

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

**At a Meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held in Committee Room 1B - County Hall, Durham on Thursday 26 April 2018 at 1.30 pm**

**Present:**

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

### **Church of England**

N Chapman

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

J Bainbridge	- Methodist Church
V Gallant	- Judaism
F Johnson	- Methodist Church
J Nicholls	- Society of Friends (Quaker)
C Singh	- Sikhism
C Spencer	- Bahá'í Faith

### **Teachers Associations**

V Bain	- NUT
S Baker	- NUT

### **County Council Representatives**

Councillors C Martin

### **Co-opted Member:**

M Dixon

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

Isobel Short

### **Also In Attendance:**

Ian Hunter-Smart (Voluntary and Community Sector Officer)  
S Walker (Humanist)

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

Apologies were received from Councillor P Brookes, G Chaundy, W Gray, A Hartley, J Pallister, K Passmore, R Sansom, Councillor F Tinsley, M Turner and C Weir.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Frances Ann Johnson who had recently been appointed as the Methodist Church

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

## **2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **3 Declarations of Interest**

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

## **4 Matters Arising**

C Spencer advised Members that the Interfaith Week event had taken place on the 13 November 2017.

I Hunter Smart referred to the Holocaust Memorial Day and the theme 'The Power of Words', and brought to the meeting a selection of posters that had been produced for Members to view.

## **5 Bahá'í Faith - An introduction by Carol Spencer**

C Spencer the Baha'i Faith representative on SACRE gave a presentation on herself and Baha'i Faith.

Following the presentation, Members were giving the opportunity to ask questions regarding Baha'i Faith.

The Chairman thanked C Spencer for her very informative presentation.

## **6 RE Subject Advisor Report**

The RE Subject Adviser advised Members that the Chairman of SACRE had undertaken a Governor Training Session on her behalf which had received excellent evaluations.

The RE Network meetings scheduled for the spring term had to be cancelled but the recent Network meetings had been well attended.

Members were advised that Mahshid Turner had given a talk at primary networks about Islam. Elizabeth Baker a local storyteller had also attended the primary network meeting and given a free resource called 'Spirit in Stone'.

She then referred to guidance she had produced on the aims and purposes of Religious Education and stated that her department was still receiving enquiries on this matter from both parents and schools on parent's right to withdraw their children from Religious Education.

The RE Subject Adviser raised concerns about provision for the teaching of Religious Education at KS4. She stated that in some schools teachers were expected to reach full course GCSE in a small amount of time and then had to explain to Senior Leaders why the results were poor.

The RE Subject Adviser advised Members that she would be representing Durham SACRE at the NASACRE AGM in London.

Members were also advised that Hartlepool and South Tyneside had bought contracts for Religious Education and Agreed Syllabus support, this would provide an income for the authority.

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

## **7 RE Discovering Middlesbrough**

The Chairman introduced Ms Surtees from Acklam Grange School who had been invited to give a presentation on the work she had done with pupils in her school on Religious Diversity.

Members were shown the website that the students had developed on REdiscovering Middlesbrough which was located on the webpage for Acklam Grange School.

The website included an online map of the places of worship in Middlesbrough, past and present. For each place of worship on the map there was a link to resources created by Acklam Grange students, which were also available via You Tube.

Members were advised that it was a group of four students who started the project in year 7 and who were now in year 10. One student had recently interviewed his grandad which was videoed and they were going to include this onto the website.

The school had applied for further funding for the project from NASACRE but were unsuccessful.

Following the presentation, Members were giving the opportunity to ask questions.

The Chairman thanked Ms Surtees for her very informative presentation.

## **8 Chairs Comments**

The Chairman referred to the changes in GCSEs and the move towards RE as an option subject in secondary schools rather than a core subject, which was a concern.

He also advised Members that he had been involved in the training of RE teachers in County Durham.

## **9 Date of Future Meetings**

Members discussed the dates of future meetings, in particular if the meeting scheduled to be held on 7 June 2018 should be pushed back to July 2018 to allow a bigger gap between meetings.

Some members were unable to attend a meeting in July 2018 so it was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 7 June 2018 as originally planned.

Members also agreed that future meetings would be held on 1 November 2018 and 7 March 2019.

## **10 Any other business**

V Gallant advised Members of a Jewish Living Experience Exhibition that would be hosted at Newcastle City Library and The Synagogue in Gosforth in May 2018. He would confirm the dates of the exhibition.