

Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Date: Thursday, 12 November 2020

Time: 19:00

Venue: This meeting will be a virtual meeting and therefore will not take place in a physical venue. Please see Page 2 of the agenda for a link to the webcast of the meeting.

Attendees:

Councillor Jon Ball, Councillor Theresa Byrne, Dr Elizabeth Day, Councillor Tejinder Dhami, Mr Luxman Dissanayake, Lori Greenglass, Dr Marianne Izen, Emma Lauder, Councillor Tariq Mahmood, Rev Susan McCoan, Ms Marion McNeill, Councillor Mohinder Midha, Councillor David Millican, Mr Oliver Murphy, Mr Mark Newton, Rev Canon Mark Poulson, Councillor Aysha Raza, Ms Kath Richardson, Councillor Sarah Rooney, Councillor Kamaldeep Sahota, Mr Naif Sheikh

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Kasim Minhas (Islam).

2 Urgent Matters

There were none.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4 Matters to be Considered in Private

There were none.

5 Minutes

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2020.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings subject to the following addition:

- Include Rev. Canon Mark Poulson as present.

6 SACRE Work Plan 2020 - 21

The Committee considered a report which proposed the use of a SACRE work plan in order to structure the agendas for future SACRE meetings in the academic year 2020-21. The work plan was attached as an appendix to the report.

Angela Doherty, Quality and Partnerships Lead, Ealing Learning Partnership, informed the Committee that the work plan included all the areas of work required by SACRE and had outlined which aspects would be addressed. A summary of roles and responsibilities of the work plan was also included.

RESOLVED: That

1. Members approved the SACRE work plan 2020-21.

7 Collective Worship

Lesley Prior, Adviser for Religious Education in Community Schools and SACRE informed the Committee that she had recently started to review the reflection guidance for schools document (attached as an appendix) with the assistance of Dr Marianne Izen (Jewish Community) and Oliver Murphy (West London Humanists and Secularists). The document had been created some time ago and it was felt that a review was necessary. As a starting point of the review they had looked at the existing Ealing guidance and various other Local Authorities' guidance too.

Lesley welcomed and encouraged members of SACRE to participate in the review to which Elizabeth Day (Teachers' Association Group) confirmed that she would like to assist. It was confirmed that a draft of the document would be circulated in due course.

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the determination renewal schedule for 2020-21 and temporary changes to the determination guidance due to Covid-19 restrictions. The modification of determination process was attached as an appendix to the report.

Angela Doherty went through the determination renewal schedule and the proposed dates for the submissions and suggested that members who had done determination visits at schools in the past, to view the documentation in advance and then have a telephone conversation or an online conversation with the Head Teacher rather than visit the school due to Covid-19. Members felt that the suggested approach would be suitable due to the current pandemic. Angela confirmed that she would make initial contact with the concerned schools in order to discuss the proposed approach.

RESOLVED: That

1. Members approved the proposed dates for the submission of determination renewals and any subsequent changes required to the process due to Covid-19 restrictions.

8 SACRE Guidance for Schools

Lesley Prior provided the Committee with a verbal update on SACRE guidance for schools in which she confirmed that with Angela Doherty's assistance she had looked at documents on 'Ealing grid for learning' which related to religious education, collective worship and documents which were the interface between religion and belief and the life of the school. It was found that Ealing had a wealth of material, however, it was not clear if schools were aware of all of the documents and where to find them and some of documents would require some updating.

Lesley informed the Committee that she and Angela had started to compile a list with links to all the documents and that they would circulate to SACRE members in due course. Individual members of various religious backgrounds would be invited to look at some of the documents and give their views on and adapt and amend where necessary. It was also important to ensure that all the documents are available on the website in one place. With the wide range of expertise within SACRE it was felt that this would be a successful exercise.

9 Agreed Syllabus for RE 2020-25 Update

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the approval of the new Agreed Syllabus 2020-25 by Cabinet on Tuesday 13 October 2020. Attached to the report was an appendix which provided the minutes from the Ealing Learning Partnership Primary RE network on 15 October 2020.

Mirela Temo, NQT and Ethnic Minority Achievement Advisor and Emma Lauder (NASUWT) from the Teachers' Associations Group provided the Committee with feedback from Primary and Secondary School Teachers, phases of implementation of the Agreed Syllabus and information on support and resources being provide to schools to support teaching it.

RESOLVED: That

1. The contents of the report and the supporting documentation are noted.

10 SACRE Annual Report 2019 - 20

The Committee considered a report which provided details of the work that had been undertaken by SACRE during 2019-20. The Annual Report 2019-20 was attached as an appendix.

RESOLVED: That

- 1.The contents of the report and the supporting documentation are noted.

11 Review of the Ealing SACRE Constitution

The Committee considered a report which provided information on a proposed review of the Ealing SACRE Constitution. Full details of the proposed changes were attached as an appendix to the report.

Angela Doherty explained to the Committee that the review was necessary to ensure that the Constitution included all recommended information from NASACRE and met legal requirements and clearly stated roles and responsibilities and promoted effective practice.

Members were welcomed and encouraged to participate in the review and it was confirmed that a draft of the document would be circulated in due course.

RESOLVED: That

1. The contents of the report and the supporting documentation are noted.

12 Membership Update

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on SACRE membership and proposed actions to address vacancies and non-attendance. SACRE membership and attendance 2018-2020 academic years was attached as an appendix to the report.

Angela Doherty explained to the Committee that it was important to ensure that SACRE had active members and that there needed to be a process in place to address non-attendance. There was currently a number of vacancies on SACRE and there wasn't a thorough list of contact details in place in order to assist with filling those vacancies.

The Committee was informed that Mr Simon Motz, Liberal Jewish, had recently resigned and had provided contact details for the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in order to make them aware of the vacancy and to try and get a replacement for him.

The Chair, Councillor Mahmood, informed the Committee that he had recently joined the Ealing Faith Task Group which met fortnightly with different community and faith leaders. He had started to contact individuals and representatives about membership of SACRE and non-attendance and had requested that new representatives be recruited. The Chair confirmed that he would update the Committee on the progress made in due course.

Angela Doherty informed the Committee that a document had been put together in order to provide an introduction to SACRE which could be used when trying to fill vacancies. It was confirmed that the document would be circulated to members. Angela agreed to follow up with Mr Mark Newton in relation to the Church of England vacancies.

RESOLVED: That

1. Members noted the proposed actions in order to address vacancies and non-attendance.

13 National and Local Updates

The Committee considered a report which provided an update and information from NASACRE. The NASACRE briefing, Issue 27, was attached as an appendix to the report.

Lesley Prior informed the Committee that NASACRE were holding a virtual Extraordinary General Meeting on 17 November and that it would be good for a member of SACRE to attend to represent Ealing. Elizabeth Day confirmed that she would be happy to attend.

Lesley further informed the Committee that a new report had recently been issued for religious education which was called 'Theos report – Worldviews in Religious Education'. The report was attached as appendix for information.

The link to view the full report was included within the agenda pack or could also be found on the Theos website which was www.theosthinktank.co.uk.

RESOLVED: That

1. The contents of the report and the supporting documentation are noted.

14 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 2 March 2020.

The meeting concluded at 8.55pm