

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

**At a Meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held in Committee Room 1B - County Hall, Durham on Thursday 7 March 2019 at 1.30 pm**

**Present:**

**P Welch (Chairman) In the Chair**

### **Church of England**

Canon L Burton, N Chapman, H Tait and C Weir

### **Other Religious Denominations and Faiths**

W Gray	- Buddhism
F Johnson	- Methodist Church
J Nicholls	- Society of Friends (Quaker)
J Pallister	- Roman Catholic
Bhakti Rasa Dasa	- Hinduism
C Singh	- Sikhism
C Spencer	- Bahá'í Faith
D Van der Velde	- Judaism

### **Teachers Associations**

V Bain	- NEU
S Baker	- NEU
S Lupton	- RE Curriculum Group

### **County Council Representatives**

Councillor L Brown

### **Co-opted Members**

M Dixon  
S Walker - Humanist

### **Specialist Inspector (Religious Education)**

Isobel Short

## **1 Introductions, Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from J Bainbridge, Councillor P Brooks, B Dunn, Councillor C Martin, Councillor F Tinsley and M Turner.

The Chairman advised Members of the resignation of V Gallant and welcomed D Van der Velde as the new representative for Judaism. Members wished to convey their thanks to V Gallant.

Members were also advised of the recent resignation of I Osborne as the Roman Catholic representative on SACRE. The Diocese were currently looking to find a replacement. SACRE Members also wished to convey their thanks to I Osborne.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Canon L Burton who was the new Church of England Representative and Councillor L Brown who was substituting for Councillor C Martin.

Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief introduction on their background.

## **2 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **3 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest in relation to the items of business on the agenda.

## **4 Matters Arising**

F A Johnson asked that her apologies be included in the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2018.

## **5 Chairs Comments**

The Chairman informed Members that he was delighted that Sunderland University were now offering a PGCE course in Religious Education. Especially in terms of raising the profile of Religious Education and ensuring high quality and well trained RE teachers in the region.

The Chairman then advised Members that NATRE had appointed a regional ambassador whose role was to develop and work with SACRE's.

J Nicholls who is the Quaker representative on SACRE gave a brief talk on being a Quaker and provided Members with a piece of Tottenham Cake that reflects Quaker values of simplicity and equality. She also provided Members with some leaflets about Quaker in Britain.

The Chairman thanked J Nicholls for her presentation and asked if she would like to give a further talk at the next meeting of SACRE on what it means to be a Quaker, which she accepted.

## **6 Key Stage 4 Results 2018**

The RE Subject Advisor presented her report on the Key Stage 4 results and elaborated on the difference between attainment and progress.

The Chairman then asked Members to divide into two groups to discuss the Key Stage 4 Results for 2018 which had been circulated with the agenda.

From the discussion groups, the following points were raised:

- Ongoing concerns about non-specialist teachers continuing to deliver RE and even GCSE RS.
- A small number of schools were still opting to deliver full GCSE RS course to a whole cohort of students, in some cases with limited curriculum time.
- Concerns about limited curriculum time given for the delivery of GCSE RS or lack of time for core RE.
- It is difficult to get the full picture as questionnaires from the Local Authority to Academies and Trusts do not have to be completed.
- Can SACRE do anything about Ofsted checking on compliance to ensure good provision?

The Chairman asked if questionnaire had gone out to schools. The RE Subject Advisor advised that she was building intelligence by meeting with RE teachers.

## **7 CoRE Report**

The Chairman noted that at the last SACRE meeting they discussed the CoRE Report. Since that meeting, Damian Hinds, Education Secretary had issued a response to the report. He noted that due to the reforms and changes in education which have impacted on workload, he agreed with the unions not to make further changes in education.

The RE Subject Advisor responded that 2 or 3 of the recommendations required changes in statute. Members discussed at the last meeting the name change of SACRE to local advisory network and the inclusion of 'worldviews' and were advised that these would no longer be implemented as a result of the response from Damien Hinds.

Members discussed the CoRE Report and the Education Secretary's response and agreed to send a letter to Damien Hinds to highlight concerns about the lack of monitoring of compliance and provision in RE which is leading to the marginalisation of the subject in some schools.

## **8 Re Advisor Report**

The RE Subject Advisor advised Members that a primary network meeting had been held this term that 60 colleagues attended.

She then advised Members that Ofsted had launched a consultation on proposals for change to the education inspection framework which would focus on broad and

balanced curriculum and consider circumstances of a school rather than over-reliance on performance data.

## **9 Date of Future Meetings**

Members were advised that arrangements had been made for future meetings of Durham SACRE to be held on 13 June 2019, 7 November 2019 and 5 March 2020.

## **10 Any Other Business**

Mr I Hunter-Smart advised members that a Holocaust Memorial school service was held at Durham Cathedral which was attended by 9 schools, 200 children and 20 trainee teachers from SCITT providers.

On the Saturday, Bishop Auckland Town Hall heard from speaker Eva Clarke who talked about her experience as a survivor. There were also performances from King James 1 Academy and the Hermitage Academy.

St Anne's Church, Bishop Auckland held a Holocaust Memorial service on the Sunday.