to meet the required standards in the quality of education.</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr agreed and said that Ofsted have been doing deep dives in RE.</p> <p>There are some good examples of quality RE across the primary sector but very few in secondary.</p>	

	<p>SACRE members agreed that the Heads of RE need to be targeted.</p> <p>Action: Mrs Smith-Orr will write to Ofsted to ask for some guidance. Mr Ellingham will send a list of Heads of RE to Miss Stone who will then email them.</p>	<p>PS-O/ SE/VS</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>UPDATE ON SUTTON FAITH & BELIEF FORUM</p> <p>Mr Solomon had attended a meeting which was reasonably well attended. The Council are not very proactive at facilitating this group.</p> <p>Mr Solomon advised that there had been a police presence at some recent events because of the situation in Gaza.</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr said she had received a letter about a Ramadan Iftar dinner arranged by the Dialogue Society. It is being hosted by Trinity Church on 23rd March and SACRE members are invited to attend. Mrs Smith-Orr explained that Iftar stands as a symbol of mutual respect and shared humanity. Mrs Smith-Orr added that some guidance has been sent to schools on Ramadan previously and SACRE members agreed to send this again.</p> <p>Mr Solomon asked if there might be a problem with his synagogue giving out items of food when children visit the synagogue because the Muslim children will be fasting. Ms Hussein said that they usually don't fast until they are slightly older.</p> <p>Ms Mobin highlighted another Hindu celebration event taking place in Carshalton Park.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk will send the full details to SACRE members.</p>	<p>PG</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>RE CO-ORDINATORS MEETINGS AND SCHOOL VISITS</p> <p>A meeting took place by Zoom recently and around 10 Primary RE Co-ordinators attended. Mrs Smith-Orr updated them with some information on the resources and they were able to see the photographs. Mrs Smith-Orr reminded SACRE members that they are welcome to attend one of these meetings which are held on Zoom.</p> <p>Ms Morgan confirmed that there is a charge of around £50 (payable to Cognus) to attend.</p> <p>Mrs Smith-Orr and Miss Stone went to Victor Seymour and have catalogued all of the available resources. There are lots of leaflets and posters and lots of resources on Judaism which could be shared amongst other schools. There is still a need to obtain more resources. Mr Ellingham said he will see which Christian resources he can obtain.</p> <p>Miss Stone is trying to establish how much money is left in the SACRE budget in order that some things can be purchased. It would be good to have three sets of resources. This initiative will also raise the profile of SACRE.</p>	

	<p>In response to a question about the number of schools in Sutton, SACRE members heard that there are 44 primary schools (including infants and juniors) and 15 secondary schools.</p> <p>Action: All SACRE members were asked to approach their places of worship to see if they have anything spare.</p> <p>VB asked if there is a bank of people who will visit school to talk about their faith. If so, the RE Hub offer online training for those who are going into schools. They also issue a regular newsletter.</p> <p>School Visits Schools have been visiting the synagogue and only one school cancelled a visit in October following the incidents in Israel.</p> <p>Mr Solomon said that he had looked at the exam papers for GCSE and some of the questions were very difficult.</p> <p>Mr Ellingham said that there is an Easter experience taking place and around 2100 children will participate.</p>	All members
10.	<p>UPDATE ON FAITH AMBASSADORS</p> <p>It was agreed that this item will be removed from the agenda for the time being.</p>	
11.	<p>SACRE 2023-2024 DEVELOPMENT PLAN</p> <p>2023-2024 Plan Mrs Smith-Orr went through the development plan – some items have been carried forward. Many of the items had already been discussed in the meeting. It was agreed that Item 6, Faith Ambassadors will be removed from the plan.</p> <p>Item 7 – Finding members from other faiths. As mentioned under matters arising, Hinduism is the third biggest community in the country and it would be good to find a representative. VB may know a parent of a child at the school.</p> <p>Action: Councillor Ogbonna will approach the Buddhist he knows. Mrs Smith-Orr will contact the organisers of the Hindu festival taking place in March and Mr Burke will try and make contact with the parents of the child at the school.</p>	PO/ PS-O/ VS
12.	<p>CONVENE WORKING GROUP/AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE</p> <p>A decision needs to be made about whether to buy a syllabus either from an external organisation like RE Today or, possibly, another borough. This needs to be done by September 2025.</p> <p>Mr Smith-Orr will not be available to review and develop the syllabus with SACRE members as she is stepping down in the summer.</p>	

	<p>The syllabus is currently arranged so that each religion is taught for half a term but the new syllabi seem to be more topic based e.g. holy writings are covered across all faiths.</p> <p>An agreed syllabus conference is needed but SACRE members felt it would be good to contact schools and ask for their views on the current syllabus.</p> <p>Action: Mrs Smith-Orr will email a short questionnaire to all RE Co-ordinators with responses required by the end of March. A working group will be convened in May to look at the options.</p>	PS-O
13.	<p>SACRE ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p>The Annual Report has been completed and uploaded to the NASACRE website and Sutton SACRE website.</p>	
14.	<p>NASACRE AGM</p> <p>This year's AGM is taking place in York.</p> <p>SACRE members were asked to let the Clerk know if they would like to attend. The budget will fund two places. Miss Stone will probably attend.</p>	
15.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Ms Morgan is expecting a child at the end of the summer and SACRE members congratulated her. She would like to remain on SACRE and may still be able to attend the Summer meeting in June.</p>	
16.	<p>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</p> <p>Tuesday 25th June 2024 at 6.45pm</p> <p>Venue: TBC but likely to be North Cheam Baptist Church, Ridge Road, North Cheam SM3 9LY</p>	

Closing Time of Meeting: 8.50pm

Chair's Signature Date.....