

CALDERDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
CALDERDALE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Minutes of SACRE Meeting (AGM)
Monday 30 November 2021
6.00 pm
Virtual Meeting

Members in attendance:

Committee A

Representing Other Denominations & Faiths	Mr Peter Baron (PB) Mr Rob Billson (RB) Mr Dipan Mistry (DM) Mr Jake Womack (JW)
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Committee B

Representing the Church of England	Ms Trish Boyd (TB)
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Committee C

Teachers/Unions	Mr Mark Sharp (MS) (Vice Chair) Mrs Shelagh Hirst (Chair)
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Committee D

Representing Calderdale Council	Cllr Brenda Monteith (BM) Cllr Dot Foster (DF)
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In attendance

Mrs Debby Simpson – Clerk (DAS)
Mr Ian Ross (IR)
Ms Hannah McKercher (HM) - Presentation

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

1. Introductions, Apologies, Minutes (21/10/21) and Matters Arising, Membership Update

Introductions: Introductions were made due to Mr Dipan Mistry starting on the Board representing Hinduism.

Apologies: Apologies were received from HA.

Minutes (21/10/21): The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising.

Membership: A Jewish representative had now been secured however IR was checking to make sure that it was for Calderdale and not Kirklees. DAS will continue to check for C of E representation.

2. SACRE Members CPD

Hannah McKerchar, member of Kirklees SACRE, Humanist Celebrant and School Speaker gave a presentation on Humanism. Slides attached.

The following questions were raised:

Q: Do you charge for CPD? A: No this is free.

Q: Do you go into faith schools and if so what has been the reaction? A: Yes and reception has been good. I have been into one school where a parent phoned but only being quizzical – once the explanation of why I was there was given there was no further communication. All students appear to be interested and because faith schools tend to teach a lot of RE they seem to welcome this.

Q: Where does Humanism sit in non-religious beliefs? A: I would simply say that they look to understanding the universe by finding evidence. There are 50% of people who claim to be non-religious but that does not make them a Humanist.

Q: What is the proportion of Humanists from non-religious beliefs? A: It is quite difficult to establish beliefs but I would say that probably 3-4% of the population are Humanists.

The Chair thanked HM for her presentation on behalf of members.

3. Updates and Feedback on NASACRE Training

Deferred until HA present at meeting.

4. Monitoring RE in Secondary Schools

Thanks were given to those who went on the websites to look at the information regarding RE in secondary schools. IR explained to members not present at the last meeting what this was about.

IR had also attended the Secondary Deputy Heads Network to discuss the importance of RE and what needed to be done to make them compliant. He had stressed that if they were not teaching RE then the school would not be classed as Ofsted ready.

The next steps would be to look at whether what has been evidenced on the websites matches the information received via Google forms. Any schools who aren't compliant need to be offered support.

Each member gave a brief outline of their findings for their schools:

MS: On the whole information on the website was clear but needed a few tweaks. SMSC seemed to sit in all the values of the school. There wasn't much on data but the learning journeys were good. There didn't seem to be a lot of opportunities to study RE and spiritual development was fed through PSHE.

PB: One school was more professional and informative than the other. You could see the progression through school and there was a lot of information on the options. There didn't seem to be anything with the GCSE syllabus – especially in one of the schools. A parent would want to know more about the curriculum and how it is taught so if this was added it would be an improvement to the website.

DF: The information on the website was good although there wasn't information on a term by term basis. It was difficult to understand whether you studied both RE and ethics and philosophy or one or the other. **DF to ring the school to find out.**

BM: One of the schools looked at did not look as if it followed any Syllabus. The other school did indicate this for the other school but the sheet said that it didn't. This becomes a big issue if one thing is saying something different to the other and needs to be highlighted in the letter.

IR explained to DM what the statutory requirements were for the syllabus and that the reason for the survey was to ensure schools were being compliant. SACRE also needs to ensure that they are teaching good RE that has depth to it.

DM asked what feedback was from those using the Calderdale/Kirklees syllabus. It was explained that this was gained through the networks with 22 people attending the primary networks and around 20 attending the secondary. He added that all schools can subscribe to the RE Hub run through Kirklees where 700 schools have purchased these resources. There are 62 specialist units that support non-specialists in RE. Although 700 schools across 4 LA's are not all of them but IR was confident that those who used them were using them well.

IR explained that it's the issues that would be put in individual letters to the school once all the information is gathered. The letters would give suggestions of how to improve. He asked that members completed the task before January when the letters can go out. This task will be repeated in summer term to see what improvements have been made and any suggestions made in the letters implemented.

The idea of having a rolling programme on this was suggested as primaries would be much bigger. IR will do a callout at the relevant time when more website work is required.

5. SACRE Annual Report 2020/21

A copy of the final draft of the report had been sent to members. SH had completed the forward and explained that it was longer than normal as there were certain things she wanted highlighting. She went through these with members.

Once members have agreed the report it will go to the DfE and NASACRE.

IR had attending training on the new annual report format that was due to come into force this year. However because so many people had already started their reports it had been agreed that this format would start the following year.

Part of the report was on the NASACRE conference that had been attended by SH and JW. IR will send the information onto all members.

Members asked if it was possible to have a glossary of acronyms in the report as some people will not know what they mean. **IR agreed to do this.**

Q: With regards to the provision of virtual training on the 3 faiths and engagement with faith communities – is there anything for Hinduism in this? A: The 3 faiths sessions will be having Buddhism added next and then in June we are looking to add Hinduism. With regard to engagement with faith communities we have to be careful that we are not stepping on the toes of Calderdale's Interfaith Council. We do however produce of a list of faith visitors for schools to use.

Helen from Kirklees does run interfaith events and the 3 faith visits came from the work she does in Leeds and Kirklees. It is hoped that something similar can be done in Calderdale as it would be good if a wide range of centres could be part of this.

BM queried whether in the list of SACRE members whether it should be Muslim or Islam. **DAS to check.**

A vote took place and it was agreed that the SACRE Annual Report 2020/21 be approved subject to amendments discussed. IR will send the final report and any further comments need to be sent by the end of next week.

6. SACRE SEF

Members had received a copy of the proposed SEF which married up with the new format of the annual report.

Members discussed the best way forward on how this should be completed. It was agreed that the SEF should be completed (8 votes to 1) and that this should be done as a one day exercise late spring. **DAS to find a date.**

7. Working Party on "Guidance on Faith Schools"

The proposal is to provide a more holistic document on guidance on faith schools across Local Authorities. At the moment there is different guidance in all Authorities but some of the guidance needs to be tighter.

The first working party to be set up will be made up of headteachers. Once this is completed Pennine Learning will write the document and bring back to SACRE to discuss faith representation. The timescale for this is:

Work to start in January 2022

Bring the report to SACRE in March 2022

Publish the document in July 2022

It was agreed that MS, HA and MP be part of the brainstorming with headteachers.

Q: Will non-faiths be included? A: Yes.

Q: Who will be using the document? A: This will be for all schools as a go to reference document.

Members agreed that this should go ahead.

8. Any Other Business

Future Presentations: It was intended that other faith presentations would be done at other meetings to enhance the CPD for SACRE members.

Items for the Agenda: IR explained to new members that if they wanted any items on the Agenda to send the to the Clerk. If there was anything in the curriculum that needed to be addressed then these should go to IR.

Dates of Next Meetings and Venues

14 March 2022 – 6.00 pm

23 June 2022 – 6.00 pm

It was agreed at the last meeting that future meetings would remain virtual for this year and hoped that the June meeting could possibly be face to face. Members also discussed the possibility of hybrid meetings.

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