

Draft Minutes from the South Gloucestershire SACRE meeting
11th November 2021
Online meeting
4.00 pm – 6.00 pm



1 Introductions from attending members

JA welcomed everyone to the meeting in their capacity as chair at 16:03, with this being the first meeting of the 2021 – 22 academic year. JA asked members of the committee to each give a short introduction explaining who they were and the role they played in SACRE.

JA also noted that two of our well respected members, Chris John and Claire Evans, had left the SACRE over the summer.

Attendees: KS, JA, RA, AH, MR, LH, RW, MS, CS, NM, IS, BS.

Apologies received: AnB, ApB, LT, RP, KE, AS, RPa

Absent: MD, JH, NBM, RPe.

2 Minutes of last meeting, apologies and absences

Apologies are noted in the attendance list above. It was noted that HW as clerk would be keeping attendance lists as this had slipped over the past couple of years and was an important part of membership administration

Regarding the minutes, KS noted that they would pick up their action point as a later agenda item. There were no comments on page 1, and the SACRE constitution is another agenda item. KS noted that there had been no response from Governor Services. Other than RA asking for an amendment for page 3, there were no further comments on the minutes of the previous meeting. As chair, JA virtually agreed these minutes as being a true record of our previous meeting.

3 What does RE look like in my school post Covid? HIVE project update

LH agreed to update on our HIVE project as JH wasn't yet in the meeting. LH noted that Ofsted inspections were now happening more often post lockdown. and that as a subject RE provision is going to be even more difficult in this situation. LH did also reassure the SACRE that good RE work is still happening in our schools. LH suggested that we should run a training and update session on the aims and progress of the HIVE project – there was a difference in big developments vs. those in smaller cluster groups. It was suggested that leaders could carry out 2 or 3 mini “RE dives” to create action plans to share with their whole cluster. JA then asked the SACRE for questions – none were made.

4 So you've joined your local SACRE...

KS organised the SACRE into 3 small breakout groups and asked each group to talk about what would be the top five things that would make a good SACRE? The SACRE would then reconvene to discuss, before breaking out again to look at example code of conduct to prepare to draw one up for our March SACRE meeting.

The main feedback from the first breakout session was that the grouping of the listed suggestions to make a good SACRE could be important – they seemed to broadly fall into things involving the LA, attitudes within SACRE, and those affecting our relationships and connectivity with schools. KS therefore passed this suggestion over to LH as the incoming RE adviser, with the idea of doing more categorisation for our next meeting.

Action – LH to ensure these elements are addressed within each SACRE meeting.

One of the issues brought back from the second breakout is the process of actively consulting/reporting back to their faith community. RW wondered how that would actually happen in their situation and whether one is ever adequately qualified to represent a faith community. It was suggested that this could be reworded to something along the lines of “actively involved in the faith community”.

There was note made of work needed to ensure adequate representation by council members. This could possibly be one of the more appropriate situations for a delegated representative?

IS noted that it seemed taken for granted that we are respectful to each other within our SACRE. It was also noted that the general code of conduct document is too long, so IS asked if we could make it more succinct. The use of the term “faith representative” isn’t very compatible with a “world views” approach, and it was asked again whether anyone can represent a whole faith? JA noted there was no systematic way to feedback. KS suggested we could ask for a slot on faith agendas so we can report on SACRE activities back to our faith.

KS also reiterated that any communication for anyone in SACRE should come through both clerk and chair to give considerate behaviour in between meetings.

Action – LH to bring a proposed code of conduct to our meeting in March

5

Feedback from constitution working party

HW/JA agreed to circulate notes from the working parties after our whole committee meeting. One point to note was that AH as the Humanist rep had been moved to committee A – HW has amended our constitution to cover this. There was a long discussion about expanding committee A to 15 members to allow more diversity of represented faiths, with discussion of using “colour coding” to ensure we had good coverage of beliefs. LT questioned whether this could be a GDPR issue – HW/JA agreed that this was something we hadn’t taken further. JA reiterated that we needed good representation from special, secondary and academy schools to get a voice from all sectors. JA also highlighted the need for governor reps on committees C or D, although there are already governors sitting on SACRE. JA also noted that sending delegates could be a soft introduction to SACRE and a way of ensuring quoracy in various committees. AH noted that it’s important that any members have something to offer and are committed to offering high quality RE to schools. RW noted that we are not currently open to the public, but we will hopefully move to

blended meetings. MR asked if the names of the committees were set as they don't necessarily sound inclusive e.g. other religions don't have denominations.

6 Feedback from training attended by SACRE members

KS asked RW to start with talking about their online NASACRE training. RW said that although it wasn't necessarily all about world views, it was really fascinating, covered a wide area, and they would circulate the PowerPoint when it was available. KS asked if anyone had been to any other NASACRE training – JA reported on what is an effective SACRE, and said they felt that we had good funding and support. RA asked whether what we're receiving is adequate. KS noted the effects of COVID, that we got funding from charities and that we could give more to schools but would need another adviser. LH/KS attended a workshop on the new report format – there were no major tweaks. JA thanked LH.

7 RE Conference and Agreed Syllabus Update training

KS said that the conference is planned in "real life" if the covid numbers don't soar and SACRE members are welcome. Hybrid presentation of the RE conference may be available nearer the time. IS asked if the syllabus update training would also be on Zoom – KS confirmed that this training would be online. LH – syllabus training was in the diary but (lost sound at this point) and they will send out flyers for the January conference.

8 Proposed response to DfE data from South Gloucs secondary schools

KS circulated an example letter and spreadsheet of data for the SACRE to discuss with the aim of a proposed response. The data on the spreadsheet was a census from secondary schools and NATRE analysis. KS talked us through it and suggested we send letters to each school about the accuracy of information we've been given as our way of engaging with the schools. JA noted that this seemed a more engaging letter than the one sent a few years ago and agreed we should note the effects of COVID. JA then asked for more questions – KS noted that this was an observational letter that would come out with the Chair's signature but through the LA. RW asked if we would hear the responses – will be collated by the LA and shared with our adviser to be reported back to SACRE.

Action – LH to write individual letters to be approved by JA and then circulated with the help of the LA.

8 Adviser's Report and RE adviser handover

JA asked for comments. RA asked for mileage rate and queried the "N/A" entry. KS confirmed that "N/A" should not be there. CS picked up on mileage to Watermore.

KS thanked the SACRE for the opportunity to spend time with us, with LH as a safe pair of hands as the next Adviser. The SACRE would like to thank Katy Staples for their sterling work

and wished them a happy semi-retirement.

Meeting closed at 17:45 with thanks to everyone from JA as Chair, who also wished us all a Happy Christmas and thanked our Advisers for their hard work.

Dates of Meetings – 2021/22

Thursday 17 March 2022, 4-6 pm (Zoom)

Thursday 07 July 2022, 4-6 pm (hopefully blended)