

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on Wednesday, 6th March, 2024.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Ashpreet Singh Nainu (Chair), Sue Elbrow and Momade Faizal

Committee 2 – Church of England

Rev Gordon Briggs and Christine Isles and Rev Gordon Briggs

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Munsoor Malik – Primary

Priya Lamba - Primary

Andrew Ramsey – Secondary

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillors E Ahmed (Vice-Chair), Akram, Khawar, Instone and Mohindra

Apologies for Absence:- Zubayr Abbas-Bowkan, Karen Appleby, Hardip Singh Sohal, Nagina Ali and Ian Sharpe

PART 1

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor (Cllr) Instone declared that he was a governor at the school that a member in Committee 3 (Teachers (Representing Primary, Secondary & Special School) worked at.

27. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 2 November 2023

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

28. Matters Arising

In relation to Minute 15 - Review of SACRE Membership Report, it was noted that the report would be reported to the Council meeting on 24 April 2024 with the recommendation from SACRE.

- 16.** In relation to Minute 16 – Minutes of the Joint Syllabus Conference meeting held on 18 July 2023, it was confirmed that Cllr Instone was also a member of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

29. Update on the Joint Syllabus Conference meeting held on 11 January 2024

Christine Isles reported that the Pan-Berkshire Syllabus proposal was a work in progress document, and that a revised version (v9) had been circulated as a supplementary paper to provide members with the latest update.

It was confirmed that comments received from SACRE members had been incorporated in this latest version and work on the Syllabus Proposal was still on-going.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

30. SACRE Action/Forward Plan 2023/24 - Updated to March 2024

The SACRE Professional Adviser provided a brief review of the 2023-24 SACRE Action Plan up to March 2024.

The three main categories of the Action Plan were highlighted as follows:

- A) The Core Business section of being a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well informed membership was ongoing.
- B) Supported teachers of religious education (RE) to continually improve RE learning in their schools. The next SACRE Teachers' Network meeting would be on 20 March 2024.
- C) Supported the ongoing work of the Pan-Berkshire Hub. Part of the work included the current continuing work on reviewing the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus, where six different SACREs were working together to also produce supporting materials for RE.

It was noted that the review of the Agreed Syllabus was approaching the finishing stages and highlighted that due to the pandemic, there would be a slight delay in publication. Currently, the Joint Syllabus Conference (JSC) was focussing on the content of the Agreed Syllabus.

In response to a question on whether the focus on the Agreed Syllabus would be on religious education or world views, the Adviser explained that the focus would be on RE but largely veered to World Views.

Resolved – That the update on SACRE Action/Forward Plan 2023/24 up to March 2024

31. SACRE Finance Updated February 2024

The Adviser updated members on the SACRE Finance up to February 2024.

It was clarified that some listed items would roll over to 2024-25, and that the remaining balance for 2023-24 financial year was £770.85, which would be required to be spent by March 2024.

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During discussion members suggested that the unspent money could be put towards funding the launch of the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus and supporting RE materials. Oxford Diocese should be requested to submit an invoice for this amount to be held until the launch.

The Adviser would find out what other SACREs had budgeted and whether they would be making a contribution towards the launch of the Pan- Berkshire Agreed Syllabus. Members also considered that there should be an agenda for the launch and should include costings and required budget, as well as the contribution that the Pan-Berkshire Hub would be making.

Momade Faizal proposed, seconded by Rev Gordon Briggs and agreed, that Oxford Diocese be requested to submit an invoice for £770.85 to be held and put towards the launch of the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus and supporting RE materials.

Resolved – That the above proposal be agreed. Oxford Diocese be requested to submit an invoice for £770.85 to be held and put towards the launch of the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus and supporting RE materials for Slough SACRE only or matched by the other SACREs.

32. Slough SACRE Winter Newsletters Letter 2023-24 - To Note

Members noted the Slough SACRE Winter Newsletters Letter 2023-24. The deadline for the submission of items for inclusion was confirmed as the end of March 2024.

Resolved – that the Slough SACRE Winter Newsletters Letter 2023-24 be noted.

33. SACRE Membership Update

Members noted that there were still a number of vacancies that were still yet to be filled and further work needed to be done to try and fill them.

It was also noted that there had been a number of absences and highlighted to be mindful of the Terms of Reference (2.5) which stated that:

“Where a nominated representative fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the SACRE and fails to give their apologies, s/he, shall cease to be a member of the SACRE and the nominating body shall be invited to nominate another representative provided that:

- a) *The Clerk to the SACRE has advised the member in writing of the provision of this clause following the second missed meeting and at least 10 working days before the third meeting.*
- b) *SACRE does not decide to disapply this rule for reasons of extenuating circumstances”.*

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Resolved – That the update be noted.

34. SACRE Membership News (An update from members regarding activities undertaken since the last SACRE meeting)

Andrea Sparrow announced that a Parish Chaplin had been appointed at Slough and Eton C of E Business and Enterprise College.

Momade Faizal stated that he had applied to become a RE Hub speaker.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

(Cllr Mohindra left the meeting at 5.15pm)

35. Equality and Diversity - Resources

The Adviser reported that teachers could access the Strictly RE resources for supporting materials relating to equality and diversity.

36. SACRE Members' Attendance Record

Resolved – That the Members' attendance record be noted.

37. Date of Next Meeting: To be confirmed

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 3 July 2024.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.44 pm and closed at 5.53 pm)