



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP
Telephone 01572 722577 Facsimile 01572 75307 DX28340 Oakham

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 October 2016 at 4.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

GROUP A – Representatives of other Churches and Faiths		
1.	Mrs Eileen Ray	The Methodist Church

GROUP B – Church of England Representatives		
2.	Mrs Barbara Crellin	Peterborough Diocese

GROUP D – Local Education Authority Representative		
3.	Miss Gale Waller (Chair)	Rutland County Council (Councillor)
4.	Mrs Lucy Stephenson (Vice Chair)	Rutland County Council (Councillor)

Local Education Authority Officers		
5.	Dr Rashida Sharif	Rutland County Council (Officer)
6.	Mrs Claire Snodin	Clerk

Co-opted Groups		
7.	Ms Katy Walker	Rutland Head Teachers' Forum

APOLOGIES:

GROUP A – Representatives of other Churches and Faiths		
8.	Mr Andreas Menzies	The Roman Catholic Church

GROUP C – Teacher Representatives		
7.	Mr David Sharpe	Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)
8.	Mrs Megan Davies	National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)
9.	Mr Neil Rawes	Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)

1 OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was read by Miss Gale Waller.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

At the start of this item the meeting was not quorate, it was decided to postpone this Action until the meeting was quorate.

3 RECORD OF MEETING

Deferred until the Meeting was quorate.

4. ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Mrs Snodin had contacted the local branch of the NUT and had been given a contact name for the Rutland Representative, Mr Steve Kelly. She had e mailed Mr Kelly and invited him to tonight's meeting but had not received a response. She will send a further e mail inviting Mr Kelly to attend the next SACRE in January 2017.

ACTION: Mrs Snodin

2. Miss Waller confirmed that Lord Nash was still in post and had not yet been replaced under the new administration. This will be revisited when a new person is in post.

ACTION: Miss Waller

3. No response from Diocese regarding the training of RE teachers. Mrs Crellin said there was a new person in post who is very good. There was a big push towards REQM for which there will be some funding. Mrs Crellin will forward the Diocese information leaflet to Miss Waller. The two main training events will be "Understanding Christianity" and "Islam in Britain".

ACTION: Mrs Crellin

4. Dr Sharif reported that there had been a delay in setting up the initial networking meeting. The feedback she had received from head teachers was that September was a difficult time to set up a new meeting as the academic year had just started and the school timetable was extremely busy between beginning of term and half term. Following this feedback, Dr Sharif will organise this event for between half term and Christmas. She will draft a letter to head teachers inviting them to the event. Dr Sharif also suggested mentioning the networking meeting in the fortnightly newsletter sent out by Mr Nick Brenton, Team Manager of the Learning and Skills Department to give it wider publicity within Rutland schools. Dr Sharif also suggested feeding this through the Rutland Teaching Alliance to invite external authorities. This was supported by the group

ACTION: Dr Sharif
AGENDA Item for next meeting

5. The content of the networking meeting was discussed. Miss Waller asked Dr Sharif to e mail Ms Walker and Mrs Megan Davis as active heads on SACRE and agree what should be included. Ms Walker said that PSHE/Prevent would need to make up a significant part of any networking group. Mrs Crellin said that we should let the group know about the agreed syllabus update. She also suggested asking participants to suggest three positives and three negatives to give the networking group an idea of where future training is needed.

ACTION: Dr Sharif

6. Action completed
7. Action completed
8. Action completed
9. Miss Waller confirmed that she had deliberately not yet spoken to the Leader and Chief Executive as no new syllabus had yet been agreed. Miss Waller and Mr Menzies had met with Ms Amanda Fitton, SACRE/RE Adviser to Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough the previous day and had requested that Rutland be allowed to participate in the writing of the new agreed syllabus which was currently underway. Miss Waller said that she would request funding so that we can pay for some of Ms Fitton's time. Ms Walker said that it was frustrating that it is Northants based. Miss Waller said that Ms Fitton was working on an on-line syllabus which is a positive development. Conference would want to see someone from Rutland participating and Miss Waller suggested that a head teacher would be appropriate. Ms Walker said this was a possibility but would prefer that it wait until safeguarding had been handed over. Miss Waller to speak to the Leader after feedback from the joint meeting. Miss Waller said the RE Newsletter contained lots of good ideas. Ms Walker talked about a recent reflection day at Peterborough Cathedral and said how great it would be to have such a day in Rutland which would be much more accessible for Rutland children. Though a great day out, Ms Walker felt that certain parts of the visit were rushed, such as looking around the Cathedral. It was also expensive and felt that this would exclude socially disadvantaged children. Mrs Crellin said she would feed these reflections back to the Diocese Board. This is to be put on the Agenda for the Networking meeting.

**ACTION: Miss Waller
Dr Sharif
Mrs Crellin**

10. Action completed
11. Letter to Parks School drafted and awaiting typing

ACTION: Mrs Snodin

5. SACRE MEMBERSHIP

Miss Waller said that she had e mailed the Diocese regarding membership of SACRE to see what they wanted to do about sending representatives. It is understood that Michael Kee is unwell but other Church of England representatives had not been present at the last 3 SACRE meetings. She has not yet received a reply. Mrs Crellin said she knew of people within the Deanery who were keen to come on board, namely Andrew David Rayment of St Mary the Virgin in Ketton. Miss Waller to write to the Deanery Synod to ask if anyone would like to join SACRE. In the meantime, the following people have been removed from the membership based on them not attending for 3 successive meetings:

Mrs Sue McGrath, Mrs Mary Anne Marples, Mrs Rebecca Gray and Mrs Sarah Reseigh.

ACTION: Miss Waller

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Mrs Eileen Ray joined the meeting at 5.20pm making the meeting quorate. The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and Item 2 was taken next.

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ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

It was proposed by Mrs Stephenson that Miss Waller would continue in her role as Chair. This was seconded by Ms Walker and carried unanimously.

Mrs Crellin nominated Mrs Stephenson as Vice Chair. This was seconded by Mrs Ray and carried unanimously.

AGREED:

1. Miss Waller would be Chair of the Rutland SACRE for 2016-2017
2. Mrs Stephenson would be Vice-Chair of the Rutland SACRE for 2016-2017

6. SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Miss Waller and Mrs Crellin had worked on the 2016-2017 Development Plan. The members were happy with the general vision statement which Miss Waller stated we were entitled to make as aspirational as the members liked. The members then went through each section. Mrs Stephenson represented Mr Sharpe's views during the discussion. Dr Sharif stated that she had received feedback from the Head of Learning and Skills to say that the Development Plan was too ambitious in terms of support from the local education authority member as there is limited capacity to support some of the items on the plan. Miss Waller made the point that officers are answerable to elected Members and not to implement elements of the plan would be doing a disservice to the children of Rutland.

During discussions the following changes/observations were made:

- 1.1 Miss Waller to send a short letter to heads of schools asking about compliance and time allocation with the agreed syllabus.
ACTION: Miss Waller
- 1.2 Considered outside SACRE's control but doesn't mean we do not monitor trends
- 1.3a Welcome return of this item on the Development Plan. Despite short notice everyone gave levels of progress. Ms Walker to develop a proforma. **ACTION: Ms Walker**
- 1.3b Put in because we thought we would have had an agreed syllabus by now. **AGENDA Item for next meeting**

- 1.4 This is obligatory
- 1.5 Leave date as July 2017 as SACRE are only developing a strategy at this stage and does not need to be a long document
- 2.2a Ongoing – Mr Sharpe’s comments were noted. Miss Waller plans to respond. If we manage to get an active non-Christian member then the opening prayer will be revised. **ACTION: Miss Waller**
- 2.3 Development Planning – deleted
- 2.4a Essential we carry out our statutory duties – agreed by all
- 2.4b SACRE have a duty to deliver but needs to be funded
- 2.4c Consideration to be given to whether Annual Report should be presented to Full Council. If it went to Full Council it would raise the profile and gravitas of SACRE. Miss Waller and Mrs Stephenson could present as Council Members. In the meantime Dr Sharif to work on the 2015-16 Annual Report for presentation at Children’s Scrutiny in April 2017. **ACTION: Dr Sharif. AGENDA Item for next meeting**
- 2.4d Already happening. Dr Sharif to write to all schools advising them to carry on with the current syllabus until further notice. **ACTION: Dr Sharif**
- 2.5 Could be done through Rutland Head Teachers Forum. **Action: Ms Walker**
- 2.6 Partners need to be identified so that we can learn from others who do not follow the Northamptonshire syllabus, i.e., English Martyrs who follow the Diocese of Nottingham Roman Catholic syllabus. Miss Waller has asked the Head of English Martyrs to come to a future SACRE meeting
- 3 Contact Northants – will have contacts we don’t have, for example, there must be a Jewish presence in Rutland, even though there is no synagogue. Is Mr Sharpe saying that interfaith relationships should be our top priority for 2017.
- 4.1 Secondary schools respond to the Collective Worship survey because we ask them to. This helps raise the profile of RE. Could ask secondary schools in Rutland if they wish to nominate a representative to be co-opted onto SACRE. To be revised next meeting. In the meantime, Ms Walker to sound out head teachers. **AGENDA Item for next meeting**
- 4.2 Delete “Create a document with agreed criteria for quality mark”
- 5.1 To be done by the Chair and Clerk

- 5.2 Delete in its entirety
- 5.3 Moved back to Spring 2018. The consensus was that schools would welcome directory of contact addresses. Whether they used it or not would be up to them
- Criteria section removed in its entirety

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Mrs Crellin left the meeting at 5.50pm

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**ACTION: Miss Waller to amend the draft plan and forward to Mrs Snodin
AGENDA Item for the next meeting**

7. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Ms Walker presented a paper entitled “Rutland Schools Approach to Collective Worship”. Overall Ms Walker is delighted with the quality of collective worship in Rutland schools with strong emphasis placed on the amount of time spent on collective worship. Ms Walker suggested that in terms of development, collective worship could be incorporated into the networking meeting alongside RE. Miss Waller said details of the networking meetings could be included in the SACRE website and she would also like RE and collective worship to be included as part of the Annual Report. Miss Waller and Mrs Stephenson agreed to have a pre-meet before taking this to the meeting with the Leader. Mrs Snodin to update the website in due course.

**ACTION: Miss Waller
Mrs Stephenson
Mrs Snodin**

8. OFSTED INSPECTION

Miss Waller congratulated Great Casterton CofE Primary School on an exemplary Ofsted Report. A recent monitoring visit to English Martyrs reported that they were maintaining their “good” status. Miss Waller to write to the head teachers to congratulate them on behalf of SACRE.

ACTION: Miss Waller

9. ANY URGENT BUSINESS

Dr Sharif presented a paper highlighting the GCSE results for RE courses for all three secondary academies. Overall progress was positive with Casterton coming in for particular praise as the top performing secondary school. Dr Sharif said it was a shame that more students were not given the opportunity to get a qualification in RE. Miss Waller to write to the academies to congratulate them on their results.

ACTION: Miss Waller

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Rutland SACRE will take place on Tuesday, 24th January 2017 at 4.30pm in the Council Chamber. Miss Waller requested that Mrs Snodin feed through to the person responsible for compiling the Calendar of Meetings for 2017-2018 that the 4th Tuesday of every month be avoided for SACRE meetings as one of the members is unavailable at that time.

ACTION: Mrs Snodin

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The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.

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**DISTRIBUTION;
MEMBERS OF THE RUTLAND SACRE (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION):**

Miss G Waller, (Chair)	Mr D. Sharpe
Mrs L. Stephenson (Vice Chair)	Ms K. Walker
Mr A Menzies	Mrs M. Davis
Mrs E. Ray	Dr R. Sharif
Mrs B. Crellin	Mr C. Smith
Mr M. Kee	Mr N. Rawes
Rev J Baxter	