

East Sussex SACRE

Notes of the meeting

Date: Wednesday 25th November 2015
Venue: Gildredge House Free School, Eastbourne
Chairman: Councillor Roy Galley
Clerk: Julie Stevens
Present: Cllr Roy Galley (Chairman), Dr Norman Williamson, Mr Peter White, Dr Brenda Vance, Mr Andrew Jervis, Cllr Richard Stogdon, Cllr Mike Pursglove, Cllr Pat Rodohan, Rev Derek Bastide, Mrs Pamela Hartog, Mrs Rosemary Roberts, Mrs Jenni Osborn
Also present: Alistair Robertson (Humanist observer), Lilian Weatherley (Advisor to SACRE), Julie Dougill (LA Advisor), Julie Stevens (Clerk)
Apologies: Mr Peter Ward, Dr Tariq Rajbee, Mrs Pat Lock, Mr Martin Lloyd, Mr Lewis Hall, Cllr Trevor Webb

Item	Title	Action
1	<p>Welcome & Introductions <i>Cllr Galley</i></p> <p>Councillor Galley welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special welcome to Mr Chris Jeffery, from the department of Philosophy and Belief at Gildredge House. Councillor Galley also welcomed Mr Alistair Robertson to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were noted. It was noted that the meeting was not quorate as there were no Church of England representatives present.</p>	
2	<p>Introduction to Gildredge House <i>Mr Chris Jeffery</i></p> <p>Mr Jeffery welcomed the SACRE to the school and explained the history of the school prior to it's opening in September 2013.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of meeting 30th June 2015</p> <p>All action points had been completed. One error was noted from item 12; The GCSE results for RE will be available on 4th August should have read: <i>"On 4 August 2015 the new GCSE draft specifications for courses starting in 2016 and examination in 2018 were published."</i></p> <p>The remainder of the minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
4	<p>RE Conference Feedback <i>Lilian Weatherley</i></p> <p>Evaluations had been received from all attendees at the conference. It was noted that no negative comments had been received. It was suggested that different faiths could be covered in our next conference.</p> <p><i>(The Church of England representatives arrived at this point, making the meeting quorate)</i></p> <p>Workshop presentations to be circulated to the SACRE members.</p> <p>The following comments and suggestions were received from the SACRE members:</p>	Clerk

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An excellent day with good content. - Slightly down in numbers from previous years. - A number of people on the SACRE are volunteers and cannot afford the conference. - No public transport to Deans Place. - Technical problems with one of the presentations. - Suggest we look at different venues, perhaps in the north or east of the county for the next conference. - Alternative venues – East Sussex National, Uckfield Civic Centre, Hailsham Civic Centre. - Buffet lunch instead of ‘sit down’ meal to encourage networking. <p>These ideas will be taken forward for future arrangements.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Review of Agreed Syllabus – Working Group <i>Lilian Weatherley</i></p> <p>LW confirmed that there is a lot happening nationally with RE. Following the RE conference LW has compiled a list of those subject leaders who are willing to be part of the working group.</p> <p>The first meeting of the syllabus working group will be arranged for January 2016 to start looking at the syllabus perhaps with the view of reducing the number of key concepts.</p> <p>Julie Dougill confirmed that she has requested additional funds into the SACRE budget for the next financial year to support this process. JD will look into the grant fund ‘Cullam St Gabriels’.</p> <p>LW advised that the schools are happy with the current syllabus therefore there should not be too much to change. Extra supporting documentation may be needed.</p> <p>Rosemary Roberts confirmed she would be interested in joining the working group.</p> <p>JD advised that dissemination to the Governors is key with the RE syllabus.</p> <p>The aim is to launch the new RE Syllabus at the RE conference in Autumn 2016 and to be ready for teaching in the classrooms by September 2017. The syllabus will be agreed at the AGM in February 2017.</p> <p><u>Winning in the Game of Life</u> This is an SMSC programme being run by Milestones Foundation in London to improve the child’s understanding of their beliefs and character building. Brighton & Hove are piloting this with a group of schools.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Budget Update <i>Julie Dougill</i></p> <p>JD circulated a copy of the latest figures for the SACRE budget. The local Authority supply SACRE with £5,000 anything above this is to be self-funded from training sessions. The current balance shows a figure of minus £96 but there are further funds to be credited to the budget.</p>	

<p>7</p>	<p>GCSE results <i>Julie Dougill</i></p> <p>JD advised SACRE that there is a new reporting process in place and the GCSE results data will now be available at the end of November. JD will circulate the information to SACRE with together with a summary.</p> <p>It was suggested we move the November SACRE meetings to early December to capture the GCSE results.</p> <p>Cllr Galley confirmed that the SACRE Annual Report will be taken to the Scrutiny Committee in March 2016.</p> <p>LW to check the format for the Annual Report on the NASACRE website.</p>	<p>JD</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>LW</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>RE View <i>Lilian Weatherley</i></p> <p>LW talked through the RE View (circulated prior to the meeting)</p> <p>Discussion followed around the inspection of Academies and Free Schools with regard to RE and SMSC being taught in the schools. There is the concern that SMSC is not being taken seriously by inspectors in the Primary schools.</p> <p>LW did clarify that SMSC is not tied to RE, it is a general ethos.</p> <p>Cllr Galley referred to the comments in the RE View from Charles Clarke regarding a drive towards a National Curriculum. SACRE may need to take a view on this as it progresses.</p> <p>Cllr Galley added that he feels that SACRE should perhaps make some small waves regarding the National Curriculum and in particular against the abolishing of collective worship. Cllr Galley suggested we take our concerns to our local MP Caroline Ansell for her to take to the relevant minister.</p> <p>LW and Cllr Galley agreed to draft some comments and circulate to SACRE for their input.</p> <p>Clerk to circulate the RE View all schools.</p>	<p>LW/RG</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>School visits <i>Cllr Galley</i></p> <p>Cllr Galley explained that he is in the process of getting a letter to the schools approved by ESCC officers so the letter can then be sent from SACRE to schools. We can then arrange a timetable of SACRE visits to schools to have a look at how RE is being taught.</p> <p>The visits will initially concentrate on secondary schools.</p> <p>It was agreed that the best approach would be to ask schools to suggest suitable dates for the visits but to write to the RE Department first and be clear about the objectives of the meeting and have a clear brief for each school for consistency.</p> <p>Chris Jeffery did suggest a SACRE member pairing up with an RE teacher but this would impact on the cost of supply teacher cover.</p> <p>We would aim to start the visits at the end of January 2016 through until April then commence again September/October 2016.</p> <p>The clerk to put together a programme and will contact SACRE members to establish</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

	<p>which areas they would be willing to cover.</p> <p>Cllr Galley stressed how important it is that we do something positive for RE and our schools.</p>	
10	<p>AOB</p> <p>LW gave the following two items of information from Peter Ward in his absence:</p> <p>The DfE Consultation on requiring 'at least 90% of pupils in all state funded schools' to study the EBacc - with its potential threat to curriculum time for GCSE and non-GCSE RE at KS4 - is open and closes on 29 January 2016. It may be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/473455/Consultation_on_implementing_the_English_Baccalaureate.pdf</p> <p>It was agreed that individuals of SACRE and also SACRE as a whole would respond to the EBacc consultation.</p> <p>Regarding Collective Worship, Peter also drew attention to the Arts & Humanities Research Council report on Collective Worship which may be accessed at http://www.alphagalileo.org/ViewItem.aspx?ItemId=158395&CultureCode=en and to another paper not unlike that of Clarke/Woodhead entitle 'RE for REal' which will be published on Thursday 26 November i.e. the day after the meeting and will be accessible at http://www.gold.ac.uk/faithsunit/reforreal/</p> <p>Jenni Osborn asked SACRE for suggestions on places of worship that her school could visit. It was suggested to contact the Interfaith Community.</p> <p>Cllr Galley thanked Andrew Jervis for all of his hard work and commitment to the East Sussex SACRE as this is his last meeting. Andrew explained he was leaving the SACRE due to work pressures. Everyone wished him well.</p>	All
	<p>Date of the next meeting (AGM): Thursday 11th February 2016 @ 2:00pm Chairman's Function Room, Westfield House, County Hall, Lewes BN7 1UE</p>	