

**MINUTES OF STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2017**

Present:

Tim Cox, Blackburn Church of England Diocese, Church of England Group

(in the Chair)

Councillors Humphreys, Kirkland, O'Hara and Singleton

Helen Sage and Jo Snape, Blackburn Church of England Diocese, Church of England Group

Tammy Hackney, St George's Church of England Academy

Paul Harrison, Bispham Endowed Church of England Primary School

Iman Ashfaq Patel, Islamic Representative

Margaret Wright, Roman Catholic Group

Dr Vasudev, Hindu Representative

In Attendance:

Lennox Beattie, Executive and Regulatory Manager, Blackpool Council

Jean Martin, School Improvement Officer

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2016

The Committee considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 MEMBERS NEWS

1. Paul Harrison circulated details on a funding initiative and suggested that a possible bid for funding could be made to fund a Kids Meet. The theme of the event being a question time with faith leaders. A sub-group was appointed to investigate further with Tammy Hackney, Councillor Kirkland, Imam Patel and Paul Harrison to report back at the next meeting.
2. Imam Patel also highlighted the on-going work with the integration of Syrian refugees within the town.

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4 ACCORD INCLUSIVITY AWARDS

The Committee received an update on the Accord Inclusivity awards for the first time sought only to issue awards to SACRE's rather than individual schools. The SACRE noted that the first place had been presented to Brent SACRE for its ground breaking work around Collective Worship.

Resolved:

1. To note the awards report.
2. To ask the clerk to collect further details of the award winners so that this good practice can be shared with Blackpool schools.

5 LIVING WITH DIFFERENCE

The Committee considered the report of the Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life- Living with Difference attached at Appendix 5a, to the agenda.

Members held a discussion regarding both the vision and recommendations. The Committee was unanimous in its support of the vision behind the report of the Commission and agreed that the vision should form a key part in future discussion of religious education within Blackpool. The Committee did not necessarily agree with individually with all aspects of the recommendations but viewed the vision and the increased debate and publicity around the issues as a positive step.

Resolved:

To note the report of the Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life- entitled Living with Difference.

6 NATRE REPORT ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Committee considered the NATRE report on their survey on Religious Education in Primary Schools as attached at Appendix 6a.

The Committee expressed concern as to the results of the survey on funding, the low level of qualification of staff delivering religious education and agreed with the concerns regarding the withdrawal of children from Mosque visits.

Resolved:

1. To note the report by NATRE on their survey on Religious Education.
2. To consider the three concerns above in any future action from the SACRE to address or work with schools of other partners.

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7 COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Committee received an update to members on the Commission on Religious Education. It was noted that the Commission had begun its research in 2016 and it noted that the next call for evidence in the North West was in Manchester on 13 June 2017 and asked the clerk to circulate details of that event. Members were encouraged to attend where possible.

Resolved:

To note the update.

8 INTERFAITH WEEK UPDATE

The Committee considered a report on Interfaith Week, the report highlighted the aims of this year's Strengthening good inter faith relations at all levels

Increasing awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society

Increasing understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

None of those in attendance knew of any events yet organised by their groups towards Interfaith Week but members agreed to keep other SACRE members informed as events were organised.

Resolved:

1. To note that this year's Inter Faith Week will take place from Sunday 12 - Sunday 19 November 2017.
2. To agree that Board members communicate via the clerk any events organised by their groups for Interfaith Week.

9 NASACRE SUMMER NEWSLETTER

The Committee considered the NASACRE summer newsletter. It noted that a number of the issues included on the newsletter had been dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

The Committee though agreed that the Committee continued membership of NASACRE was beneficial, that Blackpool SACRE should continue to be a member and at a future meeting seek an attendee for the annual conference.

Resolved:

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1. To note the NASACRE summer newsletter attached at Appendix 9a
2. To note the NASACRE survey currently being undertaken.
3. To agree to renew the SACRE's membership of NASACRE.

10 UPDATE ON THE NORTH WEST SACRE HUB

The Committee noted that there was no update on the North West SACRE hub but agreed that the Chairman should attend the next meeting of the hub and report back to the next meeting of the SACRE.

11 WORK PLAN

The Committee considered the development of workplan and agreed that the next meeting should include the development of further workplan including the annual report which had not been completed for a number of years.

12 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee agreed the dates of future meetings as follows:

8 November 2017 (provisional venue St George's Church of England High School)

7 March 2018 (provisional venue Blackpool Mosque)

20 June 2018 (provisional venue St Stephens on the Cliffs)

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 6.55 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Lennox Beattie, Executive and Regulatory Manager
Tel: lennox.beattie@blackpool.gov.uk
E-mail: 01253 477157