



# Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP.

Telephone 01572 722577 Email [governance@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:governance@rutland.gov.uk)

Minutes of the **MEETING of the RUTLAND SACRE (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham on Tuesday, 8th October, 2019 at 4.30 pm

## PRESENT:

<b>GROUP A – Representatives of other Churches and Faiths</b>	
Mr A Hull	Humanists UK
Mr A Menzies	The Roman Catholic Church

<b>GROUP B – Church of England Representatives</b>	
The Revd. Dr P Holmes	Peterborough Diocese

<b>GROUP D – Local Education Authority Representative</b>	
Mrs L Stephenson (Chair)	Rutland County Council (Councillor)
Mrs R Powell (Vice Chair)	Rutland County Council (Councillor)

<b>Local Education Authority Officers</b>	
Ms G Curtis	Head of Learning and Skills, RCC
Mrs A Fitton	SACRE/RE Advisor, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland County Council (Officer)
Mrs J Morley	Governance Officer, RCC
Ms L Papworth	Education Development Lead, RCC

## 291 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Julie Barnwell, Gurdev Singh and Aga Cahn.

## 292 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Governance officer opened the meeting and asked for nominations for the position of Chairman. Mrs Stephenson was nominated by Mrs Powell and seconded by Mr Menzies. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken and a unanimous vote for Mrs Stephenson was given.

Mrs Stephenson took the Chair and asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. Mrs Powell was nominated by Mrs Stephenson and seconded by Mr Menzies and received a unanimous vote in favour of her appointment.

## RESOLVED

1. That Mrs Stephenson be **APPOINTED** Chair of SACRE
2. That Mrs Powell be **APPOINTED** Vice-Chair of SACRE

## **293 RECORD OF MEETING**

The record of the meeting of the Rutland Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held on 9 July 2019 was confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **294 RUTLAND SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19**

During discussion the following comments were made:

- i. Mr Singh, who was unable to attend the meeting, had sent his comments to the Chair and remarked that the Annual Report read positively and that it embraced the challenges ahead.
- ii. The Chair was happy with the revisions that had been made to the introduction of the report.

## **295 COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. It was reported that the Church in Wales had already changed the name of Religious Education (RE) to Religious World Views and had stopped parents being able to remove their children from these lessons.
- ii. Reverend Holmes clarified that there was a Church *of* England and a Church *in* Wales. England was a state religion and in Wales it was not, which meant that they did not have the same restrictions that applied here.
- iii. The Chair asked whether the Committee should be providing a formal response to the recommendations and all Members agreed that they should be challenging the Commission to debate the issues.
- iv. The National SACRE had called for individual SACREs to respond to the recommendations
- v. If the Committee was saying that RE was an essential part of a child's education then it should be included and explicitly mentioned in OFSTED reports.
- vi. The Committee felt that the recommendations warranted further debate and agreed that recommendation 1 and 4 would be considered again at the January SACRE meeting and recommendations 2 and 3 at the March meeting by which time there should be some reports that gave an indication of the inspection framework.
- vii. Mrs Fitton would put together documentation to provide further background information on the recommendations and would circulate it to the rest of the group before the next meetings.

## **296 DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

During discussion the following comments were noted:

- i. Mr Singh in his emailed comments to the Chair, had requested that SACRE consider each strategy in turn and ask themselves "how did the child benefit from the work on this area?" .It should then focus most of its energies where the child benefited most.
- ii. The Plan should be clearer on how success was measured.

### Management of SACRE and partnership with the Local Authority

- i. The partnership between the Local Authority and SACRE was a statutory requirement.
- ii. Members questioned whether management of the committee should include monitoring attendance and representation.
- iii. The Committee agreed that there should be an additional column to the Plan, headed Outcomes, which would enable SACRE to monitor success.

### Effectiveness of Locally Agreed Syllabus

- i. Reverend Holmes shared with the group a hard copy of the syllabus that was now available from the Diocese of Peterborough.
- ii. The Peterborough syllabus was not an agreed syllabus and differed from the syllabus which every SACRE had and that lasted for five years.
- iii. Not all the major religions and world views were taught at the different Key Stages.
- iv. Assessing effectiveness was subjective unless specific measures such as GCSE or A level take-up were used.
- v. Members suggested that the strategy heading "Effectiveness of Locally Agreed Syllabus" should be replaced with the "Effectiveness of Cross-Curriculum Links".

### To engage all Rutland schools with SACRE and promote sharing of good practice and standing RE

- i. Engagement with Rutland schools was critical and should be the main focus of SACRE
- ii. RE had been promoted as part of the wider curriculum in Rutland schools by integrating RE into the Council's promoting literacy project.
- iii. Council educational initiatives were open to all schools, regardless of whether they were academies or not. All 17 Rutland primary schools had engaged with the literacy project and all attendees had been recorded.
- iv. A pupil voice conference for the children of service families had been an opportunity to engage with schools to think about their curriculum.
- v. In contrast to OFSTED, the Council were not notified about the release of any SIAMS (School Inspection Anglican and Methodist Schools) reports and would have to go looking for the information.
- vi. Schools had requested more information on other religions and how they linked to the history curriculum; for example the Sikhs who fought in WW1.

### Put together a list of Visits and Visitors for all schools to help promote community cohesion and understanding of different faiths.

- i. Rather than having just a list of providers, it would be more useful to monitor and review the number of visits by representatives of the different faiths.

### Review of Collective Worship

- i. There was confusion between what should be covered in a collective worship and how that differed from material covered in an RE lesson.
- ii. Schools often asked for additional materials for their collective worship.
- iii. Most secondary schools did not have collective worship.
- iv. The theme of a collective worship should be considered in the context of what was happening at school at that time.

- v. Humanists did not like the term 'collective worship' and preferred the term 'assemblies'.
- vi. Members were asked to consider what they could do as a SACRE group to provide materials for a collective worship that brought the whole school together.
- vii. It was highlighted that children could be withdrawn from a collective worship but not from an assembly.

**RESOLVED:**

1. The Chair would circulate to the Committee a revised draft of the Development Plan based on the discussion at the meeting and invite further comment from members.
2. The Committee unanimously agreed that the Development Plan should cover a period of two years from 2019-2021.

**297 UPDATES**

Work was continuing on training and network meetings were in place.

**298 ANY URGENT BUSINESS**

Ms Lizzie Papworth would be taking over from Ms Gill Curtis as the Council's lead officer to the Committee. The Chair thanked Ms Curtis for all her hard work for Rutland SACRE and this was echoed by all the other members of the committee.

**299 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday 21 January 2019 at 4.30pm.

---oOo---

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 17.35

---oOo---