

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on Thursday 6 November 2014 at 1.30 pm

Present:

Church of England

N Chapman, D Mowbray-Pape and K Passmore

Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

J Bainbridge	Methodist Church
N Barker	The Salvation Army
V Gallant	Judaism
W Gray	Buddhism
J Kidd	Methodist Church
J Nicholls	Society of Friends (Quaker)
J Pallister	Roman Catholic
Bhakti Rasa Dasa	Hinduism
C Spencer	Bahá'í Faith

Teachers Associations

S Baker	NUT
S Lupton	RE Curriculum Group
P Welch	NUT

County Council Representatives

Councillor M Dixon

Specialist Inspector (Religious Education)

Isobel Short

Voluntary and Community Sector Officer

Ian Hunter-Smart

1 Presentations from Schools on the Enquiry Project

Students from King James I Academy and Wellfield Community School attended the SACRE meeting to give members a presentation on the work they had undertaken of the Enquiry Project.

Members thanked the students for their very informative presentations and asked questions.

The Committee adjourned at 2.10 pm and re-convened at 2.15 pm

2 Election of a Chairman

Canon L Burton had indicated at the last meeting that she would no longer be a member of Durham SACRE and a new Chairman would need to be appointed at the November meeting.

Nominations were sought for a new Chairman to replace Canon L Burton.

Councillor Dixon moved and S Baker seconded that P Welch be appointed Chairman of Durham SACRE.

No further nominations were received.

Resolved: That P Welch be appointed Chairman of Durham SACRE.

P WELCH (in the Chair)

3 Introductions, Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting in particular V Gallant and K Passmore as this was their first meeting. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their background.

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education introduced C Forbes who was an observer from Sunderland who is a Lead Teacher and had recently taken on an advisory role and was hoping to learn from Durham SACRE.

Apologies were received from V Bain, Councillor P Brookes, S Brown, Canon L Burton, C Callaghan, A Hartley and I Osborne.

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education told SACRE members that she had spoken to Canon L Burton on the phone. Canon L Burton was very sorry she could not attend her last SACRE meeting but was unable to travel up from Canterbury. She asked for her good wishes to be conveyed to all SACRE members.

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education thanked Canon L Burton in her absence for the commitment she had shown to Durham SACRE over a period of 20 years. She told members again that Canon L Burton had expressed an interest in keeping in touch and possibly re-joining SACRE if she returned to the region in the future.

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education conveyed that Canon L Burton would always feel welcome and could be a co-opted member in the future if there were no vacancies on SACRE at that point.

SACRE members agreed with this proposal and asked that their thanks and good wishes be conveyed to Canon L Burton.

4 Declarations of Interest

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

5 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2014, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to one minor grammatical change.

6 Matters Arising

SACRE members sought clarification on the progress made to appoint a Representative from Islam to SACRE as two of the members may know someone who would be able to represent Islam on Durham SACRE.

SACRE members were advised that S Brown was looking into the matter and members would be advised of the outcome accordingly.

The Chairman advised SACRE members that he had started the production of the annual report which would be sent out in draft to SACRE members in the next couple of months.

The Chairman also advised SACRE members that the SACRE Task Group had met and the outcome from this meeting would be discussed under agenda Item No. 10.

7 Chairs Comments

The Chairman indicated to SACRE members that he was delighted at becoming Chairman. He had grown up in County Durham and had been taught by J Kidd and I Short. Paul has taught RE for the past 12 years and has been a member of SACRE for 8 years.

The Chairman proposed to send a letter of thanks to the Headteachers' of the schools whose students kindly attended the meeting today to give members a presentation on the Enquiry project. He also proposed to send a letter of thanks to Canon Linda Burton.

Resolved:

That the Chairman send a letter of thanks to Canon L Burton and the Headteachers' of the students who attended the SACRE Meeting today.

8 RE Inspector's Report

The Specialist Inspector for Religious Education presented the circulated report which was the RE Inspector Report for Autumn Term 2014 (for copy see file of minutes).

The report looked at the following:-

- Durham RE Networks
- RE Contracts
- Regional RE Hub
- Holocaust Memorial Day
- Courses Next Year
- School Queries
- RE, Collective Worship, SMSC and Ofsted
- Interfaith Week
- Farmington Fellowship
- Raising the Profile of RE
- RE Bursaries

Members discussed the contents of the report in particular parental withdrawal of children from RE and/or Collective Worship. Members discussed how withdrawal did not mean that children would be given extra curriculum work.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

9 RE Enquiry Project

The Chairman presented the circulated NASACRE report on the Bursary 2013 – Enquiry Project, Durham and South Tyneside SACREs (for copy see file of minutes).

SACRE members indicated that it was a worthwhile project and wished to congratulate all involved. The Chairman indicated that he would send a thank you letter to every school involved in the project.

Resolved: (i) That the Chairman sends a thank you letter to all schools involved in the Enquiry Project.

(ii) That the report be noted.

10 SACRE Structure and Working Groups

The Chairman referred to the recent Task Group that had met to look at the structure of Durham SACRE and was attended by himself, C Spencer, Councillor Dixon and the Specialist Inspector for Religious Education.

The Task Group produced a Durham SACRE draft organisational structure which consisted of the three Durham SACRE Committee Meetings and three permanent Working Groups which would look at Communications, External Relations and SACRE Development. There would be a further Ad Hoc Task Group/Working Group which would be convened when necessary and would work on agenda items between SACRE meetings and organise specific projects and events (for copy of structure see file of minutes).

SACRE members were asked for their comments on the draft structure. Members agreed that working groups were required due to the gap between each SACRE Committee Meeting and people contributed more in smaller groups.

It was agreed that the Chairman would e-mail SACRE members for volunteers to sit on the working groups.

Resolved: (i) That the Draft Organisational Structure be approved.

(ii) That volunteers be sought to sit on the Working Groups.

11 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of SACRE would be held on 5 March 2015.

The Clerk asked for agreement to arrange the 2015/16 meetings the first Thursday in March, June and November at 1.30 pm as in previous years.

Resolved:

That the 2015/16 meetings are arranged as follows:-

4 June 2015 at 1.30 pm
5 November 2015 at 1.30 pm
3 March 2016 at 1.30 pm

12 Any other business

J Nicholls the Quaker Representative shared some literature with SACRE members which were entitled as follows:-

‘Peace Education Network – Teach, Peace pack, contains assembly ideas and activities for exploring peace themes with 5-11 year olds’

‘Conviction - A World War 1 critical thinking project, a secondary school focused teachers’ resource’

‘Conscience – A World War 1 critical thinking project, a primary school focused teachers’ resource’.

She also referred to an article ‘Wait until Wednesday’ and a website ‘ReforReal’ which invites views about what children need to know and understand about religion and belief and why.

Details of the websites would be circulated to SACRE members.