

## **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)**

**9 March 2021, 4pm**

### **Attendance**

Mr H Kazi  
Mrs L Hollingsworth  
Rev M Burgess  
Rev A Raggett  
Mrs C Taylor  
Mrs S Tickle  
Cllr D Friend  
Mrs L Sweeney  
Miss L Adams – Clerk

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs K Coleclough.

Rev M Burgess was elected as Vice Chairperson.

The group introduced themselves. Mrs S Tickle was welcomed to the group and her first meeting.

### **2. Membership update**

It was noted that there are vacancies on committee A and committee B. Mr Kazi informed the group that he has been trying to recruit however it is difficult because of lockdown.

Rev A Raggett noted that she is clerk for the deanery chapter and will promote the vacancies at the next meeting.

### **3. Minutes of previous meetings**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

### **4. Matters arising**

All items will be covered on the agenda.

### **5. Annual return**

The volume of returns was commended by the group.

There were 45 responses in total. 6 from catholic, 10 CE, 25 primary, 4 secondary, 1 special, 1 junior and 1 infant school.

The following information was verbally presented to the group:

**Question 1: Does your school have:**

	Yes	No	Blank
A policy in teaching & learning	44	1	
A policy in collective worship	42	3	
A policy on SMSC	38	5	2

**Please indicate the appropriate judgement for the following  
(1 – outstanding, 2 – good, 3 – satisfactory, 4 – inadequate)**

	1	2	3	4	Blank
Quality of RE	11	28			6
Quality of Teaching and Learning	9	30			6
Standards of A & L	10	29			6
Quality of collective worship	12	22	3	1	6
Overall effectiveness	10	24			9

**Question 2: Which syllabus do you use?**

Lancashire – 27

Liverpool Diocese – 8

Liverpool Archdiocese – 5

Chester Diocese – 2

Shrewsbury Diocese – 2

Other – 1 (Lambeth Syllabus)

12 schools indicated that they would welcome a visit from a member of SACRE.

Mrs S Tickle reported that she hadn't received the annual return. It was agreed that in future the questionnaire will be sent to RE leads as well as Headteachers.

Mrs S Tickle informed the group that the RE hub is in its infancy. She noted that she is really passionate about the subject and feels that it doesn't have as high a profile as she would like. It was noted that COVID has put a stop to certain activities taking place. There are various grants that SACREs can tap into which may be able to support with the setting up of hubs.

It was felt that the responses on collective worship are varied however this could be due to the current circumstances. There are a number of good comments in relation to their strengths and weaknesses.

It was noted that a comment was made about the commissioning of advice. It was felt that as this has been raised the group need to ensure that it is covered at RE Network meetings and the conference. The group were informed that it is unlikely that there will be a conference this year.

It had been planned that a virtual network meeting be held with Joanne Harris to provide some training on assessment however she was unable to provide this due to the current situation in schools. It is proposed that a twilight network meeting be held in the summer term and then a full programme be put in place for the new academic year.

## **6. School visits**

The group reviewed the proforma in light of the current circumstances.

It was proposed that at least one visit is carried out before the next meeting.

It was felt that question 6 about daily collective worship should cover the arrangements with the current restrictions in place. It was also felt that question 11 should be kept in even though this may not be able to take place. It was agreed that a question be added about what schools are doing to support staff wellbeing and if they are aware of the annual return.

Mrs S Tickle, Mrs L Hollingsworth, Rev M Burges, Mrs K Coleclough, Mr H Kazi and Cllr Friend volunteered to carry out visits. It was suggested that if possible 3 virtual visits take place before the next meeting. It was agreed that the visits will place at either 2.30pm or 3pm. Mrs S Tickle noted that she would prefer to visit a school in the TCAT trust.

Action: Mrs L Sweeney to make contact with schools to arrange visits and then send dates to members

## **7. NASACRE Briefing 27**

Members noted the contents of the NASACRE briefing.

## **8. Any other business**

Concerns were expressed about teachers accessing the vaccinations. The group were informed that the Local Authority has been supportive in prioritising teachers and presented a case for them to receive the vaccination first. The reasons were led by the science and evidence states that teachers are no more at risk than other professions working as key workers. The number of cases amongst teachers has not been significant. Teachers and school staff were disappointed that they had not been prioritised however felt that it was important that vulnerable people were vaccinated first.

Mr Kazi reported that the majority of his teachers had caught COVID therefore some of the schools had to be closed.

Cathy Taylor reported that she is a volunteer at a vaccination station and the roll out is going well. The supply of vaccinations available will increase as the country moves forward. It is the aim that everyone will be vaccinated.

School leaders have submitted staff e-mail addresses to the Local Authority so that they can be contacted if vaccinations become available. Mrs Sweeney reported that she feels that the Local Authority is doing it all can to keep staff and children safe.

#### **9. Agenda Items for next SACRE meeting**

- School visit reports
- NASACRE Briefing (any recommendations)
- Re network feedback

#### **10. Date of Next Meeting**

22 June 2021, 4pm