

**Draft Minutes from Virtual SACRE Meeting
17th March 2022
4.00 – 6.00 pm**



1 Meeting opening and apologies

Jane Allinson opened the meeting at 4 pm.

Attendees: Jane Allinson (chair), Roger Allinson, Ruth Wallace, Malcolm Strange, April Begley, Iris Segall, Chris Selway, Kath English, Alex Howard, Mohammad-Nassir Miah, Andrew Best, Rebekah Guy

Others present: Laura Harris advisor, Debra Helme prospective member

It was noted that Liz Thomas would be joining after 5pm.

Apologies received and accepted: Mike Riches , Jo Hachani, Ramila Patel, Hannah Wood (chair)

Absent without apology: Mike Drew, Ben Stokes

2 **Minutes of last meeting and Matters arising not an Agenda item.**

Minutes were presented by the chair and agreed subject to amendment. The initials of attendees should show full names at the start of the Agenda but should be referred to as initials in the body of the minutes.

ACTION - Code of Conduct

It was agreed by members with the addition of the clarification of the role of members on Committee E

ACTION - Secondary Data letters.

The slow rate of responses was discussed. As the letters did not have a response deadline AnB suggested that follow-up letters should be sent before Easter to offer support and request a response by 1/4/22.

The Advisor was commended on her quality next steps conversations with the schools who have responded. It was suggested that this could lead to secondary representatives joining SACRE. It was noted that some schools did not realise that RE was statutory and they should be offering it to pupils especially in Key Stage 4. The importance of this should be highlighted to all schools to ensure compliance.

3 **Membership**

There was some confusion re the January version. A new updated version is now available to the clerk and committee.

Committee A can now have 15 members. There are 9 vacancies. It would be helpful to have Sikh and Buddhist representation.

Committee B Church of England has 3 members. The vacancy is to be filled by Debbie Helme the advisor for Gloucestershire Diocese and member of Gloucestershire SACRE. Some S Glos schools are covered by Gloucestershire Diocese.

Committee C There are 8 members so there are 4 vacancies.

As mentioned there is a need for KS3/4 representation. It is hoped the Hubs/ Hives can help. There is a need for Community and Special school representation.

AnB suggested a mention in the Heads Bulletin could raise the profile of SACRE

ACTION – LH to send AnB details to circulate advert in LA heads bulletin

Committee D The local authority group should reflect the political make up of the Council. There is one vacancy for the Labour group and despite contacting Democratic services and lead member it has not yet been filled.

ACTION - ApB was asked if she could approach the Lead member.

Committee E This is made up of co-opted members without voting rights. There are 2 at present. This could be the committee that fills vacancies when they arise and give members experience of the working on SACRE.

LH to lead governors training on June 8th and it is hoped interest may be raised with governors.

There is to be a register of attendees and absences to track non-attendance so vacancies can be filled faster. Members must be contacted after three non-attendances without apology and politely asked if they would like to remain.

ACTION – Clerk to check attendance at last two meetings and agree wording with LH JA to send to non-attending members

Welcome Pack

This should contain a link to the web page and a copy of the agreed syllabus. RW suggested a map and list of schools would be helpful to new members. The Website is in need of urgent updating and made more user friendly.

ACTION – LH and AnB to approach LA for possible schools map

ACTION – website improvement to be an agenda point for summer meeting

4 Equalities and Diversity

AnB shared a slideshow of an online pupil survey that has been completed by Primary and Secondary pupils. It identified the feelings of wellbeing and levels of inclusivity amongst students, categorising them by gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity and religious background. Some clear messages are evident in the data regards the wellbeing of particular groups being less than others. In particular the wellbeing of LGBTQ+ students is a concern as is the inclusion and wellbeing of dual heritage pupils. AnB informed the group that the next phase of the project would be to work on self-reporting and pupil voice. AnB commented that this data was particularly of interest to SACRE with regards to the possible impact that good collective worship might have on inclusion.

5 CPD engagement, Offer and LA

LH reported that there were a total of 32 teachers in attendance at the annual RE conference, with no secondary delegates at all.

LJ has been talking with AnB and LT about the advertising of CPD. LTLRE RE Hub will now be advertised through the LA CPD system used for other schools training as well as LH being in touch with schools.

Governor Training is taking place in June.

LH has spent a two hour session working with University of Bristol to secondary PGCE students in what their new primary intake pupils have studied in RE.

LH suggested RE CPD opportunities for ECT colleagues would be useful for subject development across schools. AnB and LT were able to offer contacts through Mangotsfield School to ask about this possibility.

ACTION – LH to email ECT course facilitators to enquire about possible RE input.

6 Annual Conference

There was a break- out session for teaching staff to share feedback on the conference and the impact it was having in their schools.

Room 2

The comments were about the fascination of others with practical ideas to share with staff. It encouraged curiosity and questioning.

There was a session looking at art work and using clues to unpick what it was depicting.

How does RE fit in EYFS? The EYFS presentation talked about the Natural world and

engaged children in talking about the world.

7 Hive Project

10 of the 16 groups have appointed leaders. There are schools who have never joined now taking an active part.

The groups Olympus, Aspire and Unity remain in need of project leaders. Teachers and contacts at some schools in these hubs were provided by various members for LH to make contact e.g. Iona Payne (Hambrook), Claire Banks (Olympus), Clare Busby (Frampton)

ACTION – LH to contact remaining hubs to try to encourage leaders and participation

8 LTLRE

Update led by RG.

RE to be tweaked to include worldviews.

In the next teacher hub meeting, there is to be a session on reflective storytelling, suitable for use with EYFS to KS4 led by Katherine Taylor of 'Time to Wonder' storytelling on March 31st at 4.30 pm. Members are welcome to attend.

ACTION - HW to send ZOOM link to members

9 Ofsted Inspections

LH presented the committee with a breakdown of recent OFSTED inspections. In Primary, there is an emphasis on the progress of subject knowledge, prior learning and subject links. AnB commented that it may be that more schools will volunteer RE as a subject for a deep dive. In light of this SACRE and the adviser may need to consider group subject knowledge CPD sessions in addition to 1:1 school support. In secondary, comments have been made in reports about provision for RE in KS4 and the effectiveness of schools preparing pupils for 'life in modern Britain'. This will be highlighted to secondary colleagues in ongoing conversations about provision.

SACRE needs to offer CPD in worldviews and support staff with planning and progression.

ACTION – LH to consider subject knowledge CPD event for Summer or Autumn term

10 Revised Agreed syllabus and training.

LH shared that the draft revised syllabus is now complete and training will take place on 26th March and 5th May. All schools are advised to attend and SACRE members are welcome.

LH summarised the changes to the syllabus and advised all new parts are marked with a coloured 'strip' at the top of each page. Changes include: new SEND and EYFS guidance, information about worldviews, several new suggested units of work, additional information about long term planning and progression.

ACTION - HW to send Eventbrite link for booking training session.

11 Service Level Agreement 2023 /24

AH shared his concerns re the influence of the Anglican church in their advisory work to SACREs across the country, including in South Glos. He recognised the agreement he and LH have in their perspectives on good RE but raised considerable concerns about the motivations of the church in its need to recruit younger generations and the clash this provides when offering advice to SACREs.

JA emphasised that LH and previous advisors have been meticulous in expressing their independence and liberal mindedness when working in their SACRE roles.

LH offered reassurance that this was the case and the difference between her role working for the Diocese and advising SACRE.

AnB commented from the LA perspective that there is no problem in the service it receives under the current contract which will stand for 2022. It was said that the depth of knowledge that has been shared with schools and SACRE has been appropriate and sharply focussed on OFSTED and statutory requirements.

MS as an RE teacher for 36 years commented that he had not experienced confessional RE of any kind in South Glos and that the church should be commended for the positive work it is doing in the subject.

RE should reflect the personal stories of Worldviews. We need RE to move in the right direction over the next 5 years,

12 Advisor's report.

JA commented that this was an excellent, informative report and expressed her thanks to LH.

13 The meeting closed 5.45pm.

Please note due to the illness of HW the minutes were written by JA and LH

Date of next Meeting Thursday July 7th 2022 at the Bristol Hindu Mandir