

PETERBOROUGH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Venue: Forli Room, Town Hall
Tuesday 28th June 2016, 6.30 p.m.**

Minutes of meeting

Present

Adrian Peters (AP)
Amanda Fitton (AF)
Cllr Nick Sandford (NS)
Gary Perkins (GP)
Gurdev Singh (GS)
Ian Forsyth (IF) - Chair
James Groombridge (JG)
Janet Berkman (JB)
Lucia Hawes (Clerk)
Philip Davies (PD)
Sukaina Manji (SM)
Vivienne Fleet (VF)
Observer – Abdul Malik

Apologies

Nick Senior (NSr)
Cllr Brian Rush (BR)
John Flack (JF)
Zulfikar Manji (ZM)
Alexandra Carlton (AC)

No.	Agenda Item	Action
1	Welcome and apologies for absence	
1.1	The Chair welcomed new members and apologies for absence were accepted.	
2	Minutes of the last meeting (10th March 2016)	
2.1	The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by JG and seconded by AP.	
3	Matters arising from the minutes	
3.1	Item 2.1 – action completed by the Clerk.	
3.2	Item 3.9 – The Chair reported that that there had been insufficient data from the teaching RE in schools survey to be able to include the results in the annual report.	
4	SACRE budget update	
4.1	Gary Perkins advised SACRE on the current budget position. After salary costs, there is £845 available for expenditure for this financial year which has been allocated in to various budget codes such as travel, training hospitality. To prepare for the 2017-18 budget, the SACRE Development Plan will need to be submitted to Gary by February 2017. A SACRE member pointed out that additional budget may be required for the joint review of the syllabus in the 2017-18 budget. SACRE agreed to keep this in mind when forming the development plan.	
5	Transport to places of worship project – update	
5.1	Sukaina Manji summarised the results of the survey:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overall, teachers would like money for transport to places of worship; - 72% of respondents indicated that lack of funding is stopping them from visiting places of worship. <p>In response to a question from a SACRE member, Sukaina said that responses were from mostly primary school teachers. Sukaina said that from personal experience as a teacher, it is more complicated to organise trips in secondary schools, e.g a lot of paperwork. Sukaina read out some quotes from teachers. Teachers said that having some specific funding would allow for more than one visit a year. Teachers also said that some parents are unable to contribute to costs for trips. A SACRE member challenged that schools have pupil premium funding to use for trips for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. There was a discussion about school budgets and how the LA no longer holds back any school funding. SACRE concluded that schools should have enough funding to hire transport for trips. Amanda Fitton suggested some alternative ideas for schools to enable trips to places of worship, e.g. walking to places of worship, having faith representatives visit schools. SACRE concluded that additional funding for schools for this purpose would not be the best way forward and that SACRE could help in other ways, such as providing guidance on visit risk assessments and having a list of contacts for places of worship. Amanda Fitton said that, as the new SACRE Adviser for 3 local authorities, she will be working with Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire jointly on many things that can be shared with the three Las.</p> <p>Action: Sukaina to meet with Gurdev Singh and Amanda Fitton to come up with a firm proposal for assisting school with organising trips to places of worship.</p> <p>Action: Vivienne Fleet to send the Clerk the old proformas for visits/risk assessments.</p> <p>SACRE members recognised that Sukaina had conducted some valuable research and thanked her for this.</p> <p>*AP left the meeting at 7.30pm.</p>	<p>SM/GS/A F</p> <p>VF</p>
6	SACRE Adviser recruitment update	
6.1	A new SACRE Adviser, Amanda Fitton, has been recruited to start on 1 st July. Amanda explained how her job is going to work and talked about her background. In response to a question from a SACRE member, Amanda confirmed that RE network meetings for schools will continue. Another SACRE member questioned how much reduction on time will there be on the Adviser's role compared to the previous Adviser. Amanda said that there has been a reduction in hours allocated to working with Peterborough and it will be a challenging role.	
7	Proposal to join with Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire SACRE for a joint syllabus review	
7.1	Amanda Fitton explained the reason for the proposal which is that Northamptonshire's syllabus is due to be reviewed. It was proposed that Peterborough SACRE meet with members of Cambridgeshire and	

	<p>Northamptonshire SACREs to discuss the joint syllabus review. A SACRE member suggested meeting at a location that is accessible to those who wish to use public transport.</p> <p>SACRE agreed to have a joint syllabus review. Proposed by JG and seconded by NS.</p>	
8	Cross-curriculum development working party report	
8.1	Gurdev Singh reported that the working party agreed that this was too difficult a task so it has been abandoned on the grounds that there is so much change we cannot leverage other subject areas at this stage.	
9	Support for RE in schools	
9.1	<p>Amanda Fitton said that stressing the importance of RE in schools this is an issue with Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire as well as Peterborough. She explained that a lot of SACREs are now having FAQ webpages for schools and she will be working on this with all 3 SACREs. Gary Perkins suggested that information for schools could be put on the Peterborough Education Network as every school has their own password for it.</p> <p>Sukaina Manji informed SACRE of the open day at the mosque on 17th July. Action: Clerk to email details to SACRE members.</p>	Clerk
10	How to improve interaction with the Muslim community	
10.1	<p>James Groombridge reported said that when trying to organise a trip to a mosque, it took 6 weeks for them to respond, many schools had experienced the same problem. SACRE will work on having a contact list for places of worship. SACRE acknowledged that they need to strengthen interaction with faith communities and non-faith communities.</p> <p>Philip Davies mentioned that it would be helpful to have a more local Church of England representative on SACRE. Action: Gary Perkins to raise this with Peterborough Diocese at his next meeting with them.</p>	GP
11	Feedback from the NASACRE conference	
11.1	<p>Both Philip Davies and Sukaina Manji both attended the NASACRE conference and reported to SACRE on the issues discussed. 75 SACREs were represented on the day. At the conference there was discussion about having a national framework /syllabus for all schools. SACRE discussed this and wondered if this would be applicable to academies.</p> <p>PD circulated some of the recommendations that were discussed by groups at the conference. They were as follows: <u>Recommendation 4 – Living with Difference: community, diversity and the common good – Butler-Sloss (Dec 2015)</u> <i>“All pupils in state-funded schools should have a statutory entitlement to a curriculum about religion, philosophy and ethics that is relevant to today’s society, and the broad framework of such a curriculum should be nationally agreed. The legal requirement for schools to hold acts of collective worship should be repeated, and replaced by a requirement to hold inclusive times for reflection.”</i></p> <p><u>Recommendations 1 and 2 – RE for Real: The future of Teaching & Learning about Religion and Belief – Dinham-Shaw (Nov 2015)</u></p>	

	<p><i>"A statutory National Framework for Religion and Belief Learning should be developed, and be applicable to all schools, balancing shared national approaches with school level determination." "Since SACREs currently play a leading part in religion and belief learning, there is an urgent need for review of their role, and the role of others, such as professional bodies, local authorities, schools themselves, and other experts, in the forming of learning. This should inform and result in the appointment of a national panel to develop the framework."</i></p> <p><u>Recommendation 4 – A New Settlement: Religion & Belief in Schools – Clarke-Woodhead (June 2015)</u> <i>"The nationally agreed syllabus would be determined by the Secretary of State in agreement with a newly created 'National Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (NASACRE)' comprising experts on religion and education, and after formal consultation and input from the relevant established professional bodies and representatives of religious, humanism and other belief systems. This nationally agreed syllabus should be reviewed every 5/7 years."</i></p> <p><u>Recommendation 11 – A New Settlement: Religion & Belief in Schools – Clarke-Woodhead (June 2015)</u> <i>"The local Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs) are given a new role which includes participating in the consultations about the content of the national RE curriculum, helping local implementation of the national RE syllabus, promoting community cohesion and educating for diversity, and advising on local availability of religious instruction."</i></p> <p>NASACRE will meet in autumn and following that will report to SACREs.</p>	
12	Report from sub-groups - Development sub group – proposal for co-opting members and dealing with public attendance	
12.1	The Development sub group reflected on our current constitution and felt that clauses 3-5 did not need to change. SACRE agreed that no changes were needed at this stage.	
	It was suggested that sub groups should be re-aligned to complement the priority objectives.	
13	Annual SACRE report 2014-15 final draft	
13.1	SACRE member suggested a couple of amendments. SACRE agreed the annual report (2014-15), subject to amendments. Proposed by GP, seconded by VF.	
14	Any other business	
14.1	Vivienne Fleet declare that this was her last SACRE meeting and that Janet Berkman would be her replacement. The Chair thanked Vivienne for her service on SACRE over many years.	
15	2016/17 proposed meeting dates: Tues 18th Oct 16 – Huntingdon with other SACREs Weds 15th Feb 17 Weds 21st June 17	

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed: _____
Chair of SACRE

