

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting held on 05 March 2020 at 4.30 pm

Present:-

L Ford-Horne (Committee A) – Chairman

C Smith (Committee C) – Vice-Chairman

Present:

Committee A: R Lawton, B Joshi, S Hawksworth, D Kenchington, P Thomson and S Knight

Committee B: N Coupe

Committee C: V Saunders

Committee D: Cllrs B Dion and M Le Poidevin

Co-opted: D Pegg and A Harris

Also in attendance: D Rees, RE Consultant and J Coleman and G Pinder (BCP Council)

13. Welcome and Opening Reflection

The Chairman welcomed Salimata Knight as a new member of Committee A representing Buddhist SGI UK.

The Chairman noted the excellent turnout at the meeting.

The Vice-Chairman began the meeting with a period of Reflection.

14. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Ruth Lawrence (Joint Vice-Chair) (Committee C); Nigel Ford and Bharati Joshi (both Committee A); Jane Kelly and Ian Terry (both Committee B); Karen Barker and Trevor Willis (both Committee C) and Councillor Nicola Greene (Committee D).

The Clerk reminded the meeting about the rules relating to substitution as set out in the Constitution whereby substitutes for any particular meeting could be appointed only from a list of named substitutes agreed annually at the end of the academic year. Before the next meeting, the Clerk would be inviting members who wished to do so to nominate substitutes for formal approval at the meeting.

15. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

16. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2019 and the final agreed version of the BCP SACRE Constitution were presented for consideration.

Some minor typographical corrections within the BCP SACRE Constitution were identified within the agreed version. It was also noted that the reference within the list of members of Committee A to the 'LDS Church' be set out in full as the 'Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints'. These minor changes to be made by the Clerk.

RESOLVED

That subject to the above, the minutes of the meeting of BCP SACRE held on 13 November 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

17. BCP SACRE Action Plan; Priorities for the current financial year and Budget for 2020/21

The BCP SACRE Action Plan updated as at February 2020 was noted The annual subscription to NASACRE continued to represent value for money providing access to a range of network events and opportunities.

It was confirmed that the annual budget for BCP SACRE was now held within a budget line of the budget for the School Improvement Team. The level of budget remained at £5000 per annum although that would double on a one-off basis during the agreed year of the RE syllabus review. Julia Coleman, the BCP Council 0-19 Team Strategic Manager was the Budget holder within BCP Council.

The Council remained ambitious for Religious Education within Schools in the BCP Council area and the work of BCP SACRE continued to have a positive impact on the subject teaching, presenting a sound platform for further development and promoting good practice across all schools. The retention and development of good Religious Education teachers remained a key to success.

It was agreed that further discussion about allocation of the available budget alongside the exploration of possible additional funding sources would be a useful subject for discussion at a future meeting. The way that internally and externally sourced consultancy support was resourced could also be reviewed at that time. There was also an opportunity now to consider the possible benefits from working more closely with the Dorset Council SACRE.

18. Key Stage 4 and 5 Examination results and Examination entries

Consideration was given to the outcomes of Key Stage assessments and examination results across the BCP area for the 2018/19 cohort and this was the first report on religious studies data since formation of BCP Council. Full analysis of the results was presented and, overall, good performance was recorded. There were a number of areas identified for further attention and areas of priority attention had been identified including retention of students on courses and equality of access to the subject. Comparative data about the take up at different schools was also presented. Officers would discuss this with the Chairman in the first instance with a view to deciding what elements to bring back to BCP SACRE for further analysis.

The meeting thanked the officers in the Childrens' Services team that had brought together the data for consideration.

19. NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) Regional Ambassador – Update

The NATRE Regional Ambassador, Laura Harris, delivered a presentation about the national programme of support for Religious Education training. She explained the role of a Regional Ambassador and it was clear that the initiative of NATRE was starting to have a positive impact on the effectiveness of SACREs across the country. The range of national support and resources for teachers and for SACREs was set out and described. Although both the Dorset SACREs were functioning well, performance was reported to be very variable across the country and the aim was to encourage schools to connect and to promote the sharing of good quality resources across as many schools as possible. It was agreed that the presentation slides would be circulated electronically to SACRE members.

20. OFSTED Inspections - Monitoring reports and supporting schools

It was suggested by the Chair and agreed that a small sub-group be brought together to look at OFSTED reports and to identify lessons that could be learnt more broadly from the OFSTED reports from individual schools. This was recognised as a way in which SACRE could support schools.

The Chair agreed to liaise with officers. Members interested in being part of the sub-group were invited to notify the Clerk and Chair accordingly. Deneen Kenchington expresses an interest to be involved.

21. Using Understanding Christianity, Discovery RE and general RE

BCP SACRE members were referred to the 'Discovery RE' model which was available as a resource for teachers.

22. HMD (Holocaust Memorial Day) and update on 'Many Faiths Together'

The Chair reported on the recent Memorial Day event at the Lighthouse Theatre in Poole which had been extremely well attended by pupils from local schools with some 450 attending. There was the possibility in the future to make this an even larger event and the potential, if agreed, to use part of BCP SACRE funding as well as to involve NATRE. It was agreed that following further discussion between the Chair and officers, a further report would be submitted to the next meeting for discussion.

The Chair also described a 'Many Faiths Together' scheme to talk to Year 8 pupils in schools about the Holocaust and the Chair would continue to have an involvement in this initiative notwithstanding the end of initial funding for the project.

The Chair also advised that she would be writing to two schools in the BCP area congratulating them on their selection to be involved in the Holocaust memorial commemorative flames project.

23. Networks - Update

Nicola Coupe, Salisbury Dioceses representative circulated a note to SACREs from the Lead Practitioners Hub of the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education. Notifications of a number of forthcoming training events and conferences were set out. The note also included a useful analysis of the outcomes of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools ('SIAMS') analysis and feedback from a working group considering a possible locally agreed syllabus with Wiltshire and Dorset SACREs.

24. Dillington Conference - feedback

External BCP SACRE consultant David Rees reported that he had recently attended the annual Dillington Conference and would make a comprehensive report back to the next BCP SACRE meeting.

25. NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on RE) - Information about Annual General Meeting

The Annual Meeting of NASACRE was scheduled for the 18th May 2020.

26. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be on Wednesday 24 June 2020 at 4.30pm at St Lukes Primary School in Bournemouth.

The meeting ended at 6.30 pm

CHAIRMAN