

CALDERDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CALDERDALE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Minutes of SACRE Meeting
Tuesday 28 February 2023
5.30 pm at Savile Park at Heath**

Members in attendance:

Committee A

Representing Other Denominations & Faiths Mr Robert Fox (RF)

Committee B

Representing the Church of England	Canon James Allison (JA) Mrs Shelagh Hirst (SH) (Chair)
------------------------------------	--

Committee C

Teachers/Unions	Mr Mark Sharp (MS) Ms Megan Stephenson (MSt)
-----------------	---

Committee D

Representing Calderdale Council

Cllr Brenda Monteith (BM)
Cllr Dot Foster (DF)

In attendance Mrs Debby Simpson – Clerk (DAS)
Mr Ian Ross (IR)

Quorum for the meeting is 1 representative from each of the 4 Committees

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from: Jake Womack and Trish Boyd.

It was agreed that RF be moved to “other denominations” category – representing the Methodist Church as he had now left his post as headteacher.

2. Minutes of Meeting Held 1 December 2022 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 1 December 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

No-one had attended NASACRE training since the last meeting. The clerk had asked NASACRE if recorded sessions could be provided. In order for this to be done the tutor would need to be contacted rather than NASACRE.

The information for the NASACRE conference had been sent to members. There were 2 places available for each SACRE which Calderdale will pay for including travel.

Concern was raised about the conference being held in London as this was difficult to get to on time. SH will mention this when she next has contact with the possibility at looking at hybrid conferences or holding the conference more central.

Teachers attending the conference were discussed. It was not felt that Calderdale would be able to pay for supply should any be interested.

Members to inform the clerk should they be interested in attending.

There were no other matters arising other than what was on the Agenda.

3. Membership Update

The Clerk informed members that Freddie Naftel had now resigned as Jewish representative on SACRE. SH will bring this to the attention of the Interfaith Council to see if there is anyone available. She also agreed to ask about Muslim representation.

4. Local Agreed Syllabus Discussion

Some members had attended the last part of the RE network to discuss the syllabus with teachers.

Members had also received 2 independent reviews from Paul Smalley and Bill Moore, a briefing paper from the Syllabus Working Group and a draft NSE Resource Document to help with discussions.

A link had been sent to all schools about the syllabus to get feedback with 72 responses being received so far, 32 of which were from Calderdale. IR will send the results once completed.

This gave members a chance to discuss in detail some of the highlights that were coming out from the feedback which were:

- The syllabus needs to be minimal.
- Both religion and world views need to be included.
- Pupils need to learn about religious concepts and how these are applied to different beliefs (eg prayer, service, compassion ...)
- Must or could needs to be defined because some schools were taking the “could” as not needed which it is.
- Core knowledge was suggested for each faith with a selection of further study topics. Key skills need to be linked to the core knowledge.
- One question raised was “which syllabus has allowed children to achieve better” – IR said that this would be difficult to do due to the goal posts changing all the time and therefore not being able to do a like for like analysis.
- Reflection needs to be brought in to build on the core knowledge. IR felt that this could be done by doing some units on what pupils can reflect on what they have learnt.
- The syllabus needs to be designed for non-specialists.
- It was suggested that there be a broad understanding of all faiths that is easy to understand by all pupils. This could be done in the early stages so when these are looked at in later years everyone has a brief understanding of all the 6 main religions.
- Peripatetic RE teachers was another idea. IR advised that they already employed specialist teachers to deliver subjects. Members felt that this could be an opportunity to offer on-line training that specialists could deliver.
- A big question for SACRE members in the future was how do you pick up on schools that teach RE less well?
- Specific faiths need to be built on in order to bring knowledge together.
- Everyone liked the big questions supported by little questions to give a framework.
- It was felt that some of the units needed to be slimmed down with more creativity in the units.

.5. Reviewing Collective Worship Guidance

Members had received a copy of the new guidance.

IR explained that this has been done due to discussions with UNIS UK who want the wording changed to “inclusive assemblies” and they felt that the themes should be more humanised and not just Christian values. IR wanted had amended the guidance to see if the original was still fit for purpose.

It was felt that SACRE needed a better understanding of what happens in schools now and that members should now go to into schools to see what was happening at the moment. It was felt that eventually this could align with the syllabus. It was agreed that something could be sent to schools to arrange visits.

Discussion took place on the PR of Collective Worship and what it is about and parents don't always understand what it is.

It was also agreed that providing a 'SACRE Mark' for Collective Worship be looked at which would work in a similar way to the RE Mark. The suggested name was Calderdale's Inclusive Assemblies Award.

It was also agreed to put the legal advice at the end of the document as this could put people off reading the more creative part of the guidance.

6. AOB

None.

.

7. Dates for Workshop Meetings

Ian have you got the dates for these

Strategic Group

Syllabus Review Group

Schools and Teaching

9. Dates of Next Meetings and Venues

20 March 2023 – 6.00 pm (Joint meeting)

28 June 2023 – 6.00 pm (AGM)

Venues TBA.

.