

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