

**ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)
THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2024**

Present:-

Group 1

T. Williams (Vice-Chair)

D. Homer

A. Griffin

Group 2

H. Lambert (Chair)

Group 3

L. Melvin

S. Yaseen

Group 4

Councillor Cusworth

Councillor Ismail

Also in attendance was Vanessa Gregory (SACRE Advisor).

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

24. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no matters of business for which it was deemed necessary to exclude members of the public or press.

25. NOMINATION OF VICE-CHAIR

Resolved:- That Anthony Griffin be appointed Vice-Chair of SACRE for the 2024/2025 Academic Year.

26. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the last meeting on 19 September 2024, were approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

27. CPD UPDATE

The Chair provided an update to the Committee on CPD training, during which the following was noted:

- The Chair and the SACRE Advisor led the primary school subject

leaders training session, which focused on the new Deep and Meaningful Ofsted Review Report. The report focused on what good religious education looked like.

- The Chair would circulate the Deep and Meaningful Ofsted Review Report and the presentation from the primary school subject leaders training session, to members of SACRE.
- The Chair attended a National SACRE Microsoft Teams meeting, National SACRE had submitted the following to the Department of Education's curriculum review:
 - Relating to the non-statutory National Content Standard for Religious Education, National SACRE called for all religious education syllabus providers such as RE Today, to build upon the work of the National Content Standard, to provide a clear framework for all schools to be held accountable for the religious education that they provided for their pupils. At present, as religious education was not part of the mandatory curriculum, many pupils were at risk of not receiving a high-quality religious education and it was felt that a national solution needed to be bigger than just community schools.
 - National SACRE supported religious education, to continue to contribute to statutory requirements to schools, to promote spiritual, moral, social, cultural development and community cohesion. Religious education along with other curriculum subjects, provided helpful experiences with knowledge and understanding of diversity and difference, within the local community, regionally, nationally, and globally in terms of religious literacy.
 - National SACRE was concerned with the level of local funding for SACRE's work and its impact on syllabus development. National SACRE would like to see ring-fenced funding for the support for religious education and SACRE's. A Freedom of Information Report provided evidence of SACRE's not being funded or being given adequate professional support, to review and publish an agreed syllabus.
 - National SACRE was concerned about how a SACRE's work could be limited through a lack of budget, to provide local high quality CPD for teachers.
 - National SACRE had concerns from its analysis of SACRE Annual Reports and local authorities meeting the legal requirement to submit their annual report to the Department of Education.
 - National SACRE was working well with religious education hubs; this was improving their ability to bring SACRE's together locally.
 - National SACRE looked at how SACRE's functioned and what could be improved. National SACRE wanted to see the legislation reviewed to ensure it would be fit for purpose in the current education system.

- The Religious Education Council for England and Wales also sent a submission to the Department of Education's curriculum review. The Religious Education Council for England and Wales had expressed concern relating to the national curriculum, it was felt important to keep a degree of flexibility in the national curriculum, relating to focusing on the religious profile of each area.
- SACRE members felt that some local authorities were a small size to develop a local curriculum, it was suggested that the South Yorkshire local authorities could consider completing combined work regionally, on the local curriculum.
- A member of Rotherham SACRE contacted Sheffield SACRE to ask whether Rotherham and Sheffield SACRE could complete collaborated work, Sheffield SACRE were happy to consider this option.

28. FEEDBACK FROM INTER FAITH WEEK 2024

An update on Inter Faith Week 2024 was provided to the Committee and the following was noted:

- Three Primary Schools and one Secondary School requested attendance from faith members for Inter Faith Week. The groups were led in pairs of two, representing two different faiths.
- The attendee's used the Inter Faith website poster which covered a lot of different faiths. A general introduction was completed and both attendee's read out their own individual faith quotation from the poster and asked each other questions on how they applied it to their everyday lives.
- The feedback from the participating schools was very positive, although there wasn't much interaction from pupils during the session, on-going discussions took place in classes after the session. A parent had approached one attendee to provide positive feedback and advise that their child enjoyed the session at school.
- It was agreed that this would be repeated on an annual basis, the event would be planned earlier next year to ensure wider involvement.
- The SACRE Advisor asked if any members present would like to volunteer to represent their faith at the Teachers Professional Development meeting on 4th February 2025. The Governance Advisor agreed to email the SACRE Advisor with a list of members who had volunteered.
- The Vice-Chair advised that they had a contact who was a representative of the Jewish faith who may wish to become a member of SACRE. The Vice-Chair agreed to make contact with the representative and advise the Governance Advisor if they would like to become a SACRE member.
- The Cabinet Member for Childrens and Young Peoples Services would find out whether Wingfield Academy could be invited to the

Harms of Hate Event. The details of the event would be shared with the Governance Advisor, to be circulated to members.

29. SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024/2025

This agenda item provided an update to SACRE members on the SACRE Development Plan for 2024/2025, during which the following was noted:

- **Objective 1- continue to develop RE subject knowledge for Rotherham primary teachers and subject leaders:**
 - This was on-going.
 - **Objective 2- Review and carry out determinations for collective worship:**
 - SACRE would arrange for a member to attend Thornhill Primary School in the New Year to carry out their determination.
 - **Objective 3- Develop links with Sheffield and Doncaster SACRE's:**
 - Further thought would be given to this.
 - **Objective 4- Provide support to enhance provision in RE in schools:**
 - A list of visits and visitors would be developed.
 - **Objective 5- Increase prominence of RE through the Rewards celebration:**
 - No REward nominations had been received.
 - The REwards would be advertised at the Subject Teacher Meetings.
 - The members present who were teachers would nominate some areas of practise that they had previously identified.
 - The REward Categories would be circulated again to members via the Governance Advisor.
 - There was no application form for the REwards.
- The Development Plan was a working document which would be updated throughout the year.

30. SACRE CONSTITUTION/TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATE

The Governance Advisor for the Committee provided a high-level update on the review of the SACRE Constitution and Terms of Reference, during which the following was noted:

- The Constitution and Terms of Reference were in the process of being reviewed. A combined document had been drafted and would be reviewed by the from the Monitoring Officer.
- Guidance from National SACRE and benchmarking with other local

authorities had led to some proposed amendments to the document.

- The document would be circulated in the New Year and would be brought back to the next SACRE meeting for discussion and consideration by members.
- The key changes so far included the following:
 - Statutory responsibilities for SACRE, for example the process of the SACRE Annual Report.
 - Further detail captured on relevant processes such as co-optee's, the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair and terms of office.
 - Additional detail to the responsibilities of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Governance Advisor and SACRE Advisor positions.

31. ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024 UPDATE

This agenda item provided an update to SACRE members on the Annual Report for 2023-2024, during which the following was noted:

- The Chair had begun drafting the Annual Report.
- The Governance Advisor would provide information on a summary of the meetings, attendee's, venue and key actions captured.
- The Annual Report would need to go through the correct governance process for approvals and noting, as the Committee was a Council appointed body. Clarification would be sought on the precise process, including which directorate would be responsible for the report.

32. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no matters of urgent business raised.