

Public Document Pack

Tony Kershaw
Director of Law and Assurance

If calling please ask for:

Ann Little on 033 022 22654
Email: ann.little@westsussex.gov.uk

www.westsussex.gov.uk

County Hall
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RQ
Switchboard
Tel no (01243) 777100



12 November 2021

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

A virtual meeting of the Committee will be held at **10.30 am** on **Monday, 22 November 2021**.

Note: In response to the continuing public health measures, this meeting will be held virtually with members in remote attendance. Public access is via webcasting.

The meeting will be available to watch live via the Internet at this address:

<http://www.westsussex.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Tony Kershaw
Director of Law and Assurance

Agenda

1. **Chairman's Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Membership Updates**

Members of the Council are asked to note the following updates to the SACRE membership:

Committee A: Christian denominations and other religious denominations

Adding Ms Maria Hock as Quaker representative
Adding Rev David Pitkeathly as Free Churches representative from being a co-opted member
Adding Mr Andrew Edmondson as Humanist Society representative

Committee C: Associations Representing Teachers

Adding Ms Helen Elphick, Headteacher, Queen Elizabeth II School
Adding Mr Alex Bird, Headteacher, St Mary's C of E Primary School

Committee D: The Local Education Authority

Adding Cllr Zack Ali

The members of the Council are asked to consider adding Ms Joanna Tulloch, University of Chichester, as a co-opted member.

3. **Members' Interests**

Members and officers must declare any pecuniary or personal interest in any business on the agenda. They should also make declarations at any stage such as an interest becomes apparent during the meeting. Consideration should be given to leaving the meeting if the nature of the interest warrants it. If in doubt, contact Democratic Services before the meeting.

4. **Minutes of the last meeting** (Pages 5 - 8)

Members to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2021 as a correct record.

5. **Agreed Syllabus**

Karen Hammond to give a verbal update to SACRE on the Agreed Syllabus and training.

6. **SACRE Annual Report**

Karen Hammond to update SACRE on what is required to produce an annual report.

7. **School Workforce Data for 2020** (Pages 9 - 12)

Karen Hammond to introduce the School Workforce Data for 2020 from the National Association of Teachers of RE (attached with accompanying notes).

8. **Ofsted Research Review Series paper on RE**

Karen Hammond to update SACRE on progress at network meetings. A link to the [Ofsted Research Review paper on RE](#) is included for information.

9. **Department for Education research into the resourcing of SACREs**

Karen Hammond to update SACRE on the research by the Department for Education into the resourcing of SACREs.

10. **Update from Director of Education and Skills**

Paul Wagstaff, Director of Education and Skills, to give a verbal update to SACRE including an update on the briefing from the Cabinet Member Learning and Skills to SACRE and County Council Members on how to utilise conversations on RE with their local schools and the allocation of funding and resources for SACRE.

11. **Dates of Future Meetings**

Future meeting dates are: 28 February 2022.

To all members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

This page is intentionally left blank

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

13 July 2021 – At a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held at 11.30 am at a virtual meeting with restricted public access.

Present:

Committee A

Mrs Flood – Roman Catholic
Mrs Ghundale – Sikh
Rev Higgin-Botham – United Reformed Church
Mrs Jones – Baha’i
Mr Sheldon – Baptist Union
Major Warner – Salvation Army

Committee B

Mr Simpson – Church of England
Mrs Smith (Vice-Chairman) – Church of England

Committee C

Miss Barker – Teacher Representative
Mr Cornford – NASUWT, the Teacher’s Union
Rev Millwood – Teacher Representative (Secondary)

Committee D

Cllr Burrett (Chairman) – Local Education Authority
Cllr Burgess – Local Education Authority
Cllr Lord – Local Education Authority
Cllr Pendleton – Local Education Authority
Cllr Quinn – Local Education Authority

In attendance:

Rev Pitkeathly – Free Churches

Apologies for Absence: Mrs Bell (Jewish) and Rev Carn (Methodist) (Committee A); Mrs Black (Church of England) and Rev Higgins (Church of England) (Committee B); and Cllr N Jupp (Local Education Authority) (Committee D).

Absent: Cllr Nagel (Local Education Authority) (Committee D).

1. Chairman’s Welcome and Introductions

1.1 The Chairman welcomed all members of SACRE to the first meeting of the new County Council term. He also welcomed Rev David Pitkeathly who was in attendance at the meeting.

2. Membership of SACRE

2.1 The Chairman updated the meeting that since the despatch of the agenda papers the Rev Dawn Carn had been reconfirmed as the Methodist representative on the Council.

2.2 The Chairman proposed Mrs Smith as Vice Chairman, which was seconded by Miss Barker and agreed by the SACRE members. The appointment would now need to be formally approved by the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills.

2.3 Mr Gauntlett informed the meeting that there had been an approach by The Free Churches Group nominating Rev David Pitkeathly as a co-opted member to the SACRE. The Chairman had agreed to this approach. The nomination was proposed by Cllr Pendleton and seconded by Mr Cornford, and it was agreed by SACRE members that Rev Pitkeathly should join the SACRE as a co-opted member.

3. Members' Interests

3.1 No interests were declared.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

4.1 The Chairman introduced the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2020.

Matters Arising from the minutes:

4.2 Under 86.5 it was agreed there needed to be more clarity as time had changed the course of events.

4.3 Regarding item 88.1 of the minutes, it was reported that the RE teachers' network had not yet been established and had been superseded by the primary and secondary network meetings.

4.4 Under 89.2 the meeting agreed the need to bring the results of research by the Department of Education and Skills into the resourcing of other SACREs to the next meeting.

4.5 Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2020 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

5. Update on the Agreed Syllabus

5.1 Mrs Hammond updated the meeting on the progress of the Agreed Syllabus since the last meeting. The members of SACRE and Mrs Hammond expressed their thanks to the team of people who had been supportive in the production of the Agreed Syllabus and the primary and secondary network meetings. Mrs Hammond reported the Local Authority had also been very supportive in administering the network training, collating evaluations and making headway in supporting the delivery of Religious Education in West Sussex schools.

5.2 The Agreed Syllabus was launched on 22 April 2021 and the Standing Conference had been held. The Agreed Syllabus was now available to all schools via the schools' services website and a limited number of hard copies would be produced for schools that requested them.

5.3 Four primary network meetings had been well attended along with one secondary network meeting. The network meetings focussed on introducing the Agreed Syllabus and reflecting on changes. Work was ongoing on future training and possibly a day conference on religion and world views. Mrs Hammond was also looking into the use of social media for sharing resources, articles and networking.

5.4 Mrs Hammond mentioned the Ofsted Research review series which had issued a paper on religious education on 12 May 2021 and relayed the main headlines in the paper:

- Insufficient time allocation within schools.
- Religious Education is often marginalised, with other subjects given priority.
- A lack of knowledge in non-specialist teachers, particularly in primary schools.
- The curriculum needed to build on earlier subject and personal knowledge.

5.5 It was agreed that SACRE had addressed some of the issues mentioned but there were still more issues that did not have answers. It was agreed to pick up issues in the network meetings. The Local Authority was well on task to address the issues raised.

5.6 Resolved – That SACRE discuss the Ofsted paper at the meeting on 22 November 2021.

6. Update from the Director of Education and Skills

6.1 The Director of Education and Skills, Mr Wagstaff, reported that funding had been found to develop the Agreed Syllabus, supporting the network meetings, artwork and presentation of the Agreed Syllabus. It had also been agreed to fund Mrs Hammond's work for the next year.

6.2 Work would be ongoing on the primary and secondary meetings to try and engage more schools. A Continuing Professional Development programme was being worked up on a traded basis for schools to buy from West Sussex County Council or other suppliers. Arrangements for a day conference were being looked into and would be impacted by what might happen with Covid-19 moving forward.

6.3 Mr Wagstaff asked SACRE members what areas they would like to look at and what information would they like to receive? Members asked how the role of local Members could be utilised in having conversations on Religious Education with their local schools. Mr Wagstaff agreed to prepare a briefing with the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills, that

could be shared with SACRE and all County Councillors, including some additional key questions for the County Council Members.

Rev Millwood left the meeting.

7. Terms of Reference

7.1 SACRE members noted the terms of reference subject to a change to item 5.1 to read "Christian Denominations and other religions and religious denominations".

8. Appointments to Statutory Sub-Committees

8.1 SACRE members discussed the membership of the Complaints Panel and the Determinations Panel and made the following appointments:

- (a) **Complaints Panel:** Cllr Burrett (Chairman), Mrs Smith (Vice-Chairman), Maj Warner (Committee A) and Cllr Burgess (Committee D).
- (b) **Determinations Panel:** Mr Sheldon (Committee A), Rev Higgins (Committee B) – subject to confirmation – Angela Smith to cover until confirmed, Rev Millwood (Committee C) – confirmed after meeting - and Cllr Pendleton (Committee D).

8.2 It was requested that the Complaints Panel document be amended under 1.1 for the last line to read "or have failed to discharge any such duty."

9. Dates of Future Meetings

9.1 SACRE noted that its next meeting was scheduled to take place on 22 November 2021 at 10.30am.

The meeting ended at 12.45 pm

Chairman

Notes to accompany the release of school level data from the 2020 DfE School Workforce Census.



This data was reported by schools to the DfE as part of the school census in November 2020. The national data trends were published in June, but this dataset was extracted from the data as part of a memorandum of understanding between NATRE and the DfE. 2928 schools are included in the sample which includes the majority of state funded secondary schools. but not all; some have not reported any data this year for a variety of reasons.

Hours taught for years 7 to 13, in subjects RE, philosophy and all subjects, reported by a sample of state-funded secondary schools with electronic timetabling software, School Workforce Census 2020

To note:

1. I calculate that around 20% of schools that completed their SWF this year chose not to report of RE but did report other subjects – some of those reported the more obvious “0.0%” last year.
2. Where schools reported that they allocate teaching hours to a specific year group, but have not included RE in that report, this is indicated by a dot in that year group column. SACREs are advised to investigate this issue as it appears unlikely that a discrete lesson of RE is being taught in these circumstances.
3. I’ve created a couple of new columns to indicate possible reporting issues e.g. where RE is either possibly not reported or under reported but Philosophy is reported (instead?). This can easily happen if the lesson on the timetable is Philosophy and Ethics or even Philosophy, Religion and Ethics. The timetabling software often looks at the first part of the title and makes a judgment about which code to allocate. Some schools report RE and Philosophy.
4. There has been an increase in provision in some schools and a decrease in others. These two figures, as a proportion of reporting schools, are roughly the same. Increases and decreases are labelled. Some of the differences are very small.
5. Where schools report zero hours in any year group, these are highlighted in pink.

The usual health warning applies: This data is a conversation starter not a definitive indicator of what schools are doing so SACREs need to treat the information alongside other information such as the school website, public examination results (where available) and school visits. I always write to schools to ask them to clarify, if there is no data or if the data suggests they are non-compliant.

The next step for a SACRE might be to use its statutory remit ‘to advise the local authority’ to formally report the fact that schools in their area have reported data to the DfE that suggests they are non-compliant with the law in relation to RE and in the case of academies, their funding agreements. The LA can be asked to investigate and report their findings back to SACRE after a conversation with a school leader.

Deborah Weston: NATRE Research Officer

This page is intentionally left blank

School name	Religious character	School type	LA name	% year 7 hours - RE	% year 8 hours - RE	% year 9 hours - RE	% year 10 hours - RE	% year 11 hours - RE	% mixed hours - RE	% all hours - RE 2020	% all hours - RE 2019	Change from 2019 to 2020 in total hours of RE	Reporting issues
Tanbridge House School	Does not apply	Community school	West Sussex	3.8	4.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	.	1.8	1.5	Increase	
Oriel High School	Does not apply	Community school	West Sussex	5.8	5.4	4.5	0.0	0.0	.	2.5	2.0	Increase	
The Forest School	Does not apply	Community school	West Sussex	0.7	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	.	0.5	1.7	Decrease	
Millais School	Does not apply	Community school	West Sussex	3.3	3.3	3.2	2.0	2.1	.	2.7	2.7	Increase	
Weald School, The	Does not apply	Community school	West Sussex	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ifield Community College	Does not apply	Community school	West Sussex	5.0	4.7	1.6	0.0	1.0	.	1.9	1.7	Increase	RE and Philosophy reported
Felpham Community College	Does not apply	Community school	West Sussex	5.7	5.0	4.9	1.2	1.2	.	3.0	2.6	Increase	
The Angmering School	Does not apply	Community school	West Sussex	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Oathall Community College	Does not apply	Community school	West Sussex	4.9	4.8	4.4	3.1	3.2	.	4.1	3.9	Increase	
Downlands Community School	Does not apply	Community school	West Sussex	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	3.0	.	1.3	1.2	Increase	
Imberhorne School	Does not apply	Community school	West Sussex	3.9	3.9	3.8	2.9	3.0	.	2.7	2.6	Increase	RE and Philosophy reported
Sackville School	Does not apply	Community school	West Sussex	3.4	4.1	6.7	6.6	0.0	.	3.2	3.4	Decrease	RE and Philosophy reported
Davison Church of England High School for Girls, Worthing	Church of England	Voluntary controlled school	West Sussex	4.2	3.9	4.1	8.2	8.3	.	5.9	6.0	Decrease	
St Andrew's CofE High School for Boys	Church of England	Voluntary aided school	West Sussex	5.8	6.0	6.0	7.3	7.3	.	6.5	6.8	Decrease	
St Wilfrid's Catholic Comprehensive School, Crawley	Roman Catholic	Voluntary aided school	West Sussex	9.6	11.2	11.3	9.3	12.6	.	9.4	9.9	Decrease	
St Oscar Romero Catholic School	Roman Catholic	Voluntary aided school	West Sussex	7.2	6.7	10.4	11.6	12.0	.	9.3	10.3	Decrease	
Holy Trinity CofE Secondary School, Crawley	Church of England	Voluntary aided school	West Sussex	3.6	5.8	6.1	12.7	11.1	.	7.1	7.5	Decrease	
St Paul's Catholic College	Roman Catholic	Voluntary aided school	West Sussex	9.9	9.3	9.1	8.7	9.4	.	7.2	6.5	Increase	
The Gatwick School	None	Free schools	West Sussex	1.7	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	.	1.1	unavailable	unavailable	
Bishop Luffa School, Chichester	Church of England	Academy converter	West Sussex	6.7	5.8	5.5	8.2	8.2	.	6.1	6.1	Decrease	
Bohunt School Worthing	Does not apply	Academy sponsor led	West Sussex	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3.8	.	
Bohunt Horsham	Does not apply	Free schools	West Sussex	3.0	3.9	.	.	.	.	3.4	3.6	Decrease	
Steyning Grammar School	Church of England	Academy converter	West Sussex	4.4	4.2	3.6	5.4	2.5	.	3.2	3.0	Increase	
St Philip Howard Catholic School	Roman Catholic	Academy converter	West Sussex	10.2	10.1	10.1	9.8	9.5	.	8.8	8.8	Increase	
Bourne Community College	None	Foundation school	West Sussex	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.5	0.0	.	3.2	2.6	Increase	
Durrington High School	Does not apply	Academy converter	West Sussex	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	.	0.2	0.2	Increase	
Ormiston Six Villages Academy	Does not apply	Academy sponsor led	West Sussex	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Worthing High School	None	Academy converter	West Sussex	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.3	2.3	.	2.0	1.9	Increase	
Chichester Free School	None	Free schools	West Sussex	3.5	3.5	3.4	9.6	2.9	.	4.3	3.6	Increase	
Warden Park School	Does not apply	Academy converter	West Sussex	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.2	.	
Chichester High School	Does not apply	Academy converter	West Sussex	0.0	4.0	3.1	1.1	1.7	.	1.7	1.5	Increase	
The Academy, Selsey	Does not apply	Academy sponsor led	West Sussex	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
The Burgess Hill Academy	Does not apply	Academy sponsor led	West Sussex	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	1.7	.	0.6	0.7	Decrease	
The Littlehampton Academy	Christian	Academy sponsor led	West Sussex	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.4	.	0.5	0.2	Increase	

This page is intentionally left blank