



**Notice Of a Public Meeting of
City Of York Council**

**SACRE
(Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education)**

To: Councillors Cullwick, Cuthbertson, Fitzpatrick and Rowley, John Thompson, Daryoush Mazloum, Kevin Duffy, Ben Rich, Rev Keith Albans, Tracey Copestake, Penny Coppin-Siddall, Ian Hodgson, Olivia Seymour, Katherine Harper, Claire Hennigan, Brenda Christison

Date: Wednesday, 14 October 2020

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Remote Meeting via Zoom

AGENDA

- 1. Election of Chair**
- 2. Election of Vice Chair**
- 3. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest**
- 4. Minutes of Previous Meetings** (Pages 1 - 16)
To approve the minutes of the previous SACRE meetings held on 8 July 2019, 7 January 2020 and 1 July 2020.
- 5. Report from Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) including decisions made and next steps**
A verbal update will be given to provide Members with an update on the decisions made at the ASC and the next steps to be taken.

- 6. Draft of Annual Report received** (Pages 17 - 20)
To receive and consider the draft Annual Report. This is a requirement at this meeting in order to meet the national deadline for final approval to send to the Secretary of State.
- 7. National Data**
Members will receive a report on the national data for GCSEs and A Levels. This will include a break down from schools compared with the national link to NATRE and REC reports.
- 8. Progress towards Development Plan**
To receive a report on progress towards the Development Plan.
- 9. Monitoring of Standards**
A verbal update will be given on the current context of Ofsted Reports, Local Authority monitoring and SACRE support.
- 10. National RE and Collective Worship updates** (Pages 21 - 24)
To receive a report detailing NASACRE updates.
- 11. Correspondence on complaints / determinations**
A verbal update will be given on complaints received and the determinations in respect of those complaints.
- 12. Urgent Business**
- 13. Future meeting dates**
4 November at 4.30pm or 2 December at 4.30pm

SACRE Minutes**8 July 2019, West Offices**

Attendance:

Mike Jory (CYC Adviser); Olivia Seymour (Interim Chair; CofE, Diocese of York); Cllr Fiona Fitzpatrick (CYC); Cllr Martin Rowley (CYC); Janet Dunn (CofE, Diocese of York); Ben Rich (Jewish York Liberal Movement); Ian Hodgson (Humanist); Daryoush Mazloum (York Baha'i Community); Penny Siddall (The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints); Tracey Copestake (Quakers); Joe Bower (RE teacher, York High School); Naomi Watson (minutes)

Apologies:

Katherine Harper (CofE, Archbishop Holgate's CE Academy); Keith Albans (Methodist);

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Olivia Seymour welcomed everyone to the meeting and the group introduced themselves. Joe Bower was welcomed as a visitor as RE teacher at York High School. Apologies were received as above and Olivia Seymour stated that the meeting will not be quorate as no C group (Teachers) representative is present. Olivia Seymour explained the term "quorate" and confirmed that there will be a new teacher representative next academic year. The Humanist rep sits with Committee A (Christian and faith groups) and one member needs to be present from each of the four groups to be quorate. Therefore the minutes and any decisions required will need to be carried over to the next meeting for approval. Naomi Watson will resend documentation weblink to new members. **Action** Naomi Watson to resend documentation to new members.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising from 4 April 2019

Actions and matters arising were as follows:

Membership – this is a continuing action priority. The new Head of RE at Joseph Rowntree has expressed an interest in joining from September. It would be desirable to resolve the Imam's non-attendance. Fiona Fitzpatrick stated that she works closely with him and will be able to offer assistance. Olivia Seymour confirmed that Penny Siddall is now a member of SACRE representing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

CPD – this will be covered in the meeting

SACRE RE monitoring – this will be covered in the meeting

Ofsted – this will be covered in the meeting

NASACRE – this will be covered in the meeting

Jewish Living Exhibition – this will be covered in the meeting

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and Olivia Seymour will sign them off at the next meeting, along with the minutes of the previous meeting which was not quorate. **Action** Olivia Seymour to sign off minutes and 12 December Annual Report meeting at next meeting

3. SACRE monitoring of RE

Mike Jory distributed draft questionnaires. RE monitoring is a statutory duty; questionnaires will be sent to all schools with suggested questions for them to pose regarding their own RE provision. It is an opportune time for the work in view of the new Ofsted framework and is intended to support schools. RE Leads need to be able to articulate their subject curriculum in preparation for Ofsted. The questionnaires will be issued in the HT bulletin early September with an explanation of purpose and will not be compulsory; some school visits will be undertaken. Mike Jory will clarify the returns policy with Maxine Squire, Assistant Director. It was agreed that it needs to be made clear that SACRE is inviting responses and not the LA. Ben Rich advised including a statement about how SACRE can support schools using its expertise and Mike Jory will add this. **Action** Mike Jory to clarify returns policy with Maxine Squire and add statement to questionnaire re available SACRE support.

4. School compliance in RE (DfE letter)

This came to attention after the NASACRE conference but SACREs need to be aware of it. There has been press coverage of schools being held to account for failing to teach RE, although this has not occurred in York. If academies do not provide timetabled RE then complaints go directly to the Secretary of State and there are also other accountability mechanisms through the Ofsted framework. SACREs are expected to investigate non-compliance and would liaise with LAs regarding academies.

5. Jewish Living Exhibition

This was discussed at the last meeting in Ben Rich's absence and SACRE is willing to support it. Ben Rich outlined that it is a portable touring exhibition organised by the Board of Deputies of British Jews explaining Judaism, supported by practical teaching materials. There would be a launch event followed by several days to two weeks' opening including a guided tour by the Education Officer. There would also be an opportunity for the Lord Mayor to visit and sessions for RE school teachers. Ben Rich cannot host an event independently though could with SACRE

support, particularly with publicity for schools and a venue. The Minster and the Friends' Meeting House have been proposed as venues as York does not have a synagogue.

Martin Rowley suggested that the Hub at Burnholme would be a suitable venue offering car parking, a library and high footfall, as parking is an issue at West Offices. It will not necessarily be free of charge but he will assist. SACRE will cover costs as it is the type of event it should be funding. It can be publicised through the HT bulletin and Mike Jory and Olivia Seymour also have direct links. Fiona Fitzpatrick gave her full support. Mike Jory emphasised that schools need as much notice as possible and it was agreed that February 2020 after Holocaust Memorial Day will be the optimum time as it does not impact on SATS. Olivia Seymour asked Naomi Watson to distribute an Interfaith Week email. Ben Rich will facilitate this through his contact, Tom Rich, who will then contact Mike Jory to arrange. **Action** Naomi Watson to distribute Interfaith email to group. Ben Rich to facilitate Jewish Living Exhibition organisation arrangements.

6. Feedback from NASACRE annual conference

Mike Jory and Olivia Seymour attended this event featuring high-profile speakers in Manchester. SACRE is willing to fund travel and attendance for two members. A national syllabus is a long way ahead and would save individual SACREs producing their own but there is no political will to implement this. The government is not currently following the Commission on RE's recommendations, apart from teacher training. SACREs are facing issues such as capacity to carry out statutory duties, and quoracy. York is a member of NASACRE and the annual subscription has just been renewed; website logon details will be emailed to members soon.

7. LTLRE training events

LTLRE is a regional project funded by Culham St Gabriel's run in partnership by York St John University, Hull, East Riding and North Yorkshire SACREs and York Diocese to support CPD and has hosted two very successful conferences. Funding is ceasing but there is enough to run the school networks for another year. Olivia Seymour has been running the primary one during Sarah Griffiths' maternity leave to ensure continuity and it has explored Humanism and is now focusing on Islam with a workshop by Muslim Learners UK. Fiona Moss from RE Today, who wrote the Agreed Syllabus and launched it, is delivering a free day at Pathfinder on 10 October for York primary schools on assessment and reviewing the Agreed Syllabus at its half-way implementation point. There is also a free secondary event on 20 November looking at the new Ofsted framework with Deborah Weston OBE, who was involved in the GCSE specification process, and Zameer Hussain, who will run a workshop on Islam. York secondaries will be given priority but the event is open to North Yorkshire schools and the independent sector as there is capacity for 40-50. The flyer is currently being finalised.

8. NATRE document on Ofsted and RE

Olivia Seymour distributed a document exploring the implications of the new Ofsted framework, which SACRE members need to be aware of as it will feature regularly on meeting agendas over next year. There is a new focus on the quality of education and the intent of RE; the framework offers structure to support schools with planning - there is more focus on RE than before and this is evident in recent RE Ofsted reports. It also offers another means of monitoring school standards. There have been no inspections under the new framework so no reports are available. Fiona Moss will incorporate this into the primary conference which will be timely.

9. RE Ambassadors

These were announced at the NASACRE conference and have been appointed. Olivia Seymour has tried to make contact with the North East representative on behalf of York SACRE. They are mainly teachers and are available for one day a month and will support regional working in the long term; however, plans are in their early stages. Olivia Seymour will keep the group informed.

10. Meetings 2019-20

Meetings have been set for 9 December (Annual Report), 31 March and 10 June from 4.30-6.00pm and will not necessarily be held at West Offices. York High School may be a possible venue and would be a valuable opportunity to meet in an RE classroom. Mike Jory produces the statutory Annual Report. It was proposed that due to a Councillors meeting clash that the Annual Report meeting will be a single item meeting and anything urgent will be considered but other business will be held over to the following meeting; this will be confirmed in due course. The Annual Report meeting has already been rearranged and meetings are planned with reference to the Council and Interfaith calendars.

11. SACRE Chair / Vice Chair

Olivia Seymour has been Acting Chair this year following Shabana Jabbar's resignation. However, Olivia Seymour emphatically stated that she does not have capacity to continue as she chairs another SACRE. A new Chair needs to be appointed next term but Olivia Seymour will chair the Annual Report meeting. Mike Jory will also be ceasing his role as LA Strategic Lead in February as he takes part-time retirement and will be handing over to another team member, to be confirmed. The Chair must be able to attend every meeting and Mike Jory expressed his firm intention to have this in place before handing over to his successor to ensure continuity.

Martin Rowley and Fiona Fitzpatrick left the meeting at 17.25pm

Mike Jory is also keen to ensure that all documentation (refer to www.york.gov.uk/sacre) is in place prior to handover.

12. AOB

None

Mike Jory thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 17:27pm.

The next meeting will be held on 9 December 2019 (Annual Report) at 4.30pm at West Offices.

Action	Responsibility
Resend documentation to new members	Naomi Watson
Sign off 12 December Annual Report minutes and 4 April minutes at next meeting	Olivia Seymour
Clarify LA returns policy for RE monitoring questionnaires with Maxine Squire	Mike Jory
Add statement to monitoring questionnaire re available SACRE support	Mike Jory
Distribute Interfaith Week email to group	Naomi Watson
Facilitate Jewish Living Exhibition organisation arrangements	Ben Rich

Items for future meetings: Membership; Jewish Living Exhibition; Ofsted framework; RE Monitoring visits; Ofsted reports; national results data comparisons

This page is intentionally left blank

SACRE Minutes

7 January 2020, West Offices

Attendance:

Olivia Seymour (Interim Chair; CofE, Diocese of York); Cllr Fiona Fitzpatrick (CYC); Ben Rich (Jewish York Liberal Movement); Daryoush Mazloum (York Baha'i Community); Keith Albans (Methodist); Penny Siddall (The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints); Naomi Watson (minutes)

Apologies:

Mike Jory (CYC Adviser); Ian Hodgson (Humanist)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Olivia Seymour welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that it will not be quorate but suggestions can be made, particularly with respect to the Annual Report which needs to be approved. Apologies were received from Mike Jory and Ian Hodgson. Introductions took place.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising from 8 July 2019

This meeting was not quorate. Olivia Seymour requested that membership is on the next meeting agenda, to ensure that meetings are quorate. **Agenda** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and Olivia Seymour will approve the minutes at the next quorate meeting.

Action

Actions and matters arising were as follows:

Monitoring questionnaires – this will be discussed at the next meeting. **Agenda**

Jewish Living Exhibition – Ben Rich advised that Tom Rich has now been replaced. Dates for June will be considered and Ben Rich strongly requested support from SACRE. Possible venues are the Minster or Burnholme Community College. Olivia Seymour advised a separate planning meeting; she has been appointed Regional Ambassador for RE until the end of the year and will be able to assist in this and her Diocesan capacity. Ben Rich stated that SACRE will need to write to schools formally when arrangements are in place; Olivia Seymour is happy to support this process. The event will be more primary focussed. Fiona Fitzpatrick offered to provide support as a member of the Human Rights and Equalities Board. Ben Rich and Olivia Seymour will liaise with Mike Jory regarding a suitable venue. **Action**

3. SACRE Annual Report

The report was previously distributed with the agenda and minutes and has been kept as short as possible, but does need improvement to engage better with its audience. The date of the report needs to be verified as it covers January-December and not the academic year. Previous membership also needs to be checked as this is currently incorrect. A Sikh representative still needs to be sought. Mike Jory and Naomi Watson will follow up on these matters. **Action**

Ben Rich expressed concern at how Collective Worship is reported on and Olivia Seymour stated that the content cannot be changed as it is a statutory duty and CYC does not have evidence to prove that it is not taking place. However, a debate does need to take place as part of the Development Plan. Olivia Seymour will check with Mike Jory on the content of the RE questionnaires. It was agreed that *"SACRE has not undertaken formal monitoring in 2018-19."* needs to be added for clarification; Mike Jory will amend the draft. **Action**

Olivia Seymour requested that standards in RE is discussed at the next meeting. **Agenda** The report format has met the statutory duties. As the meeting is not quorate Naomi Watson will circulate the draft for feedback by 15 January, amendments will be made by Mike Jory accordingly and a revised version will be circulated to SACRE prior to distribution to NASACRE, CYC Chief Executive and the Director of Children's Services. **Action**

4. Feedback from SACRE/LTLRE conferences

Olivia Seymour proposed that key training priorities is discussed at the next meeting, including the Jewish Living Exhibition. **Agenda** SACRE has funded CPD opportunities in partnership with LTLRE, including a training day Fiona Moss delivered last term to review the Agreed Syllabus, which was sold out. Olivia Seymour read out delegates' very encouraging feedback and many schools were represented. However, some schools are difficult to reach and not accessing training. A subject knowledge workshop in March is fully booked with 40 delegates. 19 attended the Secondary conference from East Riding, North Yorkshire and York, featuring two national speakers on KS4 and GCSE. Feedback was very positive and more opportunities for secondary colleagues to meet were requested. LTLRE is exploring this but funding ends in December and there is enough to cover one final conference. This will focus on both Primary and Secondary, the new Ofsted Framework and feature two national speakers; planning is in the early stages. The current offer needs to be developed and the Jewish Living Exhibition will facilitate that.

5. Ofsted feedback

Olivia Seymour proposed that the NATRE report analysis on the first 100 reports under the new Ofsted framework is discussed at the next meeting. **Agenda** Olivia Seymour will discuss

mechanisms for SACRE to receive Ofsted reports for monitoring standards with Mike Jory and others. **Action**

6. SACRE key priorities/next steps

A wider conversation with the LA is needed concerning Collective Worship, membership and ongoing training and opportunities. Olivia Seymour will follow this up with Mike Jory to develop an Action Plan. **Action** Ben Rich emphasised the need to focus on membership as first priority. Olivia Seymour and Naomi Watson will discuss alternative meeting venues and times with Mike Jory. **Action** Fiona Fitzpatrick emphasised the need to focus on teachers. Childcare issues were noted and Olivia Seymour will follow up recruiting new teachers with Mike Jory. **Action**

7. AOB

Olivia Seymour and Keith Albans gave their apologies for the next meeting on 31 March.

Olivia Seymour thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 17:45pm.

The next meeting will be held on 31 March at 2pm at Vale of York Academy.

Action	Responsibility
Add membership to next meeting agenda	Naomi Watson
Approve meeting minutes from 8 July 2019 at next quorate meeting	Olivia Seymour
Add monitoring questionnaires to next meeting agenda	Naomi Watson
Liaise with Mike Jory on JLE venue	Ben Rich and Olivia Seymour
Verify/amend Annual Report date	Mike Jory
Check previous membership correct in Annual Report	Naomi Watson
Investigate Sikh representative	Mike Jory/Naomi Watson
Check content of monitoring questionnaires with Mike Jory	Olivia Seymour
Insert Collective Worship monitoring sentence in Annual Report	Mike Jory
Add standards in RE to next meeting agenda	Naomi Watson
Circulate draft Annual Report for group feedback by 15 January	Naomi Watson
Make amendments to Annual Report	Mike Jory
Circulate final draft version of Annual Report to SACRE	Naomi Watson

Circulate final version of Annual Report to NASACRE, CYC Chief Exec, Director of DCS	Naomi Watson
Add key training priorities/JLE to next meeting agenda	Naomi Watson
Add NATRE Ofsted report to next meeting agenda	Naomi Watson
Discuss mechanisms with Mike Jory and others for SACRE to receive Ofsted reports for monitoring	Olivia Seymour
Discuss Action Plan with Mike Jory on key priorities/next steps	Olivia Seymour
Discuss alternative meeting times and venues with Mike Jory	Olivia Seymour/Naomi Watson
Follow up new teachers with Mike Jory	Olivia Seymour

Items for future meetings: Membership; Jewish Living Exhibition; RE Monitoring visits; Ofsted framework; Ofsted reports; national results data comparisons

Meeting	SACRE (Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education)
Date	1 July 2020
Present	Councillors Cullwick, Cuthbertson, Fitzpatrick And Rowley, Tracey Copestake, Penny Coppin-Siddall, Katherine Harper, Daryoush Mazloum, Ben Rich, Olivia Seymour (Chair) And John Thompson
Apologies	Kevin Duffy, Claire Hennigan, Sarah Griffiths and Maxine Squire.

1. Election of Chair

The Interim Chair confirmed that the election of the Chair would take place during the Autumn term and that the Chair job description would be circulated to Members.

Resolved: That the election of Chair be held during the Autumn term.

Reason: In order to meet requirement for the election of Chair as set out in the SACRE Constitution.

2. Welcome and Introductions

The Interim Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Introductions were made.

3. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Kevin Duffy, Katherine Harper, Claire Hennigan, Sarah Griffiths and Maxine Squire.

Cllr Cuthbertson declared that he and his wife, Cllr Runciman were members of the community of York Minster. There were no other declarations of interest.

4. Update from LA on Officer roles

The LA Head of Secondary Improvement gave a verbal update on officer roles as follows:

- The previous LA SACRE Officer had taken flexible retirement. Members thanked the officer for his support and work
- The Interim Chair was a special advisor on SACRE and Religious Education (RE) matters to the LA. She was thanked for her work on SACRE over the last 18 months
- The administration of SACRE had transferred to Democratic Services at City of York Council. The role of Democratic Services in delivering future meetings was explained
- The delivery of support to schools would be delivered through the LA school effectiveness and achievement team

Resolved: That the update from the LA on Officer roles be noted.

Reason: In order to be kept updated on SACRE officer roles.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2020

As the meeting was not quorate this was carried forward to the next meeting.

The following update was given on matters arising at the previous meeting:

- Membership would be included as an agenda item at the next meeting in Autumn.
- The monitoring questionnaires were submitted at the previous SACRE meeting and would be revisited at the next meeting in Autumn.
- The Annual Report had been circulated to Members.
- The key training priorities would be included as an agenda item at the next meeting in Autumn.
- Ofsted inspections had been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic with monitoring inspections to resume September to December. It was noted that there had been changes to the Ofsted framework and this had implications for RE.
- An update on the Jewish Living Exhibition was given. This would be included as an agenda item at the next

meeting in Autumn with an agreement that a follow up on having the exhibition at York Minster would be made.

Resolved: That minutes of the previous SACRE meetings held on 8 July 2019 and 7 January 2020 be approved at the next meeting.

Reason: In order that the minutes of the meetings held on 8 July 2019 and 7 January 2020 be to be approved as a true and accurate record.

[Cllr Rowley left the meeting at 5.00pm]

6. Update from Chair on support for schools during this time

The Interim Chair provided an update on support to schools during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Signposting to national and local resources had been provided to schools and added to the City of York Council website.
- National updates to the agreed syllabus had been sent to schools
- The partnership with Learn Teach Lead RE had some workshops online and the Humanist workshop had also moved online.
- Online training had proved popular and may be an area for development.
- The Interim Chair was thanked for her support to schools. It was noted that Heads of RE had received much support with RE and there had been the opportunity for teachers to plan for 2020/21 during limited pupil attendance due to COVID-19. It was noted that numbers of children did not have access to IT equipment at home to access online based school work.

Resolved: That the update on support for schools during the COVID-19 pandemic be noted.

Reason: In order to be kept updated on support to schools.

7. Agreed Syllabus review

Members considered a paper from the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) on the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). The Interim Chair outlined the statutory requirements for this. She explained that

SACRE as a statutory body has a responsibility for producing the curriculum for RE for all maintained schools. There was no requirement for an Academy to adopt a locally agreed syllabus. Academies may choose to adopt a different syllabus or develop their own, as long as it met the legal requirements for such a syllabus. However, in York many academies did follow the York Agreed Syllabus. The syllabus needed to be reviewed every five years with a new syllabus needed from 2021 onwards for which an ASC needed to be set up. In the past there had been ASC meetings set up following the same structure as SACRE meetings with representation from the four groups. There would need to be an ACS meeting set up in the Autumn term after which SACRE would agree the syllabus. This would be followed by the launch of the syllabus in the Spring and Summer terms.

The Interim Chair outlined the options available to Members as provided in a separate document circulated to Members. She reported that SACRE would need to consider feedback from schools (for example from a short questionnaire), the new Ofsted framework and the Commission for RE.

Members discussed the Agreed Syllabus Review and it was suggested that this could be discussed as part of the termly RE network meetings. Members acknowledged the engagement and commitment of RE teachers. It was noted that the current syllabus, that SACRE commissioned from RE Today, had been well received by teachers. The Interim Chair noted the need to consider how much change was necessary and what changes needed to be made as part of the decision making for the syllabus over the next five years.

Resolved: That;

- i. The statutory requirements for the Agreed Syllabus review be noted
- ii. Democratic Services arrange an ASC meeting for the Autumn term
- iii. The Interim Chair work with the LA to send the questionnaire out to schools and bring back to the Autumn term meeting.

Reason: In order to meet the statutory requirements for the Agreed Syllabus review.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Date and time of next meeting

To be arranged.

Chair

The meeting started at 4.30 pm and finished at 6.00 pm.

This page is intentionally left blank



December 2020

**The Annual Report of the City of York
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)**

Note: This report is the first to reflect an academic year instead of a calendar year cycle; it therefore effectively covers the second two terms of the academic year 2019-20

Summary

This report provides members and NASACRE with details of the work of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from January to December 2020.

1. Background

Under the provision of the 1988 Education Reform Act every local education authority has a responsibility to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), together with an occasional body, called an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

In September 2018 SACRE published revised versions of its constitution, roles and responsibilities of SACRE members and a guide to York SACRE. These are all available at www.york.gov.uk/sacre

2. Membership

The people who serve on SACREs are invited to do so by the Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills on the recommendation of various bodies in the local community with a concern for the religious education of school children. The law prescribes that there have to be four "committees" each comprising representatives of specified groups. Those four committees can together co-opt further non-voting members, provided a majority are in agreement. The actual members change over time and the current SACRE is constituted as follows:-

Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities:-

- Kevin Duffy (Catholic)
- Ben Rich (Jewish)
- Keith Albans (Methodist)
- Vacant (Muslim)
- Tracey Copestake (Religious Society of Friends)
- Vacant (Salvation Army)

Vacant (Sikh)
Daryoush Mazloum (York Baha'i Community)
Penny Coppin-Siddall (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)
Ian Hodgson (Humanist)

Representing the Church of England:-

Olivia Seymour (Diocese of York)
Katherine Harper (Archbishop Holgate's CE Academy)

Representing Teachers:-

Claire Hennigan (Yearsley Grove)
Jenny Mooney (Westfield)
Brenda Christison (Naburn)

Representing the City of York Council are Councillors:-

Ian Cuthbertson (Lib Dem)
Martin Rowley (Con)
Chris Cullwick (Lib Dem)
Fiona Fitzpatrick (Lab)

In attendance:-

John Thompson (Education Adviser)
Janie Berry / Angela Bielby (Clerk)

Mike Jory (Education Adviser) who has supported SACRE since 2015 stepped down from this role in February 2020. Clerking and facilitation of meetings has been carried out by Naomi Watson of the Schools Effectiveness and Achievement service. Under revised arrangements for the council's support of SACRE (see item 5 below) she has also relinquished her role. We would like to acknowledge, and thank them for, their contributions.

3. Religious Education

During the period January 2020 to March 2020 Ofsted inspection reports indicate that those schools inspected appear to be compliant in the statutory provision of RE. There were two inspections in this period, both of primary schools.

Due to the impact of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, including the closure for many pupils during the summer term, no Ofsted inspections have taken place since March 2020 and they will not start again until January 2021. Research visits to schools by Ofsted are taking place in the Autumn Term. Whilst these are technically inspections, no reports will be published.

There was one SIAMS inspection in York in the same period at Elvington primary school which was graded good.

All the reports are public documents and are available on the respective school websites.

There will be no published public examination results for the summer of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Information about examination entries, which were made prior to the cancellation of the examinations can be found in item 7 below.

It had been intended to introduce some monitoring of provision by SACRE in 2020 through visits to schools. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this has not been possible but the issue was discussed at the SACRE meeting of July 2020. Protective measures in place in schools under Covid-19 arrangements mean that it is unlikely that visits will be possible during the 2020-21 academic year and SACRE will need to consider alternative methods of monitoring.

4. Collective Worship

Besides Religious Education each local authority must work with its SACRE to monitor the provision of daily collective worship. As a result of changes to the Ofsted framework and in the absence of further guidance, the City of York SACRE published new guidance in 2017 to support Collective Worship in schools in the City, which it continues to promote within schools. The guidance is available on the City of York SACRE website (www.york.gov.uk/sacre).

5. Update on the work of SACRE

- The following priorities for the development of SACRE were discussed and agreed as part of the SACRE plan for 2018-20:
 - (1) Continue to raise the profile of SACRE and develop RE
 - (2) Contribute to the development of a professional CPD programme to develop the quality of RE teaching
- York SACRE is a member of the Learn Teach Lead RE regional hub
- Since January 2020 two SACRE meetings have been held, but these were not quorate. Following previous efforts to recruit new members, especially current teachers, and to fill the faith group vacancies it was decided to raise the profile of SACRE as a statutory committee of the council and formally incorporate it into the council's formal governance processes. This means that meetings will now be organised, facilitated and minuted by the council's Democratic Services team.
- The closure of schools for most pupils in March and pandemic infection protection measures prevented further work on actions identified at the January meeting including the Jewish Living Exhibition which had been scheduled for June. However, signposting to national and local resources had continued to be provided to schools and added to the City of York Council website, national updates to the agreed syllabus had been sent to schools, Learn, Track and read RE had held some workshops online and the Humanist workshop had also moved online.

- The March meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic and a meeting in July focused on updating members about the new arrangements for managing SACRE, the situation in schools during the summer term, information about full opening of schools in September and preparation for the Agreed syllabus review.
- As a result of the new arrangements for managing SACRE, including the election of a Chair in October 2020, Olivia Seymour will no longer act as Interim Chair. She continues to be a member of SACRE but her considerable contribution in the academic year 2019-20 is recognised.
- A key piece of work for SACRE in 2021 will be agreeing its new syllabus. In light of the continuing pandemic and resulting pressures on schools, the SACRE development plan will need to be reviewed with actions which can realistically be taken forward identified and prioritised.

6. Examinations in Religious Studies/Education Summer 2020

As noted above, there are no published examination results or performance tables for 2020 because of the cancellation of exams and the use of alternative grading and assessment methodology.

This section will be extended to include information about the overall level of entries at GCSE and A Levels once information has been collected from York schools and final national information on the national levels of entries has been published.

7. Methods of Teaching

The Agreed Syllabus provides a comprehensive framework for teaching and learning and assessment of pupils' knowledge and understanding of religions. As noted in item 5 above, the Agreed Syllabus will be reviewed for academic year 202-22.

8. Complaints regarding the teaching of RE

None were made to SACRE during this reporting year.

9. Determinations

From time to time a school may request from the SACRE a "determination"; i.e. permission to waive the legal requirements for religious education and collective worship to be 'wholly or mainly Christian'. The SACRE has received no requests for determinations during this reporting year.

10. Complaints regarding Collective Worship

There have been no complaints about Collective Worship.

Report produced by John Thompson, Schools Effectiveness and Achievement: Head of Secondary and Skills.



City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Covid-19 Pandemic – DFE Guidance for full opening: schools Implications for Teaching of Religious Education and provision of collective worship

The Department for Education first published guidance for full opening of schools in September on 17 June 2020. It has been regularly updated since then and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

The section on curriculum expectations sets out three key principles:

1. Education is not optional

All pupils receive a high-quality education that promotes their development and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

2. The curriculum remains broad and ambitious

All pupils continue to be taught a wide range of subjects, maintaining their choices for further study and employment.

3. Remote education

Where needed, this is high-quality and safe, and aligns as closely as possible with in-school provision. Schools and other settings continue to build their capability to educate pupils remotely, where this is needed.

These principles are followed by a set of expectations which should be met if schools have revised their curriculum following the significant disruption to pupils' education from March to July 2020 and the need to provide education in an environment which supports provision of protective measures to support infection control, or to provide remote education should pupils not be able to attend school for Covid-19 related reasons.

It is clearly noted that substantial modifications to the curriculum may be needed at the start of the year, so teaching time should be prioritised to address significant gaps in pupils' knowledge with the aim of returning to the school's normal curriculum content by no later than summer term 2021.

The guidance also notes that Schools may consider it appropriate to **suspend some subjects for some pupils in exceptional circumstances**. Schools should be able to show that this is in the best interests of these pupils and this should be subject to

discussion with parents during the autumn term. They should also have a coherent plan for returning to their **normal curriculum for all pupils by the summer term 2021**.

Within a broad and ambitious curriculum **up to the end of Key Stage 3**, the guidance states that the majority of pupils should be taught a full range of subjects over the year, including religious education.

At **Key Stage 4**, it should be noted that pupils are legally entitled to receive religious education and the York agreed syllabus places an expectation on schools that pupils follow an accredited course. The arrangements for external examinations in 2021 have yet to be confirmed but the guidance states that, in exceptional circumstances, it may be in the best interests of a year 11 pupil to discontinue an examined subject because the school judges that, for example, they would achieve significantly better in their remaining subjects as a result. Such decisions should be made in discussion with pupils and parents.

Ofsted will be making visits to schools during the autumn term but not reporting on them. Such visits will consider schools' curriculum provision both in school and for remote education, if needed. It is currently intended that normal inspections, with full coverage of the intent, implementation and impact of the curriculum, will resume in January 2021.

Religious education provision in schools is regularly supplemented by educational visits and inputs delivered in school by visitors. The guidance allows for **non-residential educational visits**, noting that these should take place only with appropriate protective measures and following risk assessment. Similarly the presence of **visitors** in school should only be accommodated within the conditions permitted by the school's risk assessment.

The legal position of **collective worship** remains unchanged so there should continue to be an act of collective worship for all pupils (except those withdrawn by law). The DfE guidance states that groups of pupils should be kept apart, meaning that schools should avoid large gatherings such as assemblies or collective worship with more than one group. There is also specific reference to restricting singing and musical performance.

Conclusion

SACRE recognises that schools are operating under difficult circumstances and subject to unprecedented pressures and constraints. In line with DfE guidance, it encourages all schools to continue to deliver religious education to all pupils in all key stages as part of a broad and ambitious curriculum, within the parameters set out in the guidance, including entering pupils for examination at the end of Key Stage 4.

As with all other subjects, SACRE recognises that protective measures, risk assessments and the ongoing need to minimise social contacts will mean that pupils will probably not be able to benefit from the full range of experiences schools would normally provide in religious education.

Given the need to maintain protective measures and avoid mixing between groups, or “bubble” of pupils SACRE recognises that large gatherings of pupils to participate in collective worship are not possible. Collective worship should be held in smaller groups such as class or year group bubbles defined by school context and risk assessment. In Church of England Schools, Roman Catholic Schools and other faith schools collective worship should be in accordance with applicable trust deeds. Such schools should seek advice from the appropriate faith body such as their diocese.

SACRE will work to support teachers in adapting provision and resources as appropriate. Further information and resources for teachers of RE to support them at this time can be found on the website of the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) at:

<https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/>

DRAFT

This page is intentionally left blank