



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

21 NOVEMBER 2019

2.00 – 4.00PM COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL

MEMBERSHIP

Cllr Roy Galley	Mr Peter White	Dr Tariq Rajbee
Cllr Richard Stogdon	Mrs Rosemary Roberts	Mr Barry Blakelock
Cllr Colin Belsey	Dr Brenda Vance	Mrs Laura Cooper
Cllr Philip Daniel	Dr Norman Williamson	Mr Tim Telford
Cllr Trevor Webb	Mrs Sarah Feist	Ms Claire Ramalli
Lilian Weatherley(LA)	Mrs Pamela Hartog	Dr Mark Bishop
Catherine Dooley (LA)	Ms Mandy Watson	Mr Paul Oxborrow
Julie Stevens (Clerk)	Ms Elizabeth Coleman	Mr Alistair Robertson (Observer)

AGENDA

1. Welcome, introductions & apologies
2. Declarations of any conflicts of interest
3. Minutes of meeting 27 June 2019 & Matters Arising
4. Update on Holocaust Memorial Event
5. ESCC response re level & quality of RE in East Sussex
6. Update on new Ofsted Framework
7. Engagement with Head Teachers
8. Budget update – SLES element
9. Update on school visits
10. Any other business

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East Sussex SACRE

Notes of the meeting

Date: Thursday 27 June 2019
Venue: Cradle Hill School, Seaford
Chairman: Councillor Roy Galley
Clerk: Julie Stevens
SACRE members present: Cllr Roy Galley, Mr Peter White, Cllr Colin Belsey, Cllr Richard Stogdon, Mrs Rosemary Roberts, Dr Norman Williamson, Dr Brenda Vance, Mr Barry Blakelock, Mr Peter Hall, Ms Claire Ramalli

Also present: Tim Telford (observer), Sara Perlmutter (observer), Carrie Beech, Local Authority (CB), Catherine Dooley (CD) (LA Advisor), Julie Stevens (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr Philip Daniel, Mrs Pamela Hartog, Dr Tariq Rajbee, Mrs Laura Cooper, Mrs Mandy Watson, Dr Mark Bishop, Ms Liz Coleman, Lilian Weatherley, Alistair Robertson

Item	Title	Action
1	Welcome & Introductions	
1.1	Cllr Galley welcomed everyone present at the meeting and introductions were made around the table. A special welcome was given to Sara Perlmutter who was attending on behalf of Pam Hartog as an observer from the Board of Deputies for the Jewish faith.	
1.2	Apologies were noted by the Clerk. Cllr Galley explained the reason for Lilian Weatherley's absence and sent very best wishes to her and her husband on behalf of SACRE.	
2	Introduction to the RE teaching at Cradle Hill School – Leesa Smart, RE Lead	
2.1	Leesa joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the work that she does with the pupils on the teaching of RE. Leesa was very grateful for all of the help and support she has received from Lilian and stressed how important the Network meetings are for sharing ideas and meeting other RE Leads.	
2.2	Sara Perlmutter advised that she could link Leesa with a contact at the Synagogue in Brighton to arrange school visits.	
2.3	Peter White added that there is now an Islamic Centre in Seaford and two of the Town Councillors are also Muslims so may be willing to visit the school.	
3	Correction to Agreed Syllabus wording	
3.1	Cllr Galley suggested the following paragraph be adopted as the amended wording for the Key Stage 4 section of the Agreed Syllabus: <i>"It is a legal requirement and an entitlement that all students (other than those withdrawn by parental consent) study RE throughout their school career. At Key Stage 4 schools must teach Religious Education to all students and most maintained schools must do so in accordance with their area's Local Agreed Syllabus for RE. This Agreed</i>	

Syllabus stipulates that RE at Key Stage 4 must be delivered through teaching a qualification in Religious Education/Studies approved under Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 which requires maintained schools to provide qualifications approved by the Secretary of State."

This wording had been agreed by the Department for Education (DfE).

- 3.2** Catherine Dooley fed back from the secondary Heads meeting that had taken place that morning that the Heads proposed the following wording for the KS4 part of the Agreed Syllabus:
"It is both a legal requirement and an entitlement that all students (other than those withdrawn by parental request) study RE at Key Stage 4. East Sussex SACRE supports the aspiration that all students who wish to achieve an approved qualification in RE are provided with the opportunity to do so."
- 3.3** A lengthy discussion then took place around the teaching of RE in our secondary maintained schools and academies.
- 3.4** Barry Blakelock (BB) opened the discussion by pointing out that the current wording of the Agreed Syllabus regarding Key Stage 4 states that schools have a legal duty to follow the Agreed Syllabus. The 2010 document from the DCFS (now the Department for Education) which gives non-statutory guidance for education, states that schools must teach RE at Key Stage 4 through a qualification but without the need to enter in to an exam at the end. BB added that academies do not have to follow the RE Agreed Syllabus. In the current state of the curriculum there is a pressure on time to fit RE into the timetable together with resource and staffing implications.
- 3.5** Peter White commented that academies are contracted to teach religious education.
- 3.6** Rosemary Roberts commented that this statement from a Headteacher does not have the students in mind.
- 3.7** Claire Ramalli added that at Ratton School all students are entered for RE GCSE and the school has timetabled 5 hours a fortnight to teach RE.
- 3.8** BB put forward a suggestion that the Agreed Syllabus could state 3 options for the teaching of RE at Key Stage 4:
- Students take the course and sit an exam
 - Students take the course and do not sit an exam
 - Headteachers take the objectives from the course and design their own course
- 3.9** RR then raised the issue that the hours spent on teaching Maths, English and Science are never in question and Religious Education is considered not to be as important as the other curriculum subjects. It is a legal requirement to teach RE.
- 3.10** Cllr Galley confirmed that the next review of the Agreed Syllabus is due in 2020.
- 3.11** Sara Perlmutter confirmed that Ofsted will be including RE in their new framework, to check that schools are meeting their requirements in their teaching of RE through the Agreed Syllabus.
- 3.12** Cllr Galley stated he would like the Headteachers to agree to talk to SACRE in preparation for the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to re-write the Syllabus. We

	would try to hold this ASC at the earliest possible date.	
3.13	BB proposed that we should accept the DfE wording but then at the same time recognise that the new Ofsted framework comes into effect in September. A consultation should be started on the new wording, this would allow schools some leeway with Ofsted when they are questioned around their KS4 being taught around the Agreed Syllabus.	
3.14	Cllr Galley proposed to the meeting that SACRE adopt the wording of the DfE (point 3.1) for the Agreed Syllabus at KS4 and invite all Headteachers to engage with SACRE to look at a new Agreed Syllabus in 2020 or sooner, with a consultation to begin now which includes the 3 possible routes suggested by Barry Blakelock.	
3.15	BB suggested that the new wording should be brought to the next meeting of SACRE in November following consultation that should begin straight away to share new wording with the Headteachers.	
3.16	Claire Ramalli added that she would be happy as Secondary Hub Lead to work with Secondary RE Leads to put together a curriculum for RE.	
3.17	Cllr Galley added that he was concerned that some Headteachers may decide not to take up any teaching of RE.	
3.18	Peter Hall stressed that no school would be able to add in another 5 hours per week for RE. They may be able to squeeze in an hour. Once students can read and write better, then they can start to broaden their curriculum.	
3.19	Peter White seconded Cllr Galley's proposal (3.14) and this was agreed by SACRE with a unanimous decision.	
3.20	Carrie Beech mentioned that there was no point in changing the current wording in the Agreed Syllabus, Carrie suggested we left the wording as it is until the formal consultation was concluded.	
3.21	BB asked if it would be possible to take into account the dates for the future secondary Heads meetings when setting the future dates for SACRE meetings. This would enable him to feed things back to the Heads meeting as necessary.	
4	Minutes of meeting 6 March 2019	
4.1	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.	
4.2	Dr Brenda Vance raised one point that at 2.7 of the minutes it should read "Other Christian denominations and Other faiths" rather than just "Other faiths".	
5	Revised constitution	
5.1	At the March SACRE meeting it was agreed to pass a resolution to amend the constitution of SACRE to enable a member of SACRE other than a County Councillor to be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair.	
5.2	Cllr Galley therefore proposed that the wording of the constitution be amended to:	

	<i>'The Chairman will be an elected member of the County Council. The Chair and the Vice-Chair will be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Chair and the Vice-Chair person are elected for a period of 4 years and can be re-elected'.</i>	
5.3	This proposal was unanimously agreed by SACRE, therefore this resolution was passed.	
6	Update on Ofsted Framework	
6.1	<p>Catherine Dooley gave an update from a recent meeting attended re the new Ofsted Framework due in September:</p> <p>The SLES service is not convinced that the framework will be transformed in terms of RE. There are promising suggestions but we will need to see what happens after the first few inspections. Ofsted will be looking at the breadth across the curriculum and the quality and improvement of education. RE technically speaking does not fit as a foundation subject, therefore it could fall outside.</p> <p>Cllr Galley suggested keeping Ofsted Framework as an ongoing agenda item.</p>	Clerk
7	Budget update	
7.1	<p>Catherine Dooley gave an overview of the SLES element of the SACRE budget. A report was circulated to the meeting with the following recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'The Committee are asked to note the plan to broaden the consultant support for schools so that RE support is also delivered by lead professionals in schools for 2019-20 thereby building capacity and capability in the system and aligning to the self-improving school system which is part of the school improvement strategy for East Sussex'. 	
7.2	Catherine explained that the local authority is proposing to identify a group of Specialist Leaders of Education (SLE's) and embark upon a blended approach along with Lilian Weatherley's capacity to begin to move these SLE's towards the induction and training of teachers and support to SACRE.	
7.3	Catherine explained that the SACRE budget is reliant on income from training courses, at this moment no training courses have been booked.	
7.4	Cllr Galley raised the point that he has a concern that the knowledge, expertise and experience that Lilian has could not be filled by teachers alone. If they could work together then this would be fine, but for the RE Consultant to leave SACRE completely is not acceptable.	
7.5	Cllr Galley added that nationally the advice is that as SACREs are funded through the Schools Block Grant, we should be receiving 2% of that grant, he does realise this is advice only and not a statutory requirement. Cllr Galley has asked the Lead Member for Education for extra funding for SACRE to enable them to arrange a teachers' conference and a Holocaust Memorial event. £12-13k has been requested.	
7.6	Rosemary Roberts added that Lilian has the time and the expertise to go into schools during the school hours. It would be a huge shame to lose this support.	
7.7	Catherine confirmed that the SLE's would be released in school times.	

<p>7.8</p> <p>7.9</p> <p>7.10</p> <p>7.11</p> <p>7.12</p>	<p>Barry Blakelock added that we are in a period of change with a school led system. We do have SLE's in other subjects and totally agrees this is the right direction of travel.</p> <p>Carrie Beech advised that we have a network of teaching schools in East Sussex and they have provided 3 names of SLE's who would be interested. There is a recruitment process also in place for SLE's.</p> <p>Cllr Galley suggested that SACRE should be involved in the selection process for an RE Consultant as this is a definite requirement for SACRE. Cllr Galley confirmed he would be happy to move along the lines of SLE's together with an RE Consultant.</p> <p>Cllr Galley asked for the support of SACRE in the continuing battle to get more money for the SACRE budget from the local authority. SACRE agreed to support the Chair in this.</p> <p>Carrie stressed that the figure of 2% funding is not written anywhere in any guidance for the DfE Direct Schools Grant.</p>	
<p>8</p> <p>8.1</p> <p>8.2</p> <p>8.3</p>	<p>Remaining agenda items</p> <p>As the meeting had over-ran, it was agreed to hold another meeting to discuss the remaining agenda items. Cllr Galley suggested a sub-group of SACRE is formed to save everyone needing to attend for these items.</p> <p>BB also suggested setting up an education working party of teachers to put forward ideas on the following to SACRE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation - Monitoring spreadsheet - Development Plan - Questionnaire <p>Cllr Galley did not want this to go ahead without members of SACRE being present; therefore a meeting will be arranged by the clerk for those who could attend.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9.1</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Sara Perlmutter thanked SACRE for allowing her to attend the meeting today. Sara promoted the book 'Judaism GCSE Religious Education' by Clive Lawton, as good teaching material. Sara also mentioned the Travelling Exhibition which covers all areas of learning for the Jewish faith, suitable for both adults and children to attend. Should anyone require any authentic Jewish education requirements, please contact the Board of Deputies.</p> <p>The GCSE Judaism teaching conference takes place in London on Wednesday 11 December 2019. All enquiries to jewishliving@bod.org.uk</p> <p>Sara advised that SACRE members and Sussex schools should request Judaism education through the Sussex Representative Council sussexjewishrepco@gmail.com and the Board of Deputies jewishliving@bod.org.uk email addresses. Sara reminded members that only the Sussex Jewish Representative Council, Pamela Hartog and the Board of Deputies are the only reputable professionals coordinating Judaism education in Sussex.</p>	

9.2	Claire Ramalli advised she would feed this information into the secondary hub.	
9.3	Peter White asked that we send good wishes and support to Lilian and her husband at his difficult time.	
Date of the next meeting : 2pm Thursday 21st November 2019 Venue: County Hall, Lewes		