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11 March 2022

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

A meeting of the Council will be held at **10.30 am** on **Monday, 21 March 2022** at **County Hall, Chichester**.

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Director of Law and Assurance

Agenda

1. **Chairman's Welcome and Introductions**

2. **Membership Updates**

Members of the Council are asked to note that there are no confirmed updates to the membership.

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 3 - 8)

Members to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2021 as a correct record.

5. **Agreed Syllabus Update**

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

6. **SACRE Annual Report**

Karen Hammond to discuss the content of the 2021-22 annual report.

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

Paul Wagstaff, Director of Education and Skills, to give a verbal update to SACRE.

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

The meeting to discuss further the School Workforce Data for 2020 information from the National Association of Teachers of RE as requested at the last meeting.

9. **Dates of Future Meetings**

Future meeting dates are: 20 June 2022, 21 November 2022 and 27 February 2023.

To all members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

22 November 2021 – At a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held at 10.30 am as a virtual meeting with restricted public access.

Present:

Committee A

Mrs Bell – Jewish
Mr Edmondson – Humanists UK
Mrs Flood – Roman Catholic
Rev Higgin-Botham – United Reformed Church
Ms Hock – Quaker
Mrs Jones – Baha'i
Rev Pitkeathly – Free Churches
Mr Sheldon – Baptist Union
Major Warner – Salvation Army

Committee B

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

Committee C

Miss Barker – Teacher Representative
Mr Bird – Teacher Representative (Primary)
Ms Elphick – Teacher Representative (Special)
Rev Millwood – Teacher Representative (Secondary)

Committee D

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

Apologies for Absence: Mrs Ghundale (Sikh) (Committee A);
Cllr Pendleton (Local Education Authority) (Committee D).

Absent: Rev Carn (Methodist) (Committee A), Mr Cornford (Teachers' Union) (Committee C) and Cllr Nagel (Local Education Authority) (Committee D).

10. Chairman's Welcome and Introductions

10.1 The Chairman welcomed all members of SACRE and the return of Ms Hock as a member of SACRE representing the Quakers on Committee A and Mr Bird representing primary schools on Committee C. He also welcomed new members Mr Edmondson representing the Humanists UK on Committee A and Ms Elphick representing special schools on Committee C.

11. Membership Updates

11.1 The meeting noted the changes to the membership listed on the agenda. The Chairman reported that Ms Joanna Tulloch from the University of Chichester had approached the Council seeking to become a co-opted member. The Chairman reported that Ms Tulloch had been unable to join the meeting but shared some of the details she had given about her experience and it was hoped to welcome her to the next meeting on 28 February 2022. It was hoped that the February meeting would be in person and there could be some time for networking and engagement.

12. Members' Interests

12.1 Mrs Smith (Committee B) declared that the data in Agenda Item No 7 included information from the school where she is employed.

13. Minutes of the last meeting

13.1 The meeting discussed whether under minute 6.3 "well attended" was appropriate considering 25% of primary schools attended and 21% of secondary schools. The meeting was reminded that there needed to be a realistic view bearing in mind the challenges that schools had been under with the Covid-19 pandemic.

13.2 Resolved – The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2021 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

14. Agreed Syllabus

14.1 Mrs Hammond updated the meeting on the progress of arrangements for future network meetings. Three virtual sessions were aimed at primary schools but interested secondary school representatives would be welcomed. These would be held on the following dates:

- 7 December 2021, focussing on what does good RE look like and linking developments in the Agreed Syllabus. Encouraging collaboration and support between schools on good practice.
- 8 March 2022, focussing on the strategy to support delivery of good RE.
- 14 June 2022, focussing on how we assess good RE.

14.2 It was agreed it would be good to get SACRE members involved in the network sessions to observe and be involved in discussion.

14.3 Consideration was given as to how attendance numbers could be improved. It was agreed that a request be made for the sessions to be readvertised via the Headteachers' Letters email. Mrs Hammond agreed to pick this action up with the Local Authority.

15. SACRE Annual Report

15.1 Mrs Hammond reported she had attended two training sessions delivered by NASACRE: the first on writing SACRE Annual Reports and the second one on worldviews. Recordings of both sessions were available for sharing with members who were interested.

15.2 The Annual Report, which is a statutory requirement, would be a good opportunity for the members to work together to review how SACRE was working under many different headings which were part of a framework.

15.3 Mrs Hammond proposed that the work be undertaken towards the end of the academic year. Rev Pitkeathly agreed to share the report produced by the Cumbrian SACRE and Mrs Hammond reported that Annual Reports were often available on the SACRE websites. It was felt it would be good to have a benchmark for the West Sussex SACRE against other peer local authorities.

16. School Workforce Data for 2020

16.1 The meeting considered some School Workforce Data for 2020 produced by the National Association of Teachers of RE from census returns in November 2020 of secondary schools in West Sussex. Whilst the data showed a promising outlook some concerns were raised including the differences between religious and community schools, why not all schools had responded and how did these figures compare nationally or with peer group authorities?

16.2 Mrs Hammond reported she had shared the data with the Local Authority's School Improvement Advisers so that they could ask questions when they visited schools. Mr Wagstaff told the meeting that schools can organise their timetables how they wished and could group RE in with other Humanities subjects.

16.3 Rev Millwood offered to run a survey amongst secondary headteachers to gain further information if the meeting considered it would be helpful.

16.4 Resolved – That this item be considered further at the next meeting.

17. Ofsted Research Review Series paper on RE

17.1 Mrs Hammond had shared with the meeting a link to the Ofsted Research Review Series paper on RE and the meeting discussed its

contents. It was noted that the Review frequently referenced the complex nature of religious and non-religious worldviews and used inclusive terms to describe them. A major focus was building on pupils' knowledge and understanding rather than focussing on blocks of subjects.

18. Department for Education research into the resourcing of SACREs

18.1 Mrs Hammond introduced research by the Department for Education on resourcing of SACREs. She reported that the advice was for local authorities to allow 2% of CSSB funds to support SACREs to carry out their statutory duties. The basic expectation was a professional officer with expertise in the RE curriculum, a clerk for meeting support eg agendas and minutes, a publicly accessible place to meet, reasonable expenses for members, to publish an Agreed Syllabus, subscription to NASACRE and attendance at the SACRE AGM. On that basis it was felt that this SACRE was well supported.

18.2 Mr Wagstaff was asked if financial support could be given for an annual Youth Voice conference. He responded that perhaps the West Sussex Youth Cabinet could be involved in providing some feedback.

18.3 Mr Wagstaff also clarified that the training and networking meetings were built into a commercial package that schools chose to buy into.

19. Update from Director of Education and Skills

19.1 Mr Wagstaff reported that the briefing from the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills to SACRE and County Council Members on how to utilise conversations on RE with their local schools was in the final stages of preparation and would include key questions. It was hoped to circulate the briefing soon.

19.2 Mr Wagstaff reported that guidance had recently been sent to schools reminding them of their statutory duty to support requests for a private space for prayer and worship in schools. Most schools were supportive but occasionally the Local Authority was called upon to mediate.

19.3 Mr Wagstaff suggested the SACRE may wish to explore how to gain an overview of what is happening in schools and a mechanism to gather that information.

20. Dates of Future Meetings

20.1 SACRE noted that its next meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 28 February 2022. It was asked if meetings could not be set for the first day back after a school holiday and it was agreed to investigate whether this meeting could be moved.

20.2 The Chairman asked the meeting what their thoughts were on moving back to face to face meetings. It was agreed, in principle, to move back to in person meetings in County Hall, Chichester, with the option of hybrid facilities being available for those unable to attend.

The meeting ended at 12.24 pm

Chairman

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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	

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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

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