

# Minutes of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

05/11/2024 – MS Teams

## Present

Name	Role/Representative	Initials
Bev Petch (Chair)	Senior Education Improvement Adviser	BP
Ian Carnell	Church of England and United Reformed Churches	IC
Donna Grosvenor	Teacher, St Mary & St Margaret's CE Primary	DG
Anne Hollis	Dorridge Primary School	AH
Cecil Knight	Methodist Church representative	CK
Michael Lancashire	Humanist representative	ML
Hannah Lowe	Teacher, Tudor Grange Academy, Solihull	HL
Rabbi Pink	Solihull Jewish Congregation	RP
Afifa Tufail	Solihull Muslim Association	AT
Paul Wilkinson	Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-Day Saints	PW

Cllr Heather Delaney	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Cllr HD
Cllr Annette Mackenzie	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Cllr AM
Cllr Wazma Qais	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Cllr WQ
Cllr Alison Wilson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Cllr AW

## Apologies

David Harris	Education Adviser – Catholic Schools	DH
Cllr Sardul Marwa	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Cllr SM
Louise Mortimer	Teacher, Tudor Grange Academy, Solihull	LM
Cllr Prish Sharma	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Cllr PS

**Note taker:** Kim Sherlock (KES)

Consent was sought and given by attendees for today's meeting to be recorded.

## **Welcome and introductions**

BP welcomed everyone to the meeting. Before the meeting started, Cllr WQ declared her interest in the agenda item around DfE, as she is one of their employees. BP asked KES to email Cllr WQ a declaration of interest form to complete to formally log that conflict of interest.

**Action:** KES to send declaration of interest form to Cllr WQ.  
(Still awaiting confirmation of the current form to be used by HR).

## **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 02/10/2024 were checked for accuracy and, with the following amendments, approved:

- Councillor HD was present at the meeting.
- Supplementary materials – DG had attended training from Birmingham Diocese and from this she now had access to Understanding Christianity, published by RE Today.

## **Outcome of Chair's meeting with RE Today**

At the last meeting, BP said she would meet with RE Today and look at the costs.

They had suggested spreading the cost across two financial years. The full cost of £9,000 could be paid in two parts; £4,500 this financial year and £4,500 paid at the start of the next financial year.

There are additional materials available for schools to buy into i.e. lesson planning and ways forward in terms of teaching and learning, but BP had concerns about schools' finance.

When RE Today presented in March they talked about creating a bespoke, agreed syllabus for a local area, and having a secondary RE adviser. However, BP said Solihull would not need a secondary adviser because most of our schools are primary and that most teachers in secondaries are RE specialists. Part of the package will include a primary RE adviser.

Each school will be invited to the launch and will have a syllabus licence and receive some continuing professional development. They will be able to buy at a reduced cost (around 1/3) so hopefully this will be doable for headteachers' budgets. However, schools must decide to either buy additional material or not, depending on the circumstances of the school.

There will be a twilight live webinar, which will be free, to show schools how to use the schemes of work.

RE Today will also be launching a national online CPD programme, consisting of six training sessions over an academic year, which will be free.

There will be a colour printable syllabus, and each school will get a 5-year licence.

They will provide some marketing materials for promoting the scheme of work to schools.

BP said members need to be clear about what Solihull wants in the new agreed syllabus and have had many conversations around a much stronger focus on world views and religious and non-religious traditions.

There are some things that are required by RE Today within a certain timescale and Chris asked for some artwork from our children in Solihull to be included in the new design. They also need six weeks' notice between the front cover and the artwork design and would like everything to be signed off by the end of January.

ML asked about the kind of materials they need from us. He felt RE Today's approach was ideal, but that they must be clear about what they need from SACRE members.

## **Discussion: how will we effectively consult with schools and when**

At the last meeting, members talked about consultation with schools as this work is for our children and our teachers/teaching assistants to ensure that our children and young people develop really good RE knowledge.

BP said members need time to think about content and asked if KES could send members a copy of the current agreed syllabus. She said it was important to manage the process.

**Action:** KES to send copy of current syllabus to all members.

DG asked for a list of the faiths within the Solihull area so they can all be included, and would members see the proposal once it has been drafted.

**Action:** ML to send a copy of the current census data to all members.

BP said she would send out a Microsoft form to all schools via headlines.

Cllr WQ said she thought the form should include open-ended questions so there is an opportunity for schools to record their comments.

**Action:** BP to create a Microsoft form to send out to all schools.

BP had developed briefing papers for governors and delivered a new training course on 17 October which had been well received. She was considering sending out the

slides from the training to every school, even if they haven't brought into the governor services package. She was thinking about sharing the course information with the four school collaboratives.

**Action:** BP to send members a copy of the briefing papers.

She reminded members that the local authority has a statutory duty to fund the work of the SACRE.

As Chair, she is happy to send a letter to the local authority outlining that SACRE are working hard to ensure that all children and young people in Solihull have better RE provision.

DG liked the phrase "change better RE to **quality** RE" used by BP.

**Action:** BP to send a draft copy of the letter to members to make any alternations/adjustments.

## **Update about regional RE Hubs**

BP gave members an update on the West Midlands RE hubs. The lead for Solihull is Chris Giles. The hubs are for those RE teachers/leads who work in schools and is a useful opportunity to find out more information.

There are different sections including:

- Providing a school speaker who can come and contribute to the RE provision.
- Calendar of events that are taking place across the West Midlands and nationally.
- Finding places of interest in your local area and groups.
- Resource centres in the area.
- ITT and ECT/NQT support.

ML asked if it was possible to advertise any latest RE news through this channel.

BP said she would look at what the new section looks like but reminded members that every Monday morning, Headlines is emailed to every headteacher, chair of governors and school bursars and this is where the link to the Microsoft form would be advertised. However, it might be worth letting the West Midlands hub know that Solihull SACRE is recommending to the council that they have a new agreed syllabus drawn up by RE Today, in partnership with the SACRE and Solihull schools.

## **AOB – electing a vice-chair to the SACRE (update)**

Following the agreed syllabus conference last month, KES said that she hadn't received any nominations for the role of Vice-Chair.

BP suggested that as the next meeting is not until January, it would be helpful if members email KES by **Monday 25 November**, with their nominations and that KES will contact the person(s) nominated to ask if they are happy to be considered for the role.

The next meeting on Wednesday the 15th of January will be an agreed syllabus conference.

## **NASACRE 'Call for evidence' response for DfE curriculum review**

BP shared two slides with information from NASACRE, regarding their response to the DfE curriculum review. NASACRE are urging all SACREs to consider submitting evidence they have about their local RE. However, DG said that the timescale to submit a response was soon – 22 November. If there had been longer to respond, members could have included this item at their last meeting. ML said the government had launched it on 19 July, the day before schools broke up for the summer holiday.

BP suggested that members could either send individual thoughts to KES to collate or form a small task and finish group that will compile a response from Solihull SACRE.

ML, DG and HL said they were happy to be part of the group and BP said she would send out a potential meeting date. DG said to avoid Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays as they are her non-working days. HL said her school day usually finishes at 3pm on a Tuesday and a Friday and at 4pm on the other days.

BP thanked everyone who attended the meeting which closed at 5:45pm.

I confirm that these minutes are a true and accurate representation of the SACRE meeting.



Bev Petch, Chair of Solihull SACRE, 05/11/2024