

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

**At a Meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held in Committee Room 1B, County Hall, Durham on Thursday 2 March 2017 at 1.30 pm**

**Present:**

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

### **Church of England**

N Chapman, K Passmore, R Sansom and C Weir

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

J Bainbridge	-	Methodist Church
V Gallant	-	Judaism
W Gray	-	Buddhism
J Kidd	-	Methodist Church
C Spencer	-	Bahá'í Faith

### **Teachers Associations**

V Bain	-	NUT
S Baker	-	NUT
A Hartley	-	NASUWT
S Lupton	-	RE Curriculum Group
C Newton	-	RE Curriculum Group

### **County Council Representatives**

Councillors P Brookes, M Dixon and A Liversidge

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

Isobel Short

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular C Singh (Sikhism) and S Walker (Humanist) who were both in attendance to observe the meeting.

The Chairman also welcomed C Weir to the meeting who is the new representative for the Church of England. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their background.

He also advised Members that P Snowdon had tendered his resignation and the Clerk would write to the Diocese for a new representative.

Apologies for absence had been received from G Chaundy, J Nicholls, I Osborne, P Snowdon and M Turner.

## **2 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2017, were confirmed 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**

Councillor Dixon sought clarification if there had been an increase in cases of racism in relation to Islam.

Members were advised that the Community Safety Co-Ordinator would be the relevant officer. Councillor Dixon asked if it would be possible for the Community Safety Co-Ordinator to provide SACRE with some figures on racism in schools for information.

The Subject Improvement Advisor indicated that if the racism was in relation to Religious Education or Collective Worship in schools then she would also need to be advised in addition to the Community Safety Co-Ordinator as many Headteachers and parents contacted her to seek advice in relation to this matter.

Councillor Dixon referred to the Syrian refugees located in Newton Aycliffe who were having to travel to Darlington for Islamic Friday prayers and he sought clarification as to whether a local school could offer their premises for Friday prayers to take place without the need for travel to Darlington.

Members were advised that several years ago Durham SACRE had discussed whether schools should make a prayer room available for Muslim pupils to use throughout the school day. It was decided at the time that SACRE did not generally recommend schools to do this without careful consideration. There would also be issues with schools being used for local community prayers during the school day.

## **5 Chairs Comments**

The Chairman advised Members that the format of meetings would change during the Agreed Syllabus Review and he proposed that they suspend the discussion groups until after the launch of the Agreed Syllabus.

He also thanked those members of SACRE who had agreed to attend the RE Conference to be held on 10 March 2017.

## **6 Revision of the Agreed Syllabus**

The Committee Services Officer presented the report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in relation to the proposal for the revision of the agreed syllabus (for copy see file of minutes).

SACRE formally agreed to stand as Agreed Syllabus Conference members.

## **7 RE Subject Advisors Report**

Members considered the RE Subject Adviser Report for the Spring Term 2017 (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The report contained the following items:-

- RE Networks
- Easter Planning Materials (What is the meaning of Easter?)
- Christmas Planning Materials
- One Day Conference on Progression and Assessment in RE
- RE Conference 10 March 2017
- Sharing Good Practice
- Rediscover Middlesbrough
- Bridging Primary to Secondary RE

Members discussed the contents of the report.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

## **8 RE Conference - Mutual Respect and Tolerance of All**

The Subject Improvement Advisor advised Members that the RE Conference would be held on 10 March 2017 and 24 schools had booked onto the conference.

Members were provided with details of the itinerary for the day.

## **9 Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of SACRE will be held on 8 June 2017.