

CALDERDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
**CALDERDALE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Minutes of SACRE Meeting  
Monday 2 December 2024  
6.00 pm at Cross Lane Primary School**

**Members in attendance:**

**Committee A**

Representing Other Denominations & Faiths

**Committee B**

Representing the Church of England

Ms Shelagh Hirst (SH) (Chair)  
Janet Lapthorne (JL)  
Helen Lever (HL)

**Committee C**

Teachers/Unions

Mr Mark Sharp (MS)

**Committee D**

Representing Calderdale Council

Cllr Dot Foster (DF)

**In attendance**

Mrs Debby Simpson – Clerk (DS)  
Mr Ian Ross (IR)

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

## FORMAL BUSINESS

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

It was noted that the meeting was not quorate, however the meeting would continue as there were no formal decisions to be agreed.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. No introductions were necessary.

Apologies had been received from Helen Crowther, Brenda Monteith, Tommy Daglish, Richard Dale, Robert Fox, Ruth Walker.

### 2. Minutes of the Meeting held 16 Minutes 2024

Subject to AW being changed to RW the minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. This will be confirmed at the next meeting.

### 3. Matters Arising

The Clerk had now written to inform the Interfaith Council that SH would be the representative for SACRE. The next meeting is on Thursday. **Action: SH will chase up to see if they have anyone to attend SACRE meetings.**

The clerk was still waiting for the following information regarding secondary school information to be returned from:

Brighouse High - JW  
Brooksbank - RF  
Halifax Academy - KJ  
North Halifax Grammar - SB  
Trinity Halifax - HL  
The Whitely AP – JA

**Action: The Clerk will write to those who have not submitted as a reminder. If anyone is struggling to complete please contact the clerk who will arrange for SH to undertake their school.**

IR had spoken with Deborah Weston, Secretary to APPG to see if she could arrange for MPs to attend the March meeting. She has suggested that SACRE put in a call for evidence for the National Curriculum review and send this to the MP's to say that it has been submitted. Once this is done SACRE can then invite them to the March meeting. **Action: Submit a Call for Evidence and then invite MPs to March meeting (All).**

The next RE network is in March. If anyone wishes to attend this please let IR or DAS know. The secondary network will be held in Leeds. The theme in March will be collective worship. **Action: Inform IR/DAS should you wish to attend (All).**

### 4. Membership Update

Tommy Daglish, C of E representative and Richard Dale, Jewish representative have now been appointed as members of SACRE. IR will do an induction with both. HL has also been in touch with TD as part of her role within the Diocese.

The Clerk had heard nothing further from PB or DH re a representative from the Baptist and Catholic faith. **Action: SH to contact David Gott to see if he knows of anyone who can sit on SACRE (SH).**

## **5. How is RE taught in Cross Lane Primary School**

MS gave a short presentation on how RE was taught at Cross Lane. He informed members that:

- The deputy leads in RE.
- The school follow the Calderdale/Kirklees syllabus.
- The RE co-ordinator (Nicole) attends all the networks.
- Each term the school does a deep dive into each subject – RE's will be in a year.
- RE is carried out once a week for an hour and children at Cross Lane tend to enjoy the subject although many have little experience in the subject.
- The school use floor books that shows the journey over time.
- The school uses the Places of Worship Programme.
- The school try to capture pupil voice around RE.
- At the moment assemblies are carried out twice a week but are wanting to change this to once a day.
- All teachers in school teach RE.
- When Ofsted came into school they compared other religions.
- MS explained that in order to check progress when moving to floor books the school use See Saw and are trying to move away from writing everything down.

## **6. NASACRE “Call for Evidence” Responses for DfE Curriculum Review**

Members had received and read the document and IR said that SACRE now needed to generate a response.

He explained that all SACREs were doing the same thing and using the same format that is submitted into a report through AI.

Members did an exercise to find the 3 top statements.

IR asked if members felt there were any points that needed to be submitted into the evidence. It was felt that it was important to keep the local aspect and need to push towards a “middle of the road” compared to local and national.

It was highlighted that the lack of funding in point 5 of the NASACRE document stood out. This is a big issue as LA's struggle to find funding as their budgets are already stretched. SH felt that if this could be provided nationally it could ring fenced for RE.

**Action: IR to bring this to Steering Group once the Annual Report is completed (IR).**

## **7. Draft Annual Report and Feedback from SEF**

Members had received and read a copy of the draft report. It was still missing the Chair's forward and IR explained that the items in red may be changed.

Everyone was happy with the report and felt that it was a true reflection of what SACRE was doing. Unfortunately no-one had received the data as yet – even Deborah Weston at the DfE. Members felt that it should be noted in the report about the lack of data and this meaning that members could not scrutinise. **Action: IR to add this to the report and to put in the impact on the work plan.**

Members thanked IR for the report.

Members had also received a copy of the SEF and IR explained the format.

Members were happy with this.

#### **8. Setting Up a Steering Group**

IR asked that at least one member from each Committee could sit on this working group. There was currently no-one from Committee A and D. DF agreed to attend as part of Committee D.

The first meeting will be at 1.00 pm on 16 December, via Zoom where Agendas can be set for the year – with the group meeting 2 – 3 times a year. **Action: SH to ask for a representative from Committee A (SH/DAS).**

#### **9. Any Other Business**

None.

#### **10. Dates, Venues and Themes of Meetings 2024/25**

##### **PLEASE NOTE – FUTURE MEETINGS TO START AT 5.30 PM**

Tuesday 11 March 2025 – Discussion with MPs (meeting to be at Todmorden High School, Conference Room).

Tuesday 17 June 2025. Theme and Venue TBD