

East Sussex SACRE

Notes of the meeting

Date: Thursday 21 November 2019
Venue: Committee Room, County Hall, Lewes
Chairman: Councillor Roy Galley
Clerk: Julie Stevens
SACRE members present: Cllr Roy Galley, Mr Peter White, Cllr Richard Stogdon, Cllr Philip Daniel, Mrs Rosemary Roberts, Dr Brenda Vance, Mrs Rosemary Roberts, Mrs Sara Feist, Mrs Mandy Watson, Mr Barry Blakelock, Mr Tim Telford, Mrs Laura Cooper

Also present: Lilian Weatherley RE Adviser, Carrie Beech, Local Authority (CB), Catherine Dooley (CD) (LA Advisor), Alistair Robertson (Observer), Julie Stevens (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr Colin Belsey, Mrs Pamela Hartog, Dr Mark Bishop, Ms Liz Coleman, Mrs Claire Ramalli, Dr Norman Williamson

Item	Title	Action
1	Welcome & Introductions	
1.1	Cllr Galley welcomed everyone present at the meeting and introductions were made around the table. Apologies were noted by the Clerk.	
2	Minutes of meeting 27 June & Matters arising	
2.1	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.	
	<u>Matters arising</u>	
2.2	8.2 – a meeting of a working party was held to discuss outstanding agenda items from the June meeting.	
2.3	3.10 – it was noted that consultation would commence in 2020 working towards a new agreed syllabus in 2022.	
3	Update on Holocaust Memorial Event	
3.1	Catherine Dooley updated the meeting on the latest plans for the Pupil conference. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SACRE had secured additional funding of £3500 to run an event for secondary students. - A planning group has been formed with teachers from Ratton, Heathfield, Claverham, Chailey and St Richard's. - It has been agreed there will be no cost for the students and the target audience is years 8 and 9 with a maximum of 150 students to attend. - The date of the event is the morning of Monday 3 February 2020 and will be held at Heathfield Community College. - The planning group will meet again on 25 November to shape the agenda. - A Keynote speaker has been booked and there will be workshops run by the students. - There will be an exhibition of work done in schools with an RE and History focus. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will be a spiritual element/reflection at the close of the morning. 	
3.2	Cllr Galley asked if SACRE members be welcome to attend as observers. CD agreed that this would be fine but we must remember that the focus is on the students. The arrangements can be clarified after the next planning meeting. We would of course need to advise Heathfield beforehand of any SACRE visitors that are to attend.	
3.3	Cllr Galley asked if any other faiths will be represented at the conference. CD confirmed that Judaism and Christianity are the focus for this initial event.	
3.4	Cllr Galley added that it would make sense to have a church representative there. CD will raise this at the planning meeting.	CD
3.5	Peter White asked that we disseminate to the secondary schools/Head teachers that the idea for this event originates from the East Sussex SACRE. Clerk to add this to the REView.	Clerk
4	ESCC response re level & quality of RE in East Sussex	
4.1	Cllr Galley referred to correspondence with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director of Children’s Services/Lead Member for EISEND; Regional Schools Commissioner and Head teachers dated 24 September 2019. - Response from DCS/LM dated 26 September. - Letter to DCS/LM including evidence attached dated 12 November. 	
4.2	Copies of all correspondence had been shared with the SACRE group prior to this meeting.	
4.3	No response had been received from Head teachers or the Regional Schools Commissioner.	
4.4	Cllr Daniel brought attention to wording on page 2 in the response from the DCS/Lead Member, he felt this was a rebuke to Cllr Galley and the SACRE committee and was an unfair comment. Cllr Daniel felt that this warrants a constructive discussion with the DCS and Lead Member.	
4.5	Barry Blakelock (BB) stated that from reading the response from the DCS/LM he interprets that the issue is around the Agreed Syllabus. BB had agreed to the wording within the Agreed Syllabus at the last SACRE meeting with the understanding that consultation work would start on the new Agreed Syllabus and stated that the current Agreed Syllabus is not fit for purpose.	
4.6	BB advised that Caroline Barlow (Heathfield CC) had spoken to BB re the letter received from Cllr Galley and had asked what it meant. BB stated the letter came across as combative.	
4.7	BB went on to say that at the last Headteacher meeting Helen Key (Chailey) had agreed to work with BB and SACRE.	
4.8	BB stated that trying to force the Agreed Syllabus into classrooms will not work.	

<p>4.9</p> <p>4.10</p> <p>4.11</p> <p>4.12</p> <p>4.13</p> <p>4.14</p> <p>4.15</p> <p>4.16</p> <p>4.17</p> <p>4.18</p>	<p>Cllr Galley disagreed that the letter was combative; the aim of SACRE is to work in partnership with the Head teachers.</p> <p>BB re-iterated that he had agreed to the amended wording of the Agreed Syllabus at KS4 under the understanding consultation would start on the new Agreed Syllabus. BB continued that the next Agreed Syllabus needs to look completely different to get this into schools; the current one will not achieve anything. BB added that schools do have motivation with RE as Ofsted now include RE in their inspections, but the current Agreed Syllabus will not support the cause. The current Agreed Syllabus is not a helpful tool and does not support or help schools.</p> <p>Tim Telford added that all this focuses on KS4 but we need to focus on KS3 first to bring in a stepped approach and build in proper RE into KS3.</p> <p>Sarah Feist asked the question to BB if he would speak about English in the same way.</p> <p>BB responded that he is an English teacher and totally agrees with the importance of RE. BB advised he was just saying that the Agreed Syllabus needs to be written in a way that schools can work with.</p> <p>Lilian Weatherley (LW) stated that the Agreed Syllabus is a legal document and much of the wording comes from the Government as to what they would expect. The Agreed Syllabus is about the young people in the county and not about the teachers or head teachers. It is the young people's statutory entitlement to study RE. LW advised that she meets regularly with RE subject leaders who find it difficult to do their jobs as they are in battle with their senior leadership with no timetabling for RE.</p> <p>BB responded that he agrees it is a legal document but some of the language in the Agreed Syllabus is out of date, some urban local authorities have a different Agreed Syllabus to meet with the context of their area. BB advised he is totally thinking about the students in the comments he has made and believes it is about the broad and balanced curriculum. BB concluded that we need to start work on how the Agreed Syllabus can be interpreted.</p> <p>Carrie Beech (CB) commented that the challenge is that we have been focussing on KS4 instead of looking across the board. We should celebrate what we have. We should look at how we support primary schools and then KS3, at the moment the Head teachers in the secondary schools feel like they are being beaten.</p> <p>Cllr Galley referred to the point in the last paragraph in his letter to the Head teachers <i>"We would therefore be grateful for your advice on how we might engage with you all as secondary Head teachers and support you in developing the teaching of RE and reviewing the Local Agreed Syllabus to both support schools and pupils. Your thoughts on how this may be done and how we can work together to improve RE provision in East Sussex would be most welcome"</i>. No responses had been received.</p> <p>BB suggested the following way forward: A group of Head teachers form a working party to meet and brainstorm the issues; this group would comprise of BB, Helen Key, some Primary schools and teaching professionals from SACRE.</p>	
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<p>4.19</p> <p>4.20</p> <p>4.21</p>	<p>LW clarified that the Agreed Syllabus was agreed at Agreed Syllabus Conferences, which unfortunately had no senior secondary leader participation, and had been scrutinised by the DfE.</p> <p>Cllr Daniel added that we should all try not to be combative as it is not the fault of SACRE that this document is a legal requirement. Cllr Daniel suggested a meeting be convened with a number of council officers and SACRE to discuss the department's view and the differences of view of SACRE to understand the perspective of each party. A process needs to be created working towards a new Syllabus.</p> <p>The following actions were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BB will form a working party and report back to SACRE. - A meeting to be set up with DCS/Lead Member - Process to be put into place from 2020 for working towards a new 2022 Syllabus – for consultation at the next SACRE meeting. 	
<p>5</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p>REView/New Ofsted Framework</p> <p>Clerk will circulate the REView to all schools via the Virtual School Bag. Clerk will add in more details of Holocaust Memorial event.</p> <p>LW talked through some examples of Ofsted reports from schools and the focus on RE.</p>	
<p>6</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p> <p>6.3</p> <p>6.4</p> <p>6.5</p> <p>6.6</p> <p>6.7</p>	<p>Budget update (SLES element)</p> <p>Catherine Dooley (CD) distributed a paper copy of the budget update and talked through the detail.</p> <p>Income for courses had not yet manifested as courses have been delayed and will be going ahead in the spring term.</p> <p>Looking at school to school support with SLE's in schools, at the moment we have secured one in secondary and one in primary, we anticipate having 2 SLE's at each level. This will provide us with a blended approach alongside the support of Lilian.</p> <p>CB had previously approached the Diocese of Chichester regarding RE support, Sarah Feist advised that the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton have a full training programme that we may be able to use as support.</p> <p>CD will look into rationalising training/support as a shared resource with the Diocese.</p> <p>Cllr Galley raised the question if SACRE should organise a teacher conference if funding could be provided? BB agreed to put this question to the working party. It was agreed that the schools need to see the value of a conference as the release of teachers is difficult.</p> <p>Cllr Galley also raised a question around the update of the teaching materials on discs that were compiled several years ago as a resource for East Sussex schools. The general feeling was that this method of resource is out of date and it would be too expensive to transfer to another method.</p>	<p>CD</p> <p>BB</p>

7	School visits	
7.1	<p>Cllr Galley and Peter White visited Harlands Primary School on 11th November. They met with Richard Blakeley, Headteacher who had only been in post at the school for 8 weeks but was much clued up on RE.</p> <p>They attended an excellent assembly for Remembrance Day.</p>	
8	AOB	
8.1	<p>Peter White asked for clarification on the position with Lilian. CD confirmed that Lilian's contract runs until the end of the academic year and this will then be put out for competition as is the process every year. The aim is to build up school to school support which would mean fewer days for school support for Lilian but this would then allow more time for support for SACRE.</p> <p>Cllr Galley stressed he is keen to keep the role of LA consultant.</p>	
8.2	<p>Rosemary Roberts proposed we go paperless as a committee. This was agreed. Any detailed information such as graphs can be shown via the projector onto the screen.</p>	
8.3	<p>Clerk to re-send the dates for SACRE meetings for 2020.</p>	
8.4	<p>Tim Telford happy to host the March meeting at Beacon Academy if agreed by his Head teacher.</p>	
<p>Date of the next meeting : 2pm Wednesday 4 March 2020</p> <p>Venue: tbc</p>		