



Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date Thursday 9 November 2023

Time 3.00 pm

Venue Committee Room 1A , County Hall, Durham

Business

Part A

**Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend.
Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chair's
agreement.**

1. Introductions, Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2023 (Pages 5 - 10)
3. Declarations of interest, if any
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairs Comments
6. Revised SACRE Constitution (Pages 11 - 14)
7. SACRE Medium and Long-Term Planning
8. Education Durham Report to SACRE
9. Working Group Report on Religion and Worldviews
10. Community Cohesion
11. Date of the next meeting
12. Any other business
13. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information

Helen Bradley

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
1 November 2023

To: **The Members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

1. Church of England

Canon L Burton, N Dodd, K Passmore, H Tait and C Weir

2. Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

S Baker	- Roman Catholic
A Barron	- Roman Catholic
W Gray	- Buddhism
F Johnson	- Methodist Church
Bhakti Rasa Dasa	- Hinduism
C Singh	- Sikhism
C Spencer	- Bahá'í Faith
M Turner	- Islam
D Van der Velde	- Judaism

3. Teachers Associations

V Bain	- NEU
B Dunn	- RE Curriculum Group
A Hartley	- NASUWT
M Lowden	- NEU
S Lupton	- RE Curriculum Group
P Welch	- NEU

4. County Council Representatives

Councillors D Haney, S Townsend, M Walton and M Wilson

5. Co-opted Members

M Dixon
S Walker - Humanist

Specialist Inspector

S Blakeman

Contact: Paula Nicholson

Tel: 03000 269710

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on Thursday 8 June 2023 at 3.00 pm

Present:

B Dunn (Vice-Chair) In the Chair

Church of England

Canon L Burton and K Passmore

Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

S Baker	- Roman Catholic
W Gray	- Buddhism
F Johnson	- Methodist Church
C Spencer	- Bahá'í Faith
M Turner	- Islam
D Van der Velde	- Judaism

Teachers Associations

B Dunn - RE Curriculum Group

County Council Representatives

Councillors D Haney and S Townsend

Co-opted Member

S Walker - Humanist

Senior Professional Learning Advisor

S Blakeman

1 Introductions, Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Members to introduce themselves.

Apologies for absence were received from V Bain, M Dixon, N Dodd, A Hartley, S Lupton, H Tait, C Weir, P Welch and Councillors C Varty and M Walton.

Apologies for absence were also received from P Hodgson – Specialist Inspector.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to some minor grammatical changes and that it be noted that K Passmore was to share information on AREIAC and not NATRE as stated in the minutes.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Matters Arising

Canon L Burton referred to the Chairs Comments and indicated that she had not received a copy of the local census data or the presentation.

K Passmore responded that she had sent a copy of the presentation to the Chair (P Welch) but would send the information to the Clerk for circulation to Members.

In response to a question from S Walker on the Humanist representative becoming a full voting Member, the Clerk advised that a report on the adoption of the changes to the Constitution to allow the Humanist representative to become a full voting Member, would be brought to the next SACRE meeting.

Canon L Burton asked if Community Cohesion was to be a standard item on the agenda.

The Chair responded that Community Cohesion had been requested to be a standard agenda item but was not part of the agenda today and suggested if Members wished this could be considered under 'Any Other Business', but he was not aware of any topics for consideration.

5 Chairs Comments

The Chair had no comments but indicated that he was thrilled that two teachers were joining the meeting today to deliver a presentation on what was happening in schools.

6 SACRE Medium and Long-Term Planning

That the Item be deferred until the next SACRE meeting.

7 Presentation from Emma Downing (Wingate Primary School) RE Deep Dive Experience

Emma Downing from Wingate Primary School was in attendance to deliver a presentation on her RE Deep Dive Experience.

The presentation provided details of who the Inspectors met and the lessons observed. She advised Members that she had a RE lead file that contained a copy of the policy including intent, implementation and impact; Durham Agreed Syllabus; School Medium Term planning including vocabulary and notes on COVID; Benchmark Assessments; CPD for herself and staff; Peer Review feedback and a Grab Sheet.

She continued that the Grab Sheet included key developments, training, brief overview of the Durham Agreed Syllabus and how they had adapted it to WPS, LTP, MTP, enquiry focus, reflection aspect, her role as Lead and steps for development.

The presentation also provided details of her meet as RE Lead with the Inspector and what she would do differently (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

Members thanked E Downing for her informative presentation and Members asked questions on the presentation in particular around worldviews.

8 Presentation from Vicki Mitchell (Yohden Primary School) supporting SEND pupils in RE lessons

Vicki Mitchell from Yohden Primary School was in attendance to deliver a presentation on supporting SEND pupils in RE lessons.

The presentation provided details of three children known as Child A, Child B and Child C. The presentation also provided detail of each of the five strands and how this looked in RE lessons as well as key questions, unit overview and how she made it a creative curriculum with a sense of enquiry and provided examples of the work. She concluded the presentation by providing details of what monitoring showed (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

Members thanked V Mitchell for her informative presentation.

Members discussed that presentation and asked if the strategies that were in place for the children would continue when they moved year groups. Members were advised that this was the case and the Teaching Assistant

would also be moving with the children and the strategies had been put into other areas.

E Downing suggested that the medium-term plan in the Durham Agreed Syllabus next time be very structured and focused on lots of different religious areas and bring in non-religious world views.

V Mitchell indicated that the Durham Agreed Syllabus assumes that you were going to have links with other faiths but this was not always the case and commented that it was difficult to go to places of worship due to tight budgets, so this was not always possible.

The Senior Professional Learning Advisor stated that in terms of moving forward with the Durham Agreed Syllabus they have found that all schools were now using the Durham Agreed Syllabus and teachers she had spoken to were confident in terms of knowledge and understanding. When it came to critical thinking and personal reflection was when some teachers found it difficult to work into lessons. There was pressure on schools to evidence what children were learning and commented that you could evidence knowledge but reflection and critical thinking was hard to evidence. Some additional guidance around this could be in terms of training that would add further value to the Durham Agreed Syllabus.

Councillor Haney indicated that a meeting had been held prior to the SACRE meeting around non-religious and religious world views so they were working on this.

Members discussed how useful the Durham Agreed Syllabus was and its effective implementation and asked that SACRE be included in future launches of the Durham Agreed Syllabus.

The Senior Professional Learning Advisor indicated that she would take this back to the service and find out what was covered in terms of what information went out to schools and ensure that SACRE Members were invited to any launches going forward.

The Chair indicated that the Durham Agreed Syllabus launch moved to virtual due to COVID and was originally planned as a physical launch.

The Senior Professional Learning Advisor asked Members if they would like a regular update around any training on aspects of Religious Education which Members confirmed would be very helpful. She then provided details of some courses that were coming forward.

9 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of SACRE was scheduled to be held on 9 November 2023 at 3.00 pm.

10 Any other business

Canon L Burton asked if secondary schools who were using the Durham Agreed Syllabus could be invited to attend a future SACRE meeting to share their work.

The Chair indicated that he would also like to see a return of Members sharing their faiths.

Members discussed the time of meetings for the next municipal year where it was suggested a possible 4.00 pm start. It was suggested that this be discussed with the Chair of SACRE.

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Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Councillor Ted Henderson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for
Children and Young Peoples Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To inform SACRE of the outcome of Cabinet and to provide the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) with a new constitution which reflects the amended membership of Committee A.

Executive summary

- 2 An alteration to the SACRE constitution can only be approved by Cabinet. At the meeting held on 14 December 2022 Cabinet approved a request made by the Director of Children and Young People on behalf of SACRE to alter their constitution to enable Humanist representation.

Recommendation(s)

- 3 The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education notes the amended Constitution which includes a representative of the Humanist non-religious worldview as a full member, alongside denominations and religions currently forming Committee A.

Background

- 4 The establishment of SACRE is part of the Council's statutory duties under the Education Act 1996, and its membership must represent an appropriate reflection of the principal religious traditions of the region.
- 5 An alteration to the SACRE constitution can only be approved by Cabinet.
- 6 SACRE requested the Council to take the necessary steps to arrange for a representative of the Humanist non-religious worldview to become a full member, alongside denominations and religions currently forming Committee A of SACRE.
- 7 This request was considered by Children and Young People's service management team in August 2022 and the request was supported.
- 8 A report was presented to Corporate Management Team (CMT) in September 2022 which was also supported the request. CMT agreed that a report should be presented to Cabinet recommending that the request by SACRE be approved.

Conclusion

- 9 At the meeting held on 14 December 2022 Cabinet approved the request made by the Director of Children and Young People on behalf of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to alter their constitution to enable Humanist representation.
- 10 An amended version of the Constitution has been prepared to reflect that a representative of the Humanist non-religious worldview is now a full member of SACRE alongside denominations and religions currently forming Committee A.

Background papers

- SACRE Constitution updated following Cabinet in December 2022.

Other useful documents

- None

Author(s)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The duty to establish a standing advisory council on religious education and its functions are set out in the Education Act 1996

Finance

Not applicable

Consultation

Not required

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable

Climate Change

Not applicable

Human Rights

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Not applicable

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable