

## **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**Monday 5 December 2022**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor Mrs Mary Aspinall, Acting Chair

Cllr Jonathan Drean, Cllr Tina Touhy, Cllr Sally Cresswell, Cllr Chip Tofan, Cllr John Mahony

Dr Judith Beckman, Lesley Clark, Ed Pawson, AnnMarie Allchurch, Katie Freeman

Co-opted Representatives: Sara Wells, Claire Linden, Professor David Salter

Also in attendance: Jim Barnicott (Head of Education and Virtual School) (Observer), Michael House (Local Authority Officer to SACRE), Jason Pincombe (Democratic and Member Support Officer), Asif Siddique (Democratic and Member Support Officer).

### **1. Apologies - Chair (Cllr Mary Aspinall)**

Nic Gibson, Dr Catherine Bowness, Father David Bailey (observer), Ben Kerr, Gwen Hughes, Emma Butler, Alex Parks, Claire Wills

The meeting started at 1.00pm and finished at 2.40pm.

*Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.*

### **2. Welcome to New Members - Chair (Cllr Mary Aspinall)**

Chair welcomed all members.

### **3. Declarations of interest - All**

None

### **4. Minutes from the last meeting - Chair (Cllr Mary Aspinall)**

Minutes agreed from the last meeting on 27 June 2022 by all members with the following amendment to reflect that;

1. Lesley Clark was present in the last meeting held on 27/06/2022
2. It was recommended that a development plan is utilised by SACRE.

### **Actions:**

- (a) Asif S to contact Dr Catherine Bowness to see if a web page link in relation to Holocaust Memorial was sent to be distributed to SACRE members.
- (b) In order to improve SACRE minutes going forward, Chair and Michael House will double check the minutes and actions and Asif S to put actions on the minutes in bold.
- (c) Chair agreed to add 'Agreed Syllabus – what is the picture in schools?' item on agenda. AnnMarie Allchurch was due to provide an update in the last meeting but was unable to attend. Agreed syllabus and Teacher Views, Katie Freeman to supply and this to be sent to wider SACRE group.
- (d) Send congratulations to three schools doing positive in latest Ofsted Report regarding RE or Humanities, wording to be suggested by Michael House
- (e) Michael House to invite and setup sub group to discuss Ofsted report and SCARE's formal reactions and actions.
- (f) Michael House to review GCSE results data and provide SACRE an analysis, previous years' data to be included along with NATRE Data (provided by Katie Freeman).
- (g) Lesley Clark to send details to Michael House, Sara Wells and Katie Freeman regarding Holocaust School Poem Flyer. Before 16 December, ideally within a week of the meeting date, to share via Health and Wellbeing in Education Briefing and other sources. Add link to Holocaust Memorial Day webpage.
- (h) Mary Aspinall will liaise and take responsibility for co-ordinating Holocaust School Poem Booklet printing.

**5. Chairs Urgent Business - Chair (Cllr Mary Aspinall)**

None

**6. LA Officer to SACRE Update - Michael House**

**MH also to provide data from Office of National Statistics, to be sent out as additional appendix to these minutes**

**7. Ofsted Inspection Updates - Michael House**

Michael House advised that eight schools had Ofsted Inspections since the start of term – RE or Humanities subject areas mentioned within four reports (three positively and one as an opportunity for development – see Local Authority Officer to SACRE Update Autumn 2022) .

Ed Pawson clarified that Legislation 1988 was written for Maintained Schools, SACRE's role is to monitor and support, influence these schools carefully and sensitively, identify from reports where schools are doing ok and where they are not. Ed has spoken to Richard Quay (RE Ofsted Lead), who mentioned RE is listed in Personal Development and reports are complex.

Mary Aspinall suggests sending congratulations to the three schools who are doing positively and offer support to the school where it's in area of development, wording to be used advised by Michael House.

Sally Cresswell advising this is putting SACRE forward as the Critical Friend. Michael House suggesting a formalisation of how SACRE responds to situations and reports like this, formulate a specific support package in cases like this.

Mary Aspinall suggesting a Working Group from SACRE members to discuss this idea further and be proactive.

David Slater suggests something tangible and practical due to school funding pressures, suggest to offer SACRE budget prizes.

Sara Wells could support via cultural and diversion centre.

Ed Pawson at request from Chair advises that bigger issue nationally, not a clear definition as to what RE should be and what academes should follow, other subjects are set by a national curriculum. Waiting on clearer national standards.

Katie Freeman lobbying with MPs to get this to happen.

Mary Aspinall suggests continuing with current action based on information provided around the current schools that Michael has just provided.

Michael House request for sub-group to look into process more and how respond to Ofsted Reports formally. Michael to invite Sara Wells, Ed Pawson, Mary Aspinall, Ann Marie and David Salter.

No further update on non-compliant school.

Ed Pawson brought up that GCSE results are out now and asks Michael House if his team could provide an analysis for SACRE to review as part of this. Michael House agrees. Also request from Sally Cresswell for previous data over around 5 years.

Katie Freeman advises NATRE Data is available.

Ann Marie advises caution when looking at historic data, particularly around the years where Covid had an effect.

## **8. LTLRE and RE Hub Update- Katie Freeman**

The Hub Lead will update the group regarding LTLRE and RE HUB developments.

Katie Freeman: Hub has not met, there will be three meetings in the Spring term to catch up. We are going to see the national Picture of RE. We are having our own conference on RE.

## **9. Holocaust Memorial Day Update- Lesley Clark**

LM and DLM have been asked to join judging team by Mary Aspinall.

Lesley Clark, needs to go out to schools for next term, each year group to write poems regarding Holocaust. Sensitive matter in Plymouth as the shootings in 2021. Need flyer sent to schools by 16 December. Booklet to be made and then judged by Easter, need help designing flyer and distribution to all schools.

Sara Wells advising they are stretched, can help with communication, can delay own flyer and send out combination with both. Don't have every school subscribed to them so may be some gaps.

Lesley getting the idea of Ordinary People out is important.

Katie Freeman also request a copy of flyer to send out on RE Hub link.

Mary Aspinall and Jonathan Drean offer help to Judge in March.  
Lesley Clark requesting funding for printing a booklet, A5, 50 pages with best entries, send 1 to all participating schools and a copy to prize winners.  
Mary Aspinall, will check with multiple print companies for costs, ask SACRE groups for agreement to use SACRE funding for this project. All agree unanimously. 58:00

#### **10. Plymouth Centre for Faith and Cultural Diversity - Sara Wells / Claire Linden**

Sara Wells provided a brief update, Claire would like to thank Katie and Ed for invite to Learn/Teach/Lead Conference in October, was really useful and great contacts made.  
Interfaith week held event in Guildhall to mark start of the week, went well with schools, 3 schools involved. Try and maintain this on annual basis.  
Training with new speakers, difficult to recruit new speakers, if anyone knows anyone interested please advise Sara or Claire.  
January or via Zoom, Soli Workshops and uptake from schools is good.

#### **11. Members Updates – All**

Ann-Marie Allchurch is no longer Head at Saint Andrews, now at Mount Wise Community School. Would like to speak to other head teachers and get views on RE to add to views collected in Summer term. Will add to email sent to Katie.

Jonathan Drean, no update, happy to support where necessary.

Tina Tuohy, nothing to report.

David Salter, Quakers are interested in meeting at the university, met Chaplain, they are going through reorganisation with new management hoping to be sorted by January. Opportunity to get back from students support from them, been too compartmentalised, be good to have more discussion across the divides and hoping the revamp in the university will be successful.

Sally Cresswell, did some online training, useful and interesting, meeting other SACRE's and other expertise, thank you. Mary Aspinall also advised that if anyone would like training then can be setup by Asif Siddique.

John Mahony, no update.

Chip Tofan, no update.

Dr Judith, visited a couple of primary schools, colleague Deborah Temple also visited, would like to have Secondary Schools also involved. Granddaughters advised of teachers making mistake in regards to Judaism.

Ed Pawson, really good feedback about visits to the synagogue, people raving about visits, open days through the year.

Asif Siddique, no update.

Katie Freeman, no update.

Michael House, review the houses and co-opt going forward?

Mary Aspinall, considers that we are still ok, Ann Marie has changed schools but is still a school head, A Judith, B Ed and Katie, Ann Marie and a gaggle of councillors. All houses are in place. Additional people, co-opted reps, Claire and Sara plus various officers. David is here so will swap and update that.

Ann Marie, agreed syllabus, teacher views sent to Katie Freeman prior to summer break, discussed in last meeting, advised to resend to all.

Jim Barnicott, council officer viewing proceedings.

## **12. Any Other Business - Chair (Cllr Mary Aspinall)**

### **13. Date and venue of next meeting - Asif Siddique**

1:30pm Monday 20 March 2023, room to be confirmed, Council House.

Members agreed to start the next meeting at 1:30pm instead of 1:00pm to allow school staff to attend the meeting.

### **14. Exempt Business**

To consider passing a resolution under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended Freedom of Information Act 2000.

(Members of the public to note that, if agreed, you will be asked to leave the meeting).

### **15. PART II (PRIVATE MEETING) - RE Advisor role**

Michael House summarised current activity, to date, regarding the potential engagement of a dedicated RE Professional Advisor to SACRE. Preparatory work has been completed by the Local Authority and a candidate has been identified.

Following a summary of the potential costs implications and benefits, the SACRE Group agreed to ask the Local Authority to proceed with this engagement process. Next steps will include the Local Authority, The SACRE Chair and the Candidate meeting to discuss arrangements, responsibilities and cost implications.