



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 via Zoom on Tuesday, 29th November, 2022 at 4.30 pm

PRESENT:

GROUP A – Representatives of faiths (other than Church of England) and world views		
1.	Andrew Hull (VICE CHAIR)	Humanists UK
2.	Gurdev Singh (CHAIR)	The Sikh Faith

GROUP B – Church of England Representatives		
3.	Daniel Alfieri	Peterborough Diocese

GROUP C – Teacher Representatives		
4.	Megan Davis	Primary Teacher Representative
5.	Mary-Anne Marples	Primary Teacher Representative

GROUP D – Local Education Authority Representatives		
6.	Councillor S Webb	Rutland County Councillor

Local Education Authority Officers		
7.	Amanda Fitton	SACRE/RE Advisor, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland County Council
8.	Lizzie Papworth	Service Manager – Learning and Skills, RCC
9.	Jane Narey (CLERK)	Scrutiny Officer, RCC

APOLOGIES:

10.	Sheila Gewolb	The Jewish Faith
11.	Councillor R Powell	Rutland County Councillor

ABSENT:

12.	Rhoda Gibson	The Baptist Church
13.	Bjoern Finke	The Roman Catholic Church
14.	James McWhirter (Revd)	Rutland Deanery
15.	Cara Topping	Primary Teacher Representative
16.	Councillor D Blanksby	Rutland County Councillor

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Sheila Gewolb and Councillor Powell but Councillor S Webb attended the meeting as her representative.

2 RECORD OF MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th September 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

3 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Action 1

Daniel informed attendees that the Diocese had confirmed that there was currently no mechanism in place to record the quality of RE in Schools. However, Rutland Head Teachers were due to meet together with the Diocese to see how information could be collated, possibly through a self-audit. It was agreed that Daniel would give an update at the November SACRE meeting with the action plan to be completed for the January meeting.

Daniel had gone through all recent inspection reports and compiled any comments regarding the teaching of RE and the overall inspection grade – data from Daniel (copy attached). It was agreed that Daniel would distribute a short self-evaluation questionnaire for headteachers to complete regarding the quality of RE teaching in Rutland schools.

ACTION: Daniel Alfieri

Action 2

Shelia informed the group that central government was updating the White Paper after Academies had originally been told they did not need to follow an RE Syllabus when they should in fact follow the same guidelines as community schools. Update to be given at the November meeting.

It was reported that no update on the White Paper had been received from central government but that an update would be given to all members when it was.

Action 3

New RE Legislation in Wales - Amanda to circulate a briefing to members on the new no 'opt-out' for religious education in Wales.

Action outstanding. Amanda to circulate and collate comments for November SACRE meeting.

Members were informed that an email had been sent on the 7th September 2022 with a statement attached regarding the new rules for religious education in Wales.

Action 4

The final Agreed Syllabus 2023-28 would be discussed/approved by Rutland's Cabinet on the 7th March 2023 and it was agreed that Gill Curtis, Head of Learning and Skills would brief Councillor David Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services prior to the meeting.

Action noted and would be completed nearer the Cabinet meeting in March 2023.

Action 5

The Chair requested that the Agreed Syllabus 2023-28, the communication plan and a draft copy of the Cabinet report be ready for review at the November SACRE meeting. Revd James McWhirter also requested that a brief overview be provided.

It was noted that a meeting to approve the final draft of the agreed syllabus and the communication plan would be held on Thursday, 1st December to further discussed.

Action 6

Councillor Powell stated that a clear briefing would be required for when the Agreed Syllabus was discussed at Cabinet in March 2023 and queried when the report would go to Council. Jane said she would check and notify members.

It was confirmed that an email had been sent to all members on the 16th September informing them that the SACRE Agreed Syllabus would be discussed/approved at RCC's Cabinet meeting on the 7th March 2023.

Action 7

- *It was agreed that Lizzie would arrange for a letter of congratulation be sent to schools regarding the exam results on behalf of the Rutland SACRE.*
- *It was agreed that Lizzie would contact schools to find out how many of the RE teachers were subject specialists.*
- *It was agreed that Lizzie would create a comparison table between Rutland and its statistical neighbours detailing the number of pupils studying RE.*

It was confirmed that a letter had been drafted and that the Chair would have final approval before it was sent to schools.

It was noted that all the RE teachers had confirmed they were subject specialists.

It was confirmed that a comparison table had been completed and this would be circulated to members for their information.

Action 8

Members agreed that they would feedback any comments regarding the Draft Annual Report to Governance ready for the November meeting to be approved. All comments to be sent to governance@rutland.gov.uk

It was agreed that the draft Annual Report would be re-sent for members' comments.

Action 9

The Chair requested that all details regarding public media and websites be listed in the Agreed Syllabus communications plan.

It was confirmed that the communications plan would contain the details requested by the group.

4 AGREED SYLLABUS 2023-2028

An update was received from Amanda Fitton, SACRE/RE Advisor, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland County Council on the Agreed Syllabus 2023-2028 and the Communication Plan. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The draft statutory documents had been written but needed finalising and would be discussed/approved at the Agreed Syllabus Conference: Joint Planning on Thursday, 1st December.
- The Agreed Syllabus would then be sent out to SACRE members for comment.
- Any comments regarding the wording within the document should be sent to Amanda Fitton, SACRE/RE Advisor (amanda.fitton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

5 TRAINING OFFER

Details were received from Amanda Fitton, SACRE/RE Advisor, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland County Council regarding the available training on offer to SACRE members. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Rutland SACRE had paid the £50 annual fee so all training provided by NASACRE would be free to all Rutland SACRE members.
- Full training course details were available from the NASACRE website: www.nasacre.org.uk
- It was also noted that Humanist UK also provided free training courses for SACRE members. Details could be found on their website: www.humanists.uk

6 NASACRE SELF-EVALUATION TOOLKIT

- The last section (Section 4) of the NASACRE Self-Evaluation Toolkit was reviewed and updated accordingly.
- It was agreed that the now fully completed self-evaluation toolkit would be circulated to all members with the minutes of the meeting and with the next meeting's agenda to help discussion regarding the SACRE development plan.

7 UPDATE ON NETWORK MEETINGS

An update was received from Amanda Fitton, SACRE Advisor. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- It had been agreed that the network meetings needed to be revised.
- It was agreed that Amanda would meet with Mary-Anne, Megan and Daniel to gain schools feedback as to what schools actually wanted from the network meetings and to discuss the possibility of inter-county meetings with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

ACTION: Amanda Fitton

- Network meetings had previously been held in-person but it was proposed that virtual meetings would be better attended as per Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.
- Members were informed that Lesley Pollard's role as the RE Advisor for the Diocese of Peterborough would now be undertaken by Jane Lewis in her role as the Assistant Diocesan Director of Education for the Diocese of Peterborough.

8 TRAINING ATTENDED BY SACRE MEMBERS

- No training courses had been attended by members.
- Full training course details were available from the NASACRE website: www.nasacre.org.uk

9 MONITORING OF RE IN SCHOOLS AND OFSTED INSPECTIONS REPORT

- It was confirmed that no recent Ofsted inspections had been held since the last SACRE meeting.

10 FORWARD PLAN

- The Forward Plan was discussed and updated accordingly.
- The Agreed Syllabus Launch was confirmed as the 15 June 2023 and a notification would be sent to all schools presently.

11 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

- Amanda reported that the new census data had been received. Full details would be circulated with the minutes.
- Andrew reported that a free online discussion by the House of Commons would be available for members to listen to on the 6th December regarding RE and Collective Worship. The details would be sent to Jane for circulation to members.
- Members were informed that two members of Rutland SACRE had resigned: Fiona Wilce and the Rev Peter Holmes. It was agreed that Jane would contact the Peterborough Diocese and the Rutland Deanery for representatives of the Rutland SACRE.
- Thanks were expressed by the Chair, Vice Chair and the SACRE/RE Advisor to Fiona and Peter for all their hard work and support to the Rutland SACRE.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

A SPECIAL meeting of the Rutland SACRE would be held on Tuesday, 31st January 2023 at 4.30 p.m.

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The Chair declared the meeting closed at 5.26 pm.

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SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

No.	Ref:	Action	Allocated to:
1	3	Daniel to distribute a short self-evaluation questionnaire for headteachers to complete regarding the quality of RE teaching in Rutland schools.	Daniel Alfieri
2	7	Amanda to meet with Mary-Anne, Megan and Daniel to gain schools feedback as to what schools actually wanted from the network meetings and to discuss the possibility of inter-county meetings with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.	Amanda Fitton