

East Sussex SACRE

Notes of the meeting

Date: Thursday 16 November 2023
Venue: Centre 2F / Microsoft Teams
Chairperson: Councillor Roy Galley
Clerk: Julie Stevens
SACRE members present: Cllr Roy Galley, Cllr Colin Belsey, Cllr Abul Azad, Cllr Trevor Webb, Peter White, Rosemary Roberts, Claire Rivers (CRi), Dr Norman Williamson, Pamela Hartog, Elizabeth Coleman, Jon Gilbert, Laura Cooper, Father David Hill (FDH)
Also present: Barry Blakelock (BB), Claire Ramalli (CRa), Nicola Blake (Observer)
Apologies: Cllr Steve Murphy, Sam Keddie, Kirsty Eydmann, Helen Key (HK)

Item		Action
1	Welcome/ Introductions & Apologies / Minutes of meeting 15 June 2023	
1.1	Cllr Galley welcomed everyone present at the meeting.	
1.2	Apologies were noted.	
1.3	There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.	
1.4	Minutes of last meeting were agreed as accurate. <u>Matters arising:</u> Jon Gilbert updated that SIAMS inspections are now under a new framework; two schools in East Sussex are being inspected next week - St Catherine's College and Sedlescombe. There are schools who would welcome a visit from SACRE members. ACTION: Jon Gilbert will contact Headteachers and confirm regarding visits by SACRE.	JG
2	Network meetings	
2.1	<u>Secondary - Claire Ramalli</u> Network meeting being held today at 4pm. The July session was held at Chailey and was well attended. This was the final launch for the Agreed Syllabus and was a fantastic and informative day. Thank you to Sam Keddie for organising this event. Barry gave some feedback on behalf of Sam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14 schools attended - Good proportion of responses - A very useful day 	
2.2	Barry confirmed that he had shared the list of secondary school RE Leads with Claire and Sam.	
2.3	<u>Primary - Claire Rivers</u> There was a session held on 22 June, Dr Kate Christopher gave a very stimulating talk and has offered to hold other sessions. A Synagogue visit took place in Hove, thank you to Pamela Hartog. Those that did attend found it a magical experience. Pam has offered virtual visits. The first Network meeting of this academic year was held on 19 October. The positives and challenges of the Agreed Syllabus were discussed. Some schools are trying to do too much but the majority of schools are managing the planning. At future meetings we will focus on the elements of Understanding Christianity. Lois Burton, SLE, is working with two schools and supporting their planning in Understanding Christianity.	

	The date for the Spring conference is to be confirmed. It will be held online and we hope to have Julia Diamond Conway as the speaker.	
2.4	ACTIONS: Jon Gilbert will share Pam Hartog's email with those schools that he supports regarding the Synagogue visits.	JG
2.5	Barry Blakelock will reach out to RE Today re dates for the Spring conference.	BB
2.6	<u>Special Schools</u> No update as Kirsty Eydmann sent apologies.	
3	School Good Practice visits	
3.1	Claire Ramalli and Claire Rivers confirmed that two good practice visits had been confirmed for: Blackboys - 31 January 2024 Grovelands - 6 March 2024	
3.2	It was agreed that Cllr Galley will accompany Claire Ramalli on 31 January and Cllr Belsey will accompany Claire on 6 March.	
3.3	Claire Ramalli will link in with the RE Lead at Gildredge House and try to arrange a visit to offer them some support. It was agreed that Peter White will accompany Claire on this visit when a date has been confirmed. ACTION: Claire Ramalli to contact Gildredge House.	CRa
3.4	Willingdon have agreed to a visit and a date is to be confirmed. It was agreed that Rosemary Roberts will accompany Claire on this visit when the date has been confirmed.	
3.5	Barry Blakelock will reach out to Seahaven and Priory. ACTION: Barry to contact Seahaven and Priory schools.	BB
3.6	It was noted that Father David Hill is in regular contact with the Head of RE at ARK Hastings.	
3.7	Jon Gilbert added that he would contact the RE Lead at St Catherine's College after their SIAMS visit, to arrange a visit. ACTION: Jon to contact St Catherine's College.	JG
3.8	Claire Ramalli requested that anyone who knew of any school inspections by Ofsted to please contact Claire (via Julie). ACTION: SACRE	All
4	Progress Review on Agreed Syllabus	
4.1	Barry Blakelock referred to the paper that had been circulated prior to the meeting. The aim of this review is to reflect on the first year of the new Agreed Syllabus. We will take stock of the progress after each year.	
4.2	Numbers for the take up of the Syllabus is really reassuring. Actions going forward are: (i) Gain stronger understanding of who is attending the network meetings. (ii) Gather together reviews from the annual conference. (iii) Establish which schools have taken up the KS4 optional units.	

	<p>(iv) Get teacher voice via the networks and feed this into the SACRE annual report.</p> <p>(v) Carry out a sift of school websites to see how RE is represented on there and from this develop a toolkit for schools.</p>	
4.3	<p>ACTION: Claire Ramalli will produce a leaflet for schools with guidance for their website.</p> <p>Rosemary suggested sharing out the task of sifting through websites.</p>	CRa
4.4	<p>ACTION: Barry will put together a programme for this piece of work and will present this at the next meeting.</p>	BB
4.5	<p>Jon Gilbert added that there is 100% take up of the agreed syllabus in the Church primary schools.</p>	
5	<p>Self-Evaluation Toolkit - Section 4: Collective Worship</p>	
5.1	<p>Barry Blakelock stated that we need a clear and common understanding of what collective worship is.</p> <p>ACTION: Barry will share the slides from the NASACRE session held in March 2023.</p>	BB
5.2	<p>Claire Rivers suggested we do an audit of schools via the network meetings as to how collective worship is being carried out.</p>	
5.3	<p>Claire Ramalli asked those SACRE members who work with schools for examples of collective worship; it would be helpful to have good practice to share.</p>	
5.4	<p>Cllr Belsey suggested that we could call upon Churches more to support collective worship in schools.</p>	
5.5	<p>Barry added that a lot of good things go on in our primary schools, but we need to support our schools as legislation does say a daily act of worship should take place in a broadly Christian way.</p>	
5.6	<p>Further suggestions were that SACRE members look at collective worship as part of the good practice visits and also, we could look at some training with the local authority around collective worship at the Governor sessions.</p> <p>ACTION: Barry Blakelock will take ideas forward.</p>	BB
6	<p>Review NASACRE Handbook & SACRE Induction Manual</p>	
6.1	<p>Barry Blakelock referred to the Handbook and Manual which were circulated prior to the meeting. The Handbook supports SACRE members in their roles.</p> <p>Feedback from new SACRE Members would be appreciated regarding the checklist in the induction manual.</p> <p>ACTION: New members to complete the induction checklist and give feedback to Barry.</p>	FDH/ HK
6.2	<p>Claire Ramalli asked SACRE to note that there had been a recent judgement resulting in a court ruling concerning the membership of Humanists on Group A of SACRE's; confirming that Humanists should be considered as members as per other religions.</p> <p>ACTION: Claire will circulate the information.</p>	CRa

7	Budget Update	
7.1	Barry confirmed that the annual budget for SACRE had been successfully renegotiated with the local authority to £10K for the next two years. This allows us to achieve everything we want to over the next two years.	
7.2	<p><u>Key points:</u></p> <p>(i) The number of days for the Advisors have been increased.</p> <p>(ii) Claire Ramalli will put forward an application for a Westhill Award Grant for the East Sussex SACRE. ACTION: Claire will discuss further with Claire Rivers and Barry Blakelock.</p> <p>(iii) It was agreed to go ahead with planning a smaller student conference for this year with a cost of up to £500. ACTION: Claire Ramalli will take this forward.</p> <p>(iv) Should we be successful in being awarded a Westhill Award Grant we can aim to organise a larger student conference in 2025.</p>	<p>CRa</p> <p>CRa</p>
8	Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (Standing item)	
8.1	Pamela Hartog raised a concern regarding antisemitism in schools. At least 3 parents at her synagogue have approached Pamela to report antisemitism and some shocking behaviour amongst children. This is a real concern and asked for advice from SACRE.	
8.2	It was agreed that Nicola Blake from Children’s Services would speak to a senior Officer within the department to see how we can deal with this.	NB
8.3	Claire Ramalli mentioned that an organisation called ‘Solutions not sides’ hold free events on a Tuesday afternoon and offer support to teachers and students.	
9	AOB	
9.1	Cllr Galley confirmed he would make further attempts at getting new representatives from faiths and churches not currently represented on the East Sussex SACRE.	Cllr G
	<p>Date of next meeting: Thursday 29 February 2024 at 2pm</p> <p>Venue: County Hall & MS Teams</p>	