



Rutland County Council

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the RUTLAND SACRE (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)** held via Zoom on Tuesday, 8th March, 2022 at 4.30 pm

PRESENT:

GROUP A – Representatives of faiths (other than Church of England) and world views	
Andrew Hull	Humanists UK
Bjorn Finke	The Roman Catholic Church
Gurdev Singh	The Sikh Faith

GROUP B – Church of England Representatives	
Rev Peter Holmes	Peterborough Diocese
Rev James McWhirter	Peterborough Diocese

GROUP C – Teacher Representatives	
Megan Davis	National Association of Head Teachers

GROUP D – Local Education Authority Representatives	
Councillor R Powell	Rutland County Councillor

Local Education Authority Officers	
Amanda Fitton	SACRE/RE Advisor, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland County Council
Stacey Potter	Executive Officer, RCC

APOLOGIES:

Gill Curtis	Head of Learning and Skills, RCC
Rev James McWhirter	Peterborough Diocese
Elizabeth Papworth	Education Development Lead, RCC
Councillor L Stephenson	Rutland County Councillor

1 A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

The committee undertook a moment for reflection.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor L Stephenson, Elizabeth Papworth and Rev James McWhirter.

3 RECORD OF MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2022 were considered and **AGREED** as a true record of the proceedings.

4 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor R Powell confirmed that the Agreed Syllabus and Network meeting dates had been placed onto the Rutland County Council website.

Councillor R Powell would be updating Full Council at the March or April meeting on the work of the Rutland SACRE.

5 UPDATE ON AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

Amanda Fitton, SACRE and Religious Education Advisor, provided an update on the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- Revd Dr Peter Holmes, Church of England Representative had undertaken some work on Religion and Worldviews, and this would be discussed at the next conference meeting on 30 March 2022.
- Stacey Potter would contact Laura Corcoran, SACRE clerk for Peterborough City Council to share Rutland SACRE Members contact details for the purpose of attending the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 30 March 2022.

Action: Stacey Potter

- The SACRE Advisor confirmed that the conference meeting would be taking place via Microsoft Teams and would ensure that all Rutland SACRE Members had access to the Agreed Syllabus Conference reports and minutes.

Action: Amanda Fitton

- The SACRE Advisor had been in discussions with two teachers and had started to look at the concepts and pedagogy in relation to the Religious Education Council's report from 2018 on the National Entitlements and had created some recommendations. A presentation outlining how these may look in the Agreed Syllabus was being created to share at the next conference.
- The SACRE Advisor would be meeting with primary school teachers to look at assessments and what assessment and progression looks like.
- Revd Dr Peter Holmes, Church of England Representative stated that on the Statement of Entitlement there was a definition of the term Worldviews and advised that a discussion needed to take place as the definition was quite narrow and may require expanding. The SACRE Advisor stated that it would be beneficial for a small group to work together on defining the definition and would discuss this with the Peterborough SACRE Chair.

Action: Amanda Fitton

- Revd Dr Peter Holmes, Church of England Representative advised Members that a request had been made by the Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference in relation to the Rutland SACRE Constitution and the inclusion of a section detailing the Agreed Syllabus Conference, membership and financial contributions. Stacey Potter would share these with Members, and this would be discussed at the next SACRE Board meeting.

Action: Stacey Potter

6 NASACRE SELF EVALUATION TOOLKIT

Councillor R Powell proposed that item 1 and 5 of the NASACRE Self Evaluation Toolkit be discussed.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

Key Area: 1e - Information and advice

How well informed is SACRE in order to be able to advise the LA appropriately?

- The SACRE Adviser stated that with academisation and SACRE's not being able to go into schools to make judgement this was difficult. SACRE were relying on Ofsted reports, and the Ofsted website for information and public exams.
- Gurdev Singh, representative of the Sikh Faith suggested that there was too much information and not enough insight behind the information shared.
- The SACRE Adviser stated that Officers were not always invited into schools.
- Councillor R Powell stated that regular information was provided but more insight was needed, and this was difficult to improve with the current structure.
- The SACRE Adviser stated that it would be useful to invite schools to a future SACRE Board meeting.

Action: Stacey Potter

Key Area: 1f - Partnerships with key stakeholders

What partnerships does the SACRE have with key local and national stakeholders, and what quality are these?

- Several Rutland SACRE Members had attended the National Conference and had undertaken various training.
- Councillor R Powell stated that it would be useful to hear the views of pupils and suggested that schools share comments from pupils at a future SACRE meeting.

Action: Stacey Potter

Key Area: 1g – Relations with the Academies sector

How effectively is SACRE encouraging academies etc to see themselves also as stakeholders in their local area, specifically by devising ways in which an academies presence is incorporated into SACRE itself?

- The SACRE Adviser stated that academies were attending the Network meetings regularly and the teacher representative on the Rutland SACRE was part of an academy school.
- Megan Davies, representative of the National Association of Head Teachers outlined that by the end of the next academic year there would only be one school within Rutland that was a Local Authority school. There were several academy trusts within Rutland, and it would not be wise to state that the Rutland SACRE had a great relationship with academies. The teacher representative was representing teachers and not all of the academies in the area. The links needed to be strengthened.
- The SACRE Adviser stated that it would be beneficial to have more teacher representatives on the SACRE Board and to look at the teachers and pupils as a whole rather than the type of school.

- In response to a question from Bjoern Finke, representative of the Roman Catholic Faith asking if there were any links to independent schools, the SACRE Adviser confirmed that there were currently no links but that it would be useful to reach out to them.
- Councillor R Powell suggested that the Rutland SACRE needed to strengthen its relationships with academies and the independent sector.

Action: All Members

Key Area: 5a – SACRE's membership

How representative is SACRE's membership of the local community?

- The SACRE Adviser had tried to contact Aga Cahn, representative of the Jewish Faith but this had not proved successful. Stacey Potter to email Aga to advise that as no response had been received, could another representative be recommended to join the Rutland SACRE. Sheila Gewolb from the Board of Deputies of British Jews would be included within the email.

Action: Stacey Potter

- In response to a question from Bjoern Finke, representative of the Roman Catholic Faith asking if the Rutland SACRE had a representative from the Muslim Faith, The SACRE Adviser would contact the Chair of the Peterborough SACRE to see if they could recommend a representative.

Action: Amanda Fitton

- Members agreed that the Rutland SACRE was Established within area 5a, but this would be continuously reviewed.

Key Area: 5b SACRE's understanding of the local area.

How much do SACRE members know and understand the local community in its religious, cultural and ethnic dimensions?

- The SACRE Adviser confirmed that the census information would be published towards September 2022.

Key Area: 5c – SACRE's engagement with the community cohesion agenda. How much does SACRE understand the contribution which RE/CW can make to a schools' provision for community cohesion?

- Councillor R Powell suggested training to be provided regarding what the key area meant in practice.

Key Area: 5d – SACRE's role within wider LA initiatives on community cohesion. How well is SACRE linked to or consulted about LA initiatives promoting community cohesion?

- Megan Davis, teacher representative stated that community cohesion was not just about Religion and was also in relation to bringing together all areas of the community and this was being focussed on within schools.
- The SACRE Adviser confirmed that Ministry of Defence schools had their own SACRE. The SACRE Adviser would contact the Chair to invite them to attend a future Rutland SACRE meeting to discuss how they met the needs of their children within their SACRE.

Action: Amanda Fitton

7 SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020-22

The Council **CONSIDERED** the SACRE Development Plan for 2020-22 and an update would be undertaken following the completion of the Self Evaluation Toolkit.

8 TRAINING ATTENDED BY SACRE MEMBERS

Amanda Fitton, SACRE and Religious Education Advisor, had attended the NASACRE Worldviews webinar and was attending 'An Approach to Decolonising Teaching about Jesus in Primary Schools' training delivered by Culham St Gabriel's.

The SACRE Adviser confirmed that the NASACRE annual conference would be taking place in Birmingham. Councillor R Powell asked if there was any designated funding available in the Rutland SACRE budget for Member training.

Action: Stacey Potter

9 UPDATE ON NETWORK MEETINGS

Amanda Fitton, SACRE and Religious Education Advisor, confirmed that the Network meetings were on 24th and 29th March. Gurdev Singh, representative of the Sikh Faith would be attending to answer any question in relation to the Sikh Religion and both meetings would be held jointly with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

10 MONITORING OF RE IN SCHOOLS AND OFSTED INSPECTION REPORTS

Amanda Fitton, SACRE and Religious Education Advisor, confirmed that there were no updates.

11 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

To be confirmed following the publication of the Programme of Meetings 2022/23.

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.28 pm.

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