

CALDERDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
CALDERDALE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Minutes of SACRE Meeting
Tuesday 14 October 2025
5.30 pm at Savile Park at Heath

Members in attendance:

Committee A

Representing Other Denominations & Faiths	Robert Fox (RF) Dipan Mistry (DM) John Bouttell (JB) Katie Jennings (KJ)
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Committee B

Representing the Church of England	Shelagh Hirst (SH) (Chair) Trish Boyd (TB) Janet Lapthorne (JL) Helen Lever (HL)
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Committee C

Teachers/Unions	Ruth Walker (RW) Helen Crowther (HW) (Virtual) Mark Sharp (MS) (Vice Chair)
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Committee D

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

Debby Simpson – Clerk (DAS) Jemima Flintoff (JF) – Assistant Director: Education & Inclusion
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Quorum for the meeting is 1 representative from each of the 4 Committees

FORMAL BUSINESS

1. Welcome and Apologies

SH welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies had been received from Richard Dale.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held 17/6/25 and Matters Arising

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

The following matters were arising:

Steering Group: SH hasn't managed to contact everyone as yet. Current confirmed members are SH, MS, DF and HC. The Group ideally would like someone from Committees A and B. **SH will send an email to ask if any members are forthcoming from these Committees.**

Membership Review: DAS had written to the 3 people discussed at the last meeting informing them that if they didn't attend this meeting then they would be removed. Because none of them were at this meeting members agreed that they should now be taken off. **DAS to do this.**

Members were advised that if anyone knew someone from their own or other faiths who would be interested in becoming SACRE members then they should send details to SH/DAS who would process any applications.

SH will speak to Father Quinn and David Gott re the Catholic Faith. AK will contact a family member who may be interested.

Kate Dearden MP: SH had received a letter from Kate Dearden MP apologising for not being able to attend the meeting in June. She advised that she was aware of the curriculum and assessment review and was willing to attend any other meetings.

SH updated that the review was due out until the Autumn term and after discussion it was agreed that members would wait for the document to be released to ascertain what it covered and then invite KD to a meeting after that so she can follow anything up from the report.

No correspondence had been received from Josh Fenton MP.

Website: This is still outstanding for a few of the schools. **SH to complete with help from MS and DF.**

5. Notes of Extraordinary Meeting held 9/9/25

The notes were accepted as a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising.

6. Update from Jemima Flintoff, Assistant Director – Education and Inclusion

JF had drafted an advert for a new consultant to work with SACRE that was in line with the previous contract. This had not gone out as yet as wished to get the views of SACRE members before it was sent out. She went through the details with members.

If members were happy with the advert then she would send it out tomorrow with a return date for November. There would then be an informal interview with SACRE members being on the Panel.

This was discussed in detail with JF explaining that anyone appointed would stay on the school books and be released on their working days so that their pensions aren't affected.

There would be no terms, but would suggest to applicants that it would be for 5 terms in the first instance. This will help with anyone who doesn't want to commit but also allow for the contract to be extended. If applications come from both primary and secondary then there is the possibility of them working together.

The position can be for 1 or 2 people or even a team as this decision can't be made until the LA can see who has applied. The positions are based on mid-scale leadership.

Members queried if other LA's were taking the same approach. JF said that she believes Calderdale are the only LA taking this approach and explained that at the last meeting there were 3 option given with SACRE members wanting to "grow their own" as their preferred option. SH added that this would ensure that someone could be appointed who knew Calderdale and its schools.

Members asked if it would be possible to offer job share in the advert. **JF agreed to do this.**

An email had already been sent to headteachers advising them of what would be happening and for them to share the information with their staff so they will be expecting the advert coming out.

JF asked that if any members knew of someone who may be interested in the position to let encourage them to apply. If no-one applied it was suggested that the LA look to sending out to ex-headteachers or other candidates who will know Calderdale.

It was agreed that JF could send the advert out tomorrow subject to the different options being put in such as job share/primary and secondary etc. **JF agreed to do this and to let DAS know when it had gone out so she can inform SACRE members.**

It was also agreed that SH, MS and HC would be part of the interview panel.

Members thanked JF for getting the previous information out as promised.

7/8. SACRE Self Evaluation Form (SEF)/Monitoring and Evaluation

Members had received a copy of the previous SEF. SH explained that the last part indicates what SACRE wanted to achieve for 24/25. There was still a member from Committee A and B needed to be part of the steering group to look at next year's SEF. All members can feed in. **SH will send an email and a date to ask for people interested in being part of the working party and work will start after half term.**

SH went through the monitoring and evaluation from last year:

Schools Census Data: This includes time spent on RE.

GCSE and A'Level Data: Forms part of the annual report. **DAS to see if she can obtain the information from the data team for the last 2 years.**

SH asked if anyone would like to help with the data and RW volunteered. The data will be compared to both National and Local data.

Ofsted Reports: RF to continue looking at these. It was also agreed to look at the Anglican/Methodist SIAMS reports that can be found on line.

School Websites: Already discussed. Once the census has been received a comparison will be made against this.

Network Meetings: Once these commence a SACRE meeting will be arranged around one of these so that members can attend. This will allow members to meet the RE leads in schools.

Supporting Collective Worship: This needs planning but when set up RF and AK will look at this.

NASACRE Newsletters: DAS to continue to send these to members.

NASACRE Conference: All members can attend and can also attend the RE Hubs.

Steering Group: To consist of SH, MS, HC and DF plus a member from Committee A and B when found.

8. Any Other Business

SACRE/Interfaith working together: This partnership has worked well over the last year with SH representing SACRE at Interfaith meetings and JB representing Interfaith at SACRE meetings. At the last Interfaith meeting the following events were discussed that are open for all to attend:

Interfaith Week – 9 – 16 November 2025

- 9 November 2025 – Remembrance Service.
- 10 November 2025 – Imam and Clergy leaders Meeting.
- 13 November 2025 – Annual Celebration (Tracy Brabin – West Yorkshire Mayor will be in attendance). The theme is community – together we serve and the event starts at 6.00 pm and finishes at 8.30 pm. **SH will send the link for this.**
- 15 November 2025 – Calderdale Interfaith Faith Walk – **schools to be advised.**

Sail Suleman outlined plans for schools in the Borough:

- The Mayor to hold visits from school groups at the Town Hall.
- An exhibition running until 22 November 2025 at the Industrial Museum called Humari Kahaniyan – Our Stories that highlights the impact of South Asian People on the local textile industry through oral histories, art and artefacts.

Constitution of SACRE: NASACRE have advised that this be looked at as an Agenda item. It was agreed that the Steering Group look at the constitution, code of conduct and terms of reference.

Crossley Heath: The Crossley Heath School have applied for the RE Gold Quality Mark. SH will be attending an event on 24 October 2025 with regard to this.

Videos on Hinduism: DM advised that on the Hindu Education Website there are videos that can be shared with schools. **DM to send the link to DAS.**

9. Dates of Next Meetings

Monday 8 December 2025

Monday 9 March 2026

Wednesday 10 June 2026 – AGM