

**OXFORDSHIRE
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Minutes of the Oxfordshire SACRE Meeting
held online, Tuesday 8th June 2021 at 5:10 pm**

Present: [SD = standing deputy]

Committee A: World Faiths, Christian Denominations

Giles Beck (SD)
Steve Beegoo
Sarah Montagu
Sheikh Ramzy

Committee B: Church of England

Helen Norman
Christine Price-Smith
Carol Worthington

Committee C: Teacher representatives

Christian McGuinness

Committee D: Local Authority

Councillor Bob Johnston

Co-opted Members

Nigel Fancourt - Vice Chair, acting as Chair
Margaret Godden

In attendance:

Helen Batten (Clerk)
Bill Moore (Advisor to SACRE)
Jane Ratcliffe (Local Authority)

Apologies:

Nicholas Wood (A)
Arzhia Habibi (Co-opted)

Meeting quorum was confirmed

2 Minutes of 3rd March 2021 & matters arising

Minutes were approved without amendment.

Minutes were ratified by members of committees not represented at the meeting.

BM reported on matters arising as follows:

- **Vision & Strategy:** NF, BM and JR will be meeting before the end of the academic year, to complete some preparatory work ready for September.
- **NASACRE funding report:** The report will be considered as part of the Vision & Strategy [V&S] work.
- **SACRE Chair:** The next meeting will confirm arrangements for the 2021-22 academic year.

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- **Constitution:** The review of the current constitution will form part of the V&S discussion. This will need to take into account any impact of legal processes currently in hand. However, government direction is not expected and the decision regarding representation by different groups will therefore rest with the local authority, informed by a recommendation from SACRE.
- **Monitoring school websites:** It is intended to return to this work during the next academic year.

3 Ofsted review of research on RE

BM introduced the report, emphasising that it is not a review of RE provision in schools but research on RE itself and reflects a significant shift in Ofsted's approach to focus on particular subject areas. The report provides plenty of useful material for schools to engage with, and enquiries about Ofsted expectations for RE are being raised. The review does not suggest that any changes are required, but the new syllabus will need to take account of its contents. Ongoing messaging for schools needs to emphasise that Ofsted will be looking at the quality of the curriculum in all subjects.

4 NASACRE conference

Delegates provided brief feedback on the workshop sessions attended:

- CW reported that a discussions around future Ofsted requirements picked up the points previously discussed. Recent positive developments were welcomed although there is continuing concern that RE does not receive sufficient emphasis.
- HN and SB attended sessions exploring how SACREs can help to make RE better so that it provides what Ofsted want to see. High quality materials to support the syllabus are vital, and a number of examples were presented. HN felt that a particularly useful example was videos featuring people from local communities talking about their faith. This sort of discussion can be very hard to arrange in schools, and SACRE might therefore consider this is a future project. SB shared information about the award for schools offered by Gloucestershire SACRE, which helps to raise the profile of RE and the SACRE, and suggested that it would be useful to look at whether Oxfordshire could follow this approach. NF confirmed that V&S will look at what SACRE is trying to achieve with appropriate support from the local authority, and the initiatives described can be brought into this discussion.
- BM attended a session on annual reports and development of SACREs which provided further useful ideas for the V&S work. Another discussion looked at how SACREs can monitor RE, which will support development of that work next year.

5 SACRE annual report 2019-20

The final report had been circulated. BM confirmed that he will be working with Charles Mathew on the Chairman's introduction, to be added.

The report was approved for distribution.

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6 2021-22 meeting arrangements

It was agreed that remote meetings have delivered some benefits, and to look at a mixed model for the next year. Given current uncertainties, the next meeting will take place online.

BM advised it will also be important to consider how SACRE links with schools, and to look at holding some meetings in different areas. V&S can recommend an approach.

Action: BM will provide a recommendation for meeting arrangements, for discussion at the autumn meeting.

7 AOB

It was suggested that it will be useful for the next meeting to consider how SACRE should respond to Covid issues, since the impact of the pandemic is being felt across all communities in a variety of ways.

NF thanked everyone for their attendance and input and closed the meeting at 5:45 pm.