

**CUMBRIA STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 7 JUNE 2017
THORNLEIGH CHRISTIAN HOTEL, GRANGE OVER SANDS**

| | Committee A: Other Faiths/ Denominations | Committee B: Church of England (CE) | Committee C: Teacher Associations | Committee D: Local Authority | Others; Georgia Prescott Vicky Bunter Minute Taker |
|-------------------|--|--|--|---|---|
| Present: | Dai Cowles Sheila Gewolb Rob Martin Karen O'Donoghue David Pitkeathly Wendy Ridley Tina Battle | Deborah Smith | James Douglas Carolyn Reade Jane Yates | | LA Officer David Salmon |
| Apologies: | Mohammed Dhalech | Susan Davies Penny Hollander | Brian Eaton Irene Roberts- Green | Roger Bingham Brenda Gray Elizabeth Mallinson | Karen Shankland Sue McGaw |
| Vacancies: | HinduSikh Baptist | Pentecostal Unitarian | United Reformed Orthodox | Society of Friends | Salvation Army |

1. Welcome and introductions

Apologies for absence and substitutions – as above.

The Clerk reported that the Local Authority was pleased to endorse the election of Jane Yates to Chair of SACRE. The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked the outgoing Chair Wendy Ridley for her leadership and wisdom. The meeting was not Quorate because the County Council is in a period of suspension pending the outcome of the General Election.

Thanks were expressed to Rob Martin for arranging the venue.

A moment's silence was held for Manchester and London and other countries around the world.

2. Minutes of previous meeting on 2 March 2017

The minutes were approved.

JY agreed to attend Churches Together annual discussion day on 24 June.

JY

3. Matters arising not covered in the agenda

- Membership – it was suggested that Richard Cox could be invited to join as a CofE rep on Committee B.
- A record should be maintained of which members attend each meeting.
- CR to send details of a University Chaplain who could be invited to join SACRE as a Muslim representative, if necessary.
- SACRE Conference – 31 delegates booked on so far. The new Agreed Syllabus is being launched. It was agreed that we should seek feedback from teachers on what they want to support RE delivery. The Annual Conference for 2018 has been booked, 25 June, to be held at Stoneybeck Inn, Penrith.

DSm
SMc

CR

4. New Agreed Syllabus

Thanks were expressed to Wendy, Sue and the Working Party.

DS to do a letter to send out with the printed copies for all LA schools.

Electronic copy to be uploaded onto school portal library and CCC website.

JY to do press release.

DS

5. GCSE RE full course 2014-2016 results

Can future figures include number of pupils in the cohort? DS to ask Richard Corton.

There is a downward trend in the number of pupils taking RE, mainly because it is not in the Progress 8, almost 2,000 fewer over the last 3 years.

DP reported that he had spoken about this decline to his MP at a Hustings meeting. Members agreed to attend MP surgeries wherever possible to discuss SACREs concerns about the decline in GCSEs (VB – John Woodcock; SG – Sue Hayman; JD – Tim Farron; JY – Rory Stewart; DP – John Stevenson).

DS to circulate amended headline GCSE data to members for use in discussions with MPs etc.

DS and SG to discuss GCSE results at NNW SACRE Hub.

DS
DS/SG

6. Development Plan

The working party reported on progress from the morning's meeting. Good progress was made but another meeting will be held in the Autumn term. It was recommended that the work of SACRE should be better publicised, for instance through issuing invitations to SACRE meetings to MPs and Senior Officers.

DS/SMc

It was recommended that the 6 units of work should now be available on the County Council website.

7. Westhill/ NASACRE Award

SACREs can apply for up to £4k, the deadline is March 2018.

A working party was selected: GP, CR, JY, KO'D, DP, WR, SG and DSm, to meet on 12 September 2017 at Church House, 19-24 Friar Gate, Penrith, CA11 7XR. Ask SMc to send a reminder.

GP, CR and DP to coordinate the bid as the 'Westhill Biddies'.

SMc

8. Faith Update – Introduction to Baha'i

KO'D gave a very interesting and informative introduction to her faith, which was appreciated by members. She is available to undertake visits to schools.

9. Understanding Christianity

DSm presented an update on this national project which is supported by the National Society, with resources produced by RE Today. 70 teachers from 32 church schools in Cumbria have been trained so far but plans are in hand to open the training to teachers in maintained schools. The training, which is going really well, is delivered through twilight sessions and follow up meetings.

10. Update (JY) – already circulated

The new Chair had produced a helpful update for members which was discussed.

11. Update from Members

KO'D spoke about the South Lakes Interfaith Link. For more information contact KO'D.

DC thanked members for their thoughts and good wishes. Members were delighted to hear that he is fully recovered, following stem cell transplants. DC offered to speak about his faith at the next meeting.

WR is due to run a course for teachers on 15 November at Stoneybeck Inn on the New Agreed Syllabus.

VB reported that the Faith Trail in Preston is very good.

12. Arrangements for next meetings

Autumn term – Tuesday, 17 October 2017 – James Rennie School, Carlisle. Clerk to confirm details.

Spring term – to be arranged once the County Council diary is available.

Summer term – ditto.

DS