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Rutland County Council

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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, 4th April, 2017 at 4.30 pm

PRESENT:

GROUP A – Representatives of other Churches and Faiths		
1.	Mr Andreas Menzies	The Roman Catholic Church
2.	Mrs Eileen Ray	The Methodist Church
3.	Mrs Julie Barnwell	The Baptist Church

GROUP B – Church of England Representatives		
4.	Mrs Barbara Crellin	Peterborough Diocese
5.	Mrs Sara Barrett	Rutland Deanery

GROUP C – Teacher Representatives		
6.	Mrs Megan Davis	National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)
7.	Mr David Sharpe	Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)

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

Local Education Authority Officers		
10.	Ms Gill Curtis	Head of Learning and Skills, RCC
11.	Mrs Amanda Fitton	SACRE/RE Adviser, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland County Council (Officer)
12.	Mrs Claire Snodin	Clerk, RCC
13.	Mr Kit Silcock	Clerk, RCC

Observers		
14.	Mrs Anne Platt	Representing Mrs Liz Youngman, Peterborough Diocese
15.	Dr Martyn Smith	Philosophy and Ethics Department, Harington School, Oakham

APOLOGIES:

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

The Chair welcomed Mrs Sara Barrett representing the Rutland Deanery, Mrs Anne Platt, representing the Peterborough Diocese, Dr Martyn Smith from Harington College, Mrs Amanda Fitton, SACRE/RE Adviser, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland County Council and Mr Kit Silcock, incoming Clerk to SACRE with effect from the next meeting. A round of introductions took place for the benefit of those new to the meeting.

The Chair said she had made contact with someone from the Quakers who would like to attend the Rutland SACRE meetings and hoped that she would be able to introduce them at the next meeting.

Mr David Sharpe stated that this may be his last Rutland SACRE meeting as his Union was being amalgamated with the NUT and he was unsure of his future role. He would keep us informed.

ACTION: Miss Waller

1 OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was read by Mr Andreas Menzies

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None were received

3 RECORD OF MEETING

The Minutes of the Rutland Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held on 24th January 2017 were approved.

4 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

All Actions from the Previous Meeting have been confirmed as completed.

The Chair invited Dr Martyn Smith from Harington College to say a few words about Harington College's approach to the teaching of Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Ethics.

- I) Dr Smith confirmed that Harington was very enthusiastic about the subject and was a viable course for next year. The first cohort of 11 students was hitting target grades and numbers had increased this year to 19 with fractionally more for next year. AS level was no longer offered with pupils studying A level as a linear subject with an examination at the end covering three topics – philosophy, ethics and theology. Dr Smith described the pupils as veraciously on board with their enthusiasm. Some pupils had formed a Theological Book Group of their own volition and had been extremely enthusiastic about providing quotes for the Rutland SACRE Annual Report. Mrs Barbara Crellin seconded what was happening at Harington and said it was wonderful to see a happy enthusiastic teacher inspiring pupils.
- II) The Chair asked Dr Smith if he had any comments on the new syllabus. Dr Smith said he found there was an overlap from the past but in general the syllabus allowed for a wide range of academic ability and that all

pupils needed to be was enthusiastic and interested. He said that he had pupils with predicted grades of D through to pupils of Oxbridge standard ability. All that was required was for students to throw themselves open to learning. Dr Smith said that the syllabus was very vigorous.

- III) Mr Sharpe commented that he had many years' experience of working with the Examination Board and the first year of the A level syllabus was of undergraduate level. He feared that this would lead to more failures as the safety net had now been withdrawn.

5 ANNUAL REPORT

- I) The Chair thanked Mr Andreas Menzies for sending through some quotes from the pupils at Harington, some of which she had selected for incorporation into the draft Annual Report. Miss Waller felt we had incorporated everything into the Report that we said we would and would ask Mrs Snodin to amend and finalise the report. Following this, the Report would be presented to the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel on 4th May 2017 so that Members got to see the work of the Rutland SACRE. The Chair hoped that a couple of the Harington students could come and speak to Panel. Dr Smith said he had four very enthusiastic pupils all of whom desperately wanted to be able to address the Panel. Mrs Lucy Stephenson commented that it was really important that the report was given due credence by the Panel. Mrs Eileen Ray felt that 20 minutes would be adequate for all four pupils to have their say and would make a good show of what SACRE was trying to achieve. The Chair agreed that all four pupils should attend and asked Dr Smith to ensure that the pupils agree between themselves what they would say. She suggested that they address the following:
 - i) What they got out of their GCSE
 - ii) Why they chose to do A Level Religious Studies B: Philosophy & Ethics
 - iii) Focus on the value of learning
 - iv) Focus on transferable skills
- II) Mr Sharpe commented that it would be helpful if one of the pupils pointed out what the assessment objectives were – an understanding of other people, their beliefs and tolerance thus strengthening the case for having Religious Education on the Curriculum.
- III) Mrs Fitton suggested looking at the NATRE website (www.natre.org.uk) which she said was very informative and useful.
- IV) Mrs Anne Platt observed that both the Ofsted Report of June 2016 and SIAMS Report of March 2016 for Great Casterton were missing from the Annual Report. Miss Waller apologised for this and said this would be amended accordingly.

ACTION: Miss Waller/Mrs Snodin

6 FEEDBACK FROM NETWORK MEETING

The Chair asked Mrs Fitton to feed back on the Rutland RE/Collective Worship Network Meeting which took place at Oakham CofE Primary School on Monday, 13th March 2017 (Minutes previously circulated).

- I) A newsletter was to be produced to complement the one that goes out from the Diocese. It would focus on any news and events and also act as a reminder to Head teachers of their statutory requirements. The first newsletter from the group would go out as a draft.
- II) Mrs Fitton fed back that Head teachers welcomed the opportunity to attend training courses which she would be facilitating, particularly around assessment strategies. These training courses would be in addition to those provided by the Diocese. Mrs Crellin stated that some training courses might be covered by in service level agreement and could therefore be attended at no additional cost.
- III) New SIAMS procedures were being introduced in September. The Chair asked Mrs Stephenson, who taught in a non-church school, if she had any comments. Mrs Stephenson felt that foundation subjects were being pushed down the pecking order, for example, only 40 minutes per week being given to PSHE. Non church schools were not bound by SIAMS but were bound by Ofsted. Mr Sharpe pointed out that he had been working with one multi-academy trust that had dropped Religious Education by Year 7 or 8.
- IV) Ms Gill Curtis stated she would be happy to advertise the Network Meeting in the fortnightly Head teachers' Bulletin. Mrs Fitton said she would prepare something for the bulletin and forward it to Ms Curtis.
ACTION: Mrs Fitton
- V) The Chair stated she was very pleased the Network was up and running as it had been one of Rutland SACRE's key objectives. She was concerned that the link to the SACRE Webpage appeared to have been lost in the recent relaunch of the RCC Website. She requested that this be chased up so that information about the Network Meetings could be put on our Webpage.
ACTION: Mr Silcock

7 UPDATE ON NATIONAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEVELOPMENTS AT KEY STAGE 4 AND POST-16

A presentation was received from Mr Sharpe on the examination process for Religious Studies as it stood and changes due to be introduced from 2018 going forward. Mr Sharpe stated that the curriculum was changing for all Religious Studies subjects. At the request of Mr Sharpe, a copy of the presentation is appended at the end of the Minutes.

EXAMINATIONS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES - PRESENTATION

8 OFSTED AND SIAMS/DCIR

The Empingham Ofsted report had been discussed at a previous meeting.

- I The Chair congratulated English Martyrs on receiving a good overall rating and receiving an outstanding rating for the quality of the Catholic life of the school. The Chair said it was very interesting to compare the DCIR inspection with that of SIAMS. She would write to Ms Chambers, Head of English Martyrs, to congratulate her on the school's achievement.

ACTION: Miss Waller/Mrs Snodin

- II Ryhall CofE Primary School had gone for the RE quality mark and had achieved Bronze which the Chair states was an outstanding achievement. Ms Walker has stated that she is confident that next time they will get a silver or gold. Mrs Fitton said that one of the schools in Wellingborough had achieved a Gold rating and that she would liaise with them so see what they had done to get to that standard and would feed back at the next Network Meeting. The Chair would send a letter to Ms Walker to congratulate her on the school's achievement.

ACTION: Miss Waller/Mrs Snodin

9 SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Chair stated that now we had a new Adviser and a new Head of Service for Learning and Skills in post, she would like for her and the Vice-Chair, Mrs Stephenson to meet with either of them to make the Development Plan adhere to SMART objectives.

ACTION: Mrs Snodin/Mr Silcock

10 NASACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2017 NASACRE Annual Conference will take place at the Hilton Hotel, York on 16th May 2017. The Chair was due to attend but due to a clash of commitments was now unable to. The Chair asked if anyone else would be willing and able to attend. Mrs Fitton states she was attending in her capacity as SACRE/RE Adviser. Mr Menzies said he would attend in place of the Chair.

11 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

- I The Chair asked Mrs Fitton to talk about current developments with the agreed syllabus. Mrs Fitton said that Ms Walker had joined the group to work on the Framework for the new syllabus and that work had started to put it together. All Rutland Schools with the exception of English Martyrs, would be adopting the new syllabus. The areas had agreed that the syllabus would be available as downloadable PDFs. It was planned that the syllabus would be similar to the national curriculum. Mrs Fitton stated that the plan was to pilot the syllabus before rolling it out. It was hoped that the new syllabus would be ready to be piloted by September 2017, be available to schools by Easter 2017 and rolled out across the areas by September 2018. Mrs Fitton stated she would send the Clerk the last set of Minutes.

ACTION: Mrs Fitton

II The Chair confirmed that the new syllabus would have to be approved by Council and would need to be adopted by the end of January/February 2018 in time for schools to introduce it. The Chair asked Mr Silcock to put this into the system as a draft Agenda Item for Council early in 2018.

ACTION: Mr Silcock

III Mrs Ray asked that her name be added to the distribution list and it had been missed off.

ACTION: Mrs Snodin

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A provisional date for the next meeting was set as Tuesday, 27th June 2017 at 4.30pm. This will be confirmed when Council confirm the Programme of Meeting for 2017/2018

ACTION: Mr Silcock

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 18.18

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DISTRIBUTION

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

Miss G Waller (Chairman)	
Mrs L Stephenson (Vice Chair)	Mr M Kee
Mr A Menzies	Mrs B Crellin
Mr C Smith	Mr D Sharpe
Mrs E Ray	Mrs S Barrett
Mrs J Barnwell	Ms K Walker
Ms A. Fitton	Mrs M Davis

OTHER MEMBERS FOR INFORMATION

**EXAMINATIONS IN
RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

2018 -

Present Situation

- **ENTRY LEVEL (Below GCSE grade G)**
- **GCSE**
- **GCE**

ENTRY LEVEL

- 4 GRADES 3 2 1 U
- Target entry: those who would not gain a level 3 at the end of KS2.

2018 -

- No direct replacement
- Does not count towards League tables/Progress 8

GCSE

- 4 Awarding Bodies –
AQA,
Edexcel/Pearsons,
OCR, WJEC

GCSE

- AO1 (Describe, explain and analyse, using knowledge and understanding) 50%
- AO2 (Use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights, and different viewpoints) 50%

GCSE - Content

- Either reflect the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking into account the teaching and practices of other principal religions represented in Great Britain (in which case students must not be required to study more than two principal religions in addition to Christianity)
- Or support the study of Christianity and/or one or two other principal religions only.

2018 -

- AO1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief (religious and non-religious) including
 - Beliefs, practices and sources of authority
 - Influence on individuals
 - Similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs50%
(Knowledge in isolation maximum 20%)
- Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence 50%

Religions to be studied

- Christianity/ Catholic Christianity
- Buddhism
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Sikhism
- Humanism/Atheism as part of Philosophy and Ethics

Areas of Study

- Religious Philosophical and Ethical Studies (4 topics)
- OR
- 2 topics plus Textual Studies from 1 or 2 religions (2 themes)

Study of religion

- Beliefs and Teachings
- Practices
- Sources of Wisdom and Authority
- Forms of expression and ways of life

Assessment

- AQA – Either 6 religions plus 2 textual (Christian) and 2 Philosophy and Ethics OR 4 Philosophy and Ethics
- OR – Catholic Christianity Plus Islam/Judaism
- Eduqas – Either 4 Philosophy and Ethics, Christianity, Other religion
- OR – Catholic Christianity plus Judaism
- OCR - Religion (No Sikhism nor Catholic Christianity) plus Philosophy and Ethics
- Pearsons - Study of Religion (Catholic Christianity, Christianity and Islam)
- Study of Second Religion (Catholic Christianity, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism).
- Students must then complete one assessment from either:
- Philosophy and Ethics (Catholic Christianity, Christianity and Islam)
- Textual Studies (Mark's Gospel or The Qur'an)

GCE 2018 -

- Study of a religion plus Philosophy and Ethics/Textual Studies
- Weightings changed: A01 40% (previously 60%)
AO2 60% (previously 40%)
- AS weightings now 50% for AO2 (formerly 33.3%)
- AS no longer is part of A level

