

**MINUTES OF STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2017**

Present:

Tim Cox, Blackburn Church of England Diocese, Church of England Group
(in the Chair)
Councillor O'Hara
Helen Sage, Blackburn Church of England Diocese, Church of England Group
Tammy Hackney, St George's Church of England Academy
Iman Ashfaq Patel, Islamic Representative
Sharon Barnett, on behalf of Margaret Wright, Roman Catholic Group

In Attendance:

Chris Williams, Democratic Governance Adviser

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Simon Blackburn, Margaret White, Jo Snape and Paul Harrison.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2017

The Committee considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 MEMBERS NEWS

1. Tim Cox invited Sheila Gewolb, Vice President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews to attend a future SACRE meeting following her expression of interest in the work of the Committee.
2. Imam Patel reported that Islamophobia Awareness Week would begin on Monday 13 November 2017 and offered to circulate teaching materials for members of the Committee to share. In addition, religious teaching on Islam had been offered to SACRE and schools throughout the diocese from respected teacher, Imran Kotwal of the Muslim Learner Services organisation.
3. Helen Sage reported on changes to the GCSE syllabus specification for Religious Education. Also, it was reported that a new curriculum for Church of England voluntary aided schools would be launched by Blackburn Diocese in the coming months.

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4 UPDATE ON KIDSMEET PROPOSAL

The Committee had no new information to discuss in relation to the proposal to form a Kidsmeet first put forward at the previous meeting.

Resolved:

In the absence of any significant developments, it was agreed that a more detailed report would be brought to the 7 March 2018 meeting.

5 COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INTERIM REPORT AND CONSULTATION EXERCISE

Members noted the contents of the report and the subsequent consultation exercise that had been undertaken.

In terms of relevant actions for the Committee emerging from the interim report, the Chairman highlighted elements of the Executive Summary and the need to ensure that, based on the changing global political landscape and changing social demographics, there continued to be a need for Religious Education and added that it should remain current and relevant. Members discussed in particular the four key areas of recommendations, namely: a national entitlement for RE, holding schools to account for their provision and quality of RE, a National Plan to improve teaching and learning in RE and a renewed and expanded role for SACRE's.

Resolved:

The Committee noted the report.

6 JOINT NASACRE/AREIAC EVENT ON THE COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Committee considered arrangements for the Joint NACARE/AREIAC event on the Commission on RE's interim report to be held on Friday 24 November 2017 in Birmingham.

Resolved:

Members wishing to volunteer to attend the Joint NASACRE/AREIAC event as a delegate to notify the Clerk or Chairman at their earliest convenience.

7 UPDATE ON SYLLABUSES

Following a review of the current RE syllabuses used by Primary schools across Blackpool, Sharon Barnett reported that all catholic primaries used the Lancaster Diocese Syllabus with slight variations between some that had chosen to adapt the materials.

It was noted that Academy schools were free to choose which syllabus they employed to teach RE in their individual settings. The Chairman reminded members that schools seeking to purchase new syllabus materials would be entitled to a discounted price when

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purchased through SACRE.

Resolved:

1. To list all catholic primaries in the Local Authority area as using the Lancaster Diocesan RE syllabus.
2. To write to all Secondary Schools in the Local Authority area to establish which RE syllabuses they currently used.
3. To write to all schools using the Lancashire syllabus to ensure they were accessing the most recent 2016 materials and not the previous 2011 scheme.

8 INTERFAITH WEEK

The Chairman reminded members of the importance of Interfaith Week due to take place between Sunday 12 and Sunday 19 November 2017. He added that it represented an opportunity to promote greater awareness and interaction between people from different communities and with different religious and non-religious beliefs and would also be a celebration of diversity.

Imam Patel described a series of planned visits he would be undertaking to Primary Schools during interfaith week in addition to visits to the Mosque by other schools.

The work of the Faith Forum was discussed and members expressed a desire to learn of any planned interfaith week events that the group was aware of.

Resolved:

Members not present at the meeting to inform the Chairman or the Clerk of any undertakings from the perspective of their organisations in support of Interfaith Week.

9 ANNUAL REPORT

The draft annual report was considered and a number of amendments were suggested to the final document before publication.

Resolved:

1. To amend the membership section of Appendix 3 on page 17 of the draft report for greater accuracy.
2. To amend the graph on page 10 of the draft report to include a separate column for 'Blackpool (church-schools)'.
3. To amend the graph on page 10 of the draft report to include data from the previous year and from three years previously to aid comparison.
4. Once action points 1, 2 and 3 complete, the final draft report to be brought to the 7 March 2018 meeting for endorsement prior to publication.

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10 FORWARD PLAN OF AGENDA ITEMS AND TRAINING NEEDS

Resolved:

To add the following to the Forward Plan of Items /training requirements for the next meeting:

1. Final Annual Report 2015/2016
2. Draft Final Report 2016/2017
3. Update on RE Syllabuses
4. Refresher training session for SACRE members.

11 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the next meeting would be held at 6pm on Wednesday 7 March 2018 at Blackpool Mosque, 2 Revoe St, Blackpool FY1 5HN.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.24 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

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