

# East Sussex SACRE

## Notes of the meeting

**Date:** Wednesday 25 November 2020  
**Venue:** Via Microsoft Teams  
**Chairman:** Councillor Roy Galley  
**Clerk:** Julie Stevens  
**SACRE members present:** Cllr Roy Galley, Cllr Colin Belsey, Cllr Richard Stogdon, Cllr Philip Daniel, Mrs Rosemary Roberts, Dr Brenda Vance, Dr Norman Williamson, Mrs Pamela Hartog, Ms Liz Coleman, Dr Tariq Rajbee, Mrs Mandy Watson, Mrs Sarah Feist, Mr Barry Blakelock, Mr Tim Telford, Mrs Claire Ramalli, Mrs Claire Rivers  
**Also present:** Carrie Beech (LA Adviser), Julie Stevens (Clerk)  
Chris Hooper and Stephen Pett from RE Today attended for the first item  
**Apologies:** Cllr Trevor Webb, Mr Peter White, Mrs Laura Cooper

Item	Title	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome/ Introductions &amp; Apologies</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	Cllr Galley welcomed everyone present at the meeting.	
<b>1.2</b>	Cllr Galley introduced Claire Rivers from the St Mark's Teaching School Alliance as a new member of SACRE representing Primary schools. Claire will also now be fulfilling the role of leading training sessions for RE teachers in the primary area.	
<b>1.3</b>	Apologies were noted by the Clerk.	
<b>1.4</b>	There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of meeting 4 March 2020 &amp; Notes of Thanks</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	The minutes of the last SACRE meeting held on 4 March 2020 were agreed as accurate.	
<b>2.2</b>	Thanks, were noted for Catherine Dooley and the work done within SACRE as the SLES LA Adviser; Carrie Beech has now taken on this role.	
<b>2.3</b>	It was also noted that Lilian Weatherley had stood down from her role as RE Consultant to care for her husband who was very ill. Sadly, Lilian's husband John, had since passed away peacefully. SACRE wanted to make note of the service that Lilian had provided to the work of SACRE over many years and give deep condolences and sympathies to Lilian and her family.	
<b>2.4</b>	Claire Ramalli has now taken on the role of RE Consultant to SACRE, Claire is Head of Department at Ratton School in Eastbourne.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Planning to Review the East Sussex Agreed Syllabus</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	Carrie Beech introduced this item and had circulated a briefing to SACRE prior to the meeting. This briefing had been put together by Carrie and Claire Ramalli.	

3.2	<p>Stephen Pett and Chris Hooper from RE Today, were in attendance to discuss the options and the possible support RE today could provide for the revision of the East Sussex Agreed Syllabus.</p> <p>Chris Hooper thanked everyone for giving them the opportunity to share the options available from RE Today and advised that they are currently working with in excess of 50 SACREs with their Agreed Syllabi. Chris then handed over to Stephen Pett.</p>	
3.3	<p>Stephen Pett (SP) shared a presentation (included with these minutes).</p> <p>In summary, SP felt that the language of our current syllabus is out of date. If a teacher should come into East Sussex as a new teacher, they would find it hard to identify what to teach pupils and what it is that pupils should learn. It is vital to set out the content and method for teachers. We need a syllabus that offers more support for teachers and followed this by giving two options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To re-write the whole syllabus</li> <li>- To use RE Today to produce a Syllabus</li> </ul>	
3.4	<p>Two models were put forward:  <u>The Model A syllabus</u>          Based on the older frameworks and provides the minimum to meet the SACRE requirements and although it provides a clear rationale an overall plan and assessment it is not as up to date as it could be and is a more thematic approach to teaching RE.</p>	
3.5	<p><u>The Model B syllabus</u>          More up to date and provides an approach based on individual religions. It links to Understanding Christianity which our Diocesan schools all use and has the scope to include non-religious world views.</p>	
3.6	<p>The following questions were raised:          Elizabeth Coleman – Is Humanism included in the Syllabus offered?          SP responded – Yes there are specific units included on beliefs beyond the main religions to allow for other world views to be considered.</p> <p>Rosemary Roberts – Is there any time framework included?          SP responded – Currently one hour a week is included but RE Today are strongly lobbying the government to allow the time to teach RE that is needed.</p> <p>Cllr Galley thanked Stephen for the impressive presentation and then referred to the briefing provided by Carrie Beech and Claire Ramalli:  <u>Option 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tweak the current Agreed Syllabus but basically keep it very much as it is from within our own resources.</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Option 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Review and rewrite the syllabus in detail in East Sussex from within our own resources or with the support of an external organisation or additional capacity</i></li> </ul>	
3.7	<p>Cllr Galley stated that these two options are not realistic and SACRE may want to think about Option 4 presented by Carrie and Claire Ramalli as well as option 3.</p>	

<p><b>3.8</b></p> <p><b>3.9</b></p> <p><b>3.10</b></p> <p><b>3.11</b></p> <p><b>3.12</b></p> <p><b>3.13</b></p> <p><b>3.14</b></p> <p><b>3.15</b></p> <p><b>3.16</b></p>	<p><u>Option 3 &amp; 4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Work with a local SE consortium of SACREs led by Hampshire to adopt the 'Living Different' syllabus that they are in the process of revising currently for implementation from September 2021. (The consortium is made up of SACREs from Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton, Chelsea and Kensington, Camden, Hammersmith and Fulham, Westminster.)</i></li> </ul> <p>Claire Rivers and Claire Ramalli both favour Model B of Option 3.</p> <p>Barry Blakelock asked Chris Hooper how many SACRE's are they currently working with and how many prefer Model A or Model B? Also, how would we get local involvement into the models?</p> <p>Chris responded that he did not have the exact figure to hand but RE Today are currently working with 50+ SACRE's. Model A had been around for longer and Model B is now getting a larger take up as it is more up to date and detailed.</p> <p>SP added that SACRE's can be reassured that knowledge of religion is key and world views can be discussed at a later stage. Model B does include Understanding Christianity and spiral learning basis for curriculum planning. There is room to add local units for example, tackling things like Racism/Islamophobia can be integrated into the syllabus.</p> <p>Cllr Belsey enquired regarding the cost of this work from RE Today.</p> <p>Chris Hooper advised that a quotation had been given to Carrie Beech at a discounted rate.</p> <p>Carrie advised that SACRE receive extra funding into the budget to produce the Agreed Syllabus and suggested that we may also want to look at a blended approach where we ask for payment from schools on a license fee basis which many LAs do.</p> <p>Cllr Stogdon asked for a simplified way of explaining the two different models. SP clarified as follows: Systemic – Concentrate on one religion at a time. Thematic – Take a theme and look at from the perspective of a different religion.</p> <p>Next Steps – Carrie Beech, Claire Ramalli and Claire Rivers will set up some school focus groups, to which SACRE members are welcome to join.</p> <p>Claire Ramalli advised that colleagues from Hampshire SACRE are happy to present their Agreed Syllabus to the ES SACRE on 20 January 2021.</p> <p>Cllr Galley agreed that we will arrange for a SACRE meeting to be held on 20 January and Hampshire colleagues to join. Cllr Galley also agreed that the school focus groups are to go ahead. Cllr Galley added that at the moment Model B with some local input looks like the favourable option.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>4.1</b></p>	<p><b>Feedback from Network meetings &amp; CPD</b></p> <p>Claire Ramalli gave feedback from the Secondary Hub meeting; attendance had not been quite as high as previous meetings. Key points noted:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training arranged with Lat Blaylock for January for Secondary colleagues.</li> <li>- Questions were raised re world views being included in the Agreed Syllabus.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.2</b>	Claire Rivers gave feedback from the first primary network meeting in October, which had good attendance. Claire also circulated the evaluation from the virtual RE Conference held on 4 November, 100% of attendees gave good feedback on the content and delivery of the session.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Feedback from Schools Working Group</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	Barry Blakelock gave feedback from the meeting held in October and reassured SACRE that the Agreed Syllabus is high on the agenda of the group. Barry stated that support from SACRE is welcome and attendance of SACRE members at the group meetings would bring together the support of RE leaders and SACRE members.	
<b>5.2</b>	SACRE clerk to advise SACRE members of dates of network meetings and working group meetings.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Update on Social Media profile</b>	
<b>6.1</b>	<p>Tim Telford updated SACRE on the social media connection between schools. He has set up an East Sussex RE Facebook page with now a group of 71 teachers joined mainly from East Sussex. There is also a Twitter account – to follow use @eastsussexRE.</p> <p>There has also been a Google drive set up where teachers across the county can share and access resources.</p> <p>SACRE members agreed this was all very positive.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Development Plan</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	Carrie Beech explained that themes had been taken from the previous Development Plan from key areas and the Plan had been revised for a 2020/21 Plan to replace the 3-year Plan.	
<b>7.2</b>	<p>Carrie proposed that at the March SACRE meeting we could spend some time RAG rating the new Plan to give us a clear idea of our progress. This suggestion was agreed by SACRE.</p> <p>Clerk to add this to the March agenda.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Budget update</b>	
<b>8.1</b>	Carrie gave a brief overview of the SACRE budget and confirmed that we are currently in a strong place. From our £7,500 budget we have currently spent £1,500 with a further commitment of £3000. We should receive extra funding next year for the work on the Agreed Syllabus.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Any other business</b>	
<b>9.1</b>	Cllr Galley gave an update on national RE issues. The REC, with a membership of 60 bodies, their current main concern is World Views and the debate around this. NASACRE is involved in this debate, and they now have an interim Chair as the new	

	Chair resigned from post. SACRE may need to have a discussion at some point re World Views.	
9.2	Carrie advised SACRE that NASACRE had recently submitted a Freedom of Information request to East Sussex County Council concerning funding and work carried out on the previous Agreed Syllabus. Apparently NASACRE say they are doing research and were advised by the DfE to do this via the FOI route.	
9.3	Pam Hartog advised SACRE that Sara Parmenter is no longer working for the Board of Deputies, therefore if anything regarding Judaism is needed then please contact Pamela Hartog directly.	
9.4	Carrie informed SACRE that she and Claire Ramalli had attended a meeting of the South East SACRE consortium and had learnt that most people are writing a determination policy around collective worship. It is good practice to have this policy for schools and to have it set against certain criteria. This is something that SACRE could look at later in the year.	
9.5	Following the success of the pupil conference, it was suggested that we could perhaps organise something on-line and suggest pupils may want to put forward ideas and submit work around a theme of the place of faith in times of challenge. Claire Ramalli and Carrie to discuss further and maybe look at this in the Spring term to conclude in the Summer term.	
<b>Date of the next meeting: 20 January 2020 at 2.00pm</b>  <b>Via Microsoft Teams</b>		