

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 November 2017 at 1.30 pm

Present:

Church of England

N Chapman, K Passmore, R Sansom, H Tait and C Weir

Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

J Bainbridge	-	Methodist Church
G Chaundy	-	The Salvation Army
V Gallant	-	Judaism
W Gray	-	Buddhism
Bhakti Rasa Dasa	-	Hinduism
C Singh	-	Sikhism
C Spencer	-	Bahá'í Faith
M Turner	-	Islam

Teachers Associations

V Bain	-	NUT
S Baker	-	NUT
P Welch	-	NUT

County Council Representatives

Councillor C Martin

Co-opted Member

M Dixon

Interim Strategic Manager – Education Durham

A Aitchison

1 Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of County Durham SACRE

The term of office for the current Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Durham SACRE had expired.

Nominations were sought from Members for the appointment of a Chairman and Vice Chairman of Durham SACRE.

Resolved: i) That P Welch be appointed Chairman for a four year period.

ii) That Miss J Bainbridge be appointed Vice-Chairman for a four year period.

P Welch in the Chair

2 Introductions, Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor P Brookes, A Hartley, S Lupton, J Nicholls, I Osborne, J Pallister and Councillor F Tinsley.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

3 SACRE Membership

The Chairman gave Members an update on the current membership of Durham SACRE, in particular where there were vacancies.

4 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 Declarations of Interest

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

6 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

7 Chairs Comments

C Boardman from Wingate Junior School was in attendance to share with Members the presentation she gave in her school on the teaching of Religious Education (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

Following the presentation Members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

The Chairman thanked C Boardman for the very valuable presentation and advised Members that he would send a letter of thanks to the Head teacher at Wingate Junior School for allowing her time from school to attend the SACRE meeting.

The Chairman then provided an update from the Subject Improvement Advisor that informed Members that the Agreed Syllabus review process had been delayed. He then provided details of other authorities that were interested in purchasing Durham's Agreed Syllabus. He then referred to the RE faith conference in March 2017 which SACRE Members supported and was a success and other local authorities were looking at similar models for their conferences in 2018.

The Subject Improvement Advisor asked the Chairman to talk to Members about the introduction of a working group to look at religious diversity in Co. Durham.

Members discussed the introduction of the working group and agreed to establish a working group consisting of N Chapman, K Passmore, C Spencer, H Tait and C Weir.

Members also agreed to invite J Surtees from Acklam Grange School to a future meeting to give a presentation on the work she had done with pupils in her school on Religious Education.

8 Sikhism - An Introduction by Cloud Singh

C Singh the Sikhism representative on Durham SACRE gave a short presentation about himself and Sikhism.

Following the presentation, Members asked questions regarding Sikhism.

The Chairman thanked C Singh for his very informative presentation.

9 Commission on Religious Education

The Chairman referred to the Interim report: Religious Education for All by the Commission on Religious Education which was established to review the legal, education and policy frameworks for religious education in schools in England.

The Chairman circulated a copy of pages 11-12 of the Executive Summary of the report and asked Members to discuss the summary relating the role of SACRE.

The Chairman agreed to forward the Executive Summary of the report in its entirety by email and Members agreed to send any comments they may have to the Chairman who would then formulate a response to the consultation on the interim report on behalf of Durham SACRE. Members were also advised that they could also respond to the consultation as individuals.

10 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of SACRE will be held on 1 March 2017.

11 Any other business

C Spencer advised Members that there would be an Interfaith Week event on Monday 13 November 2017, 6 - 8.30 pm at United Reformed Church, Waddington Street, Durham which would be an evening of interfaith encounter with personal contribution from different faith traditions and belief systems.

She then referred to the Holocaust Memorial Day that falls each year on 27 January and the theme for 2018 was 'The Power of Words' She had been asked by I Hunter Smart if Members of different faith communities could make a contribution to mark this day in County Durham by supplying a few words responding to this theme which could be used in a display.

Members were asked to let I Hunter-Smart or P Nicholson know if they were willing to make a contribution to the Holocaust Memorial Day.