



# Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the RUTLAND SACRE (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Tuesday, 12th July, 2016 at 4.30 pm

## **GROUP A – Representatives of other Churches and Faiths**

1.	Mr Andreas Menzies	The Roman Catholic Church
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## **GROUP B – Church of England Representatives**

2.	Mrs Barbara Crellin	Peterborough Diocese
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## **GROUP C – Teacher Representatives**

3.	Mr David Sharpe	Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)
4.	Mrs Megan Davis	National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)

## **GROUP D – Local Education Authority Representative**

5.	Miss Gale Waller (Chair)	Rutland County Council (Councillor)
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## **Local Education Authority Officers**

6.	Dr Rashida Sharif	Rutland County Council (Officer)
7.	Mrs Claire Snodin	Clerk

## **APOLOGIES:**

## **GROUP B – Church of England Representatives**

8.	Rev Jane Baxter	Rutland Deanery
9.	Mrs Joanna Harley	Rutland Deanery
10.	Mr Michael Kee	Peterborough Diocese

## **GROUP C – Teacher Representatives**

11.	Mrs Mary-Anne Marples	Co-opt Primary Head
12.	Mr Carl Smith	Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)
13.	Mrs Rebecca Grey	Co-opt Primary Head
14.	Mrs Sue McGrath	Secondary Consortium

## **GROUP D – Local Authority Officer**

15	Mrs Lucy Stephenson	Rutland County Councillor (Councillor)
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## **Co-opted Groups**

15.	Ms Katy Walker	Rutland Headteachers' Forum
16.	Mrs Sarah Reseigh	Unison (representing Teaching Assistants)

## 1 OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was read by Mr Andreas Menzies.

## 2 RECORD OF MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Rutland SACRE held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair following an amendment to Item 3.4 which would be amended from 'Philosophy and Ethics give me...' to "Philosophy and Ethics give me..."

## 3 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Appendix A of the Rutland SACRE Annual Report 2014/2015 had been updated, corrected and presented to the Children's Scrutiny Panel on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016.
2. Carol Snell confirmed that the Rutland Branch of the NUT has been disbanded.

### **AGREED:**

1. Mrs Snodin to contact Leicestershire NUT to find out who is the designated NUT representative for Rutland and to invite them to future SACRE meetings.

**ACTION: Mrs Snodin**

### **Agenda Item 12 was discussed at Miss Waller's request to tie in with Action No 3**

3. Miss Waller reported she had written to Lord Nash in March 2016 and that he had responded on 22 April 2016, a copy of which had been circulated, Miss Waller was pleased to see that the Government did not have any plans to remove the duty on local authorities to establish a SACRE. However, as the majority of Rutland Schools now have academy status, the group debated the point of SACRE given that academies do not have to follow the approved local syllabus. The point was made that Rutland is likely to be the first county to be all Academy and therefore the first SACRE in this position though Mr Sharpe commented there were likely to be other counties in a similar situation. Miss Waller said this was a good point and that she would look into which other local authorities are Academised. Miss Waller further suggested that we wait until the dust has settled and we know who the new Ministerial team would be, and if it were not Lord Nash she would write to the new incumbent. Also a new Chief Inspector of Schools is due in post in January 2017 which may impact on the current Contract. Mr Sharpe said we should review whether it was a good idea to write to the HMCIS at the next meeting. In the meantime Miss Waller would draft a new letter in anticipation of a new Minister of State for Education.

### **AGREED:**

1. Miss Waller would make enquiries regarding which other local authorities are academised.
2. Miss Waller to draft a letter in anticipation of the current administration being replaced when the new Prime Minister takes Office.

**ACTION: Miss Waller**

### **Agenda Item 7 was discussed to tie in with Action No. 4**

4. The results of the school survey had been circulated prior to the meeting. Responses had been received from 7 schools and feedback was positive although no secondary schools had responded. There was discussion about how to take these results forward. All responders requested training and support in assessment in Religious Education. Ms Katy Walker has asked the Diocese to do some work on assessment. Should SACRE be providing training? Mrs Crellin felt SACRE's role was signposting rather than provider though this is clearly where the need is. Miss Waller said she would contact Francis or Miranda from the Diocese about training. Dr Sharif was tasked with setting up an initial networking meeting for late September for RE teachers and Miss Waller said she would contact Ms Katy Walker and liaise with Dr Sharif.

**AGREED:**

- 1) Miss Waller to contact the Diocese about training for RE Teachers
- 2) Dr Sharif to set up initial networking meeting
- 3) Miss Waller to contact Ms Katy Walker and liaise with Dr Sharif regarding the content of the networking meeting

**ACTION: Miss Gale Waller  
Dr Rashida Sharif**

5. Completed
6. Mrs Megan Davies presented the SACRE Annual Report to the RCC Children's Scrutiny Panel on 28<sup>th</sup> April together with two students from Harington School. Miss Waller said Mrs Davies and the students did a brilliant job and this format really worked. The Scrutiny Panel supported the Annual Report.
7. Completed
8. See Agenda Item 6

#### **4 NASACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016**

Mr Andreas Menzies attended the NASACRE Annual Conference on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016. He supplied a written summary of the Conference and fed back to the members on what he felt had been the outcome of the Conference. This led to discussions on whether our current syllabus was all-encompassing as per Government Guidelines and the lack of foundation courses for those wishing to train as RE teachers. Mr Menzies said that his overall impression was a feeling of uncertainty for the future of SACRE. Further details could be found on the website [www.nasacre.org.uk](http://www.nasacre.org.uk)

#### **5 SELF-EVALUATION FORM**

Mrs Crellin provided a summary on the Rutland SACRE Self Evaluation. As a SACRE Mrs Crellin said it is clear that Rutland is streets ahead. We have a Chair who, as a Councillor, provides us with a clear route to the Local Authority and therefore the link is strong. The Toolkit focusses on 5 key aspects of the work of SACREs and Mrs Crellin would like us to look at where we feel we are – would anyone miss us SACREs were abolished. Mrs Crellin suggested that each of the 3 key stages, Developing SACREs, Establishing SACREs and Advanced SACREs be put on the next 3 consecutive Agendas for discussion. Mrs Crellin stated she felt the Rutland SACRE was well established but that we should aspire to Stage 3. Mrs Crellin suggested setting up a working group with Miss Waller, Mr Menzies, Mrs Davies and Mrs

Stephenson to meet before the RE Co-ordinators network meeting to look at the development plan.

**AGREED:**

Mrs Crellin to set up a working group before the networking meeting in late September. To advise Mrs Snodin of the agreed date so that she can book a room.

**ACTION: Mrs Crellin and Mrs Snodin**

**6 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Adjourned to next Meeting

**7 SCHOOL SURVEY**

Discussed under Action Point 4 above

**8 REVIEW OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS**

Schools in Rutland currently follow the Northampton Syllabus although there is no legal requirement. Whilst members agreed that no syllabus is perfect, the group recommended that the Local Authority approve the existing one Miss Waller requested that Dr Sharif contact SACRE and find out what the Local Authority is legally obliged to do with regards to adopting a 5-year syllabus for religious education. Mr Sharpe said that he had an email which stated the position and that he would send it to Dr Sharif. Miss Waller said she would talk to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council regarding this. Mrs Crellin said that Peterborough Cathedral has a new Educational Officer, Alex Garton and that she would forward Ms Garton's latest report to Miss Waller.

**AGREED:**

Dr Sharif to contact SACRE to clarify the legal position for Local Authorities regarding adoption of a syllabus for RE

Mr Sharpe to forward Dr Sharif the e mail referred to above.

Miss Waller to talk to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council

Mrs Crellin to forward Alex Garton's report to Miss Waller

**ACTION: Dr Sharif, Mr Sharpe, Miss Waller  
and Mrs Crellin**

**9 SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Dealt with

**10 OFSTED INSPECTION REPORTS**

**A) THE PARKS SCHOOL**

Miss Waller congratulated The Parks School on an exemplary Ofsted report. English Martyrs RC Primary School had also received a positive report from the Inspector. Two further schools had been inspected – St Nicholas C of E Primary School, Cottesmore and Empingham C of E Primary School and reports for these two schools are pending and should be received in time for the next SACRE meeting.

**AGREED:**

Miss Waller to write to the Parks School to congratulate the Head on their exemplary Ofsted Inspection.

**11 THE FUTURE OF ASSESSMENT IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Adjourned

**12 RESPONSE FROM LORD NASH**

Discussed under Action Point 2

**13 ANY URGENT BUSINESS**

No urgent business was tabled

**14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of the Rutland SACRE will take place on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and will be the AGM. Miss Waller stated that she will be stepping down as Chair and that the AGM will need to appoint a new Chair and Vice-Chair going forward. Miss Waller stated she would be happy to continue as a Member of SACRE and would hope that the new Chair would drive the Development Plan forward.

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**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6.28 pm.**

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