



Minutes

**Hertfordshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
Held on 09.02.2023 at Redbourn Primary School**

Present:

Name	Governor Type
Terry Douris	Authority Representative
Fiona Guest	Authority Representative
Fiona Hill	Authority Representative
Mark Watkin	Authority Representative (CHAIR)
Miss Rachel Griffiths	Church of England Representative
Ryan Parker	Church of England Representative
Mr Andrew Wellbeloved	Church of England Representative
Mrs Juliet Lyal	Co-opted Member
Tulsi Seva Dasi	Faith Representative
Mrs Kavaljit Dev	Faith Representative
Revd John Fellows	Faith Representative
Jackie Roberts	Faith Representative
Randula Haththotuwa	Faith Representative
Wendy Lidgate	Faith Representative
Mrs Maggie Wright	Faith Representative
Ms Elizabeth Ellis	Teacher Association Representative
Miss Emma Fenn	Teacher Association Representative
Mrs Ali Mackintosh	Teacher Association Representative
Alison McLauchlin	Teacher Association Representative
Laura Passmore	Teacher Association Representative
Helen Venn	Teacher Association Representative

In Attendance:

Bill Moore	RE Specialist Adviser
Juliet Whitehead	LA Servicing Officer
Shammi Rahman	HfL Education, Race Equality Adviser
Karin Hutchinson	HfL Education, Lead Wellbeing Adviser
Rabbi Mr Reynold Rosenberg	Chair of Herts Inter Faith Forum
Nish Sabur	Chesbrook ESC
Cllr. Chris Lloyd	

Apologies for Absence:


Christopher Alley	Authority Representative
Pete Bennett	Co-opted Member
Mrs Ellie Olmer	Faith Representative


Absent:


Mr Idrees Qureshi	Faith Representative
Asif Khan	Authority Representative
Margaret Eames-Petersen	Co-opted Member


Documentation circulated in advance of the meeting:


 Hertfordshire SACRE Agenda

 Item 3a Draft minutes of Sacre Meeting 29.09.2022

 Item 3b Draft minutes of Agreed Syllabus Conference Meeting 29.09.2022final

 Item 6 Analysis of RE examination data between 2019 cohort and

 Item 9a Work Plan 2022-23_WITH LASprogress Feb 2023

 Item 9b Budget 2022-23

	Item	Action
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Meeting opened at: 14.00		
1	<p>Welcome:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair welcomed colleagues to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He explained the remit of SACRE for the guests attending the meeting. 	
2	<p>To consider absences and declarations of interest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies were received and accepted, and absence noted as detailed in the table above. Confirmation was given that there are no conflicts of interest on the agenda Action: JW to look at SACRE Constitution and see what it states about those SACRE members who do not provide apologies and whose attendance has not been good. Action: Nish Sabur to be co-opted to SACRE until we receive nomination from his Union when he can become a full Teacher representative. 	<p>Juliet Whitehead Juliet Whitehead/T racey Middleton</p>
3	<p>Agree previous minutes and consider matters arising from the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the meeting held on 29.09.2022 which were circulated in advance of the meeting were reviewed. Liz Ellis noted that she had given her apologies in advance of the meeting so the minutes will be amended to reflect this. With this amendment the minutes were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising. ACTION: Signed minutes to be forwarded to JW for filing 	<p>Juliet Whitehead, Mark Watkin</p>
3	<p>Launch of Agreed Syllabus Conference on 25 April 2023 update:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> JW provided an update. The conference is booked for 25 April and will take place at Hertfordshire Development Centre, Stevenage in the Oak Room. Primary session (pm) is fully booked with 22 on the waiting list. Secondary session (am) has 43 delegates which is approximately 50% of the total of Hertfordshire secondary schools. There is space for 10 stalls for exhibitors. Currently we have 6 confirmed exhibitors representing Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Judaism. We would like to have all principal religions practised across Hertfordshire represented so we are missing an Islam representative. (Post meeting note REQM has now also confirmed that they would like a stand). BM informed members that the Conference would have 2 high quality key note speakers: for secondary this would be Deborah Weston, NATRE Research Officer and Katie Freeman who is NATRE Chair for the Primary session. BM explained that we were working at finding a way to open up the secondary session to those primary delegates on the waiting list. We are in 	

	<p>discussions with Katie Freeman to see if she could also present her key note in the morning in a separate room for primary delegates.</p> <p>8. JW explained that all SACRE members are welcome but please to the morning session only because of capacity issues.</p> <p>9. AW asked if the conference could be recorded.</p> <p>10. MW thanked JW for all her hard work on the conference so far.</p> <p>11. Action: SACRE members are asked to let JW and BM know if they have any links to possible Islam representative for an exhibitor stand.</p> <p>12. BM to contact Idrees Qureshi and Asif Khan to see if either is able to arrange for a Muslim exhibitor.</p> <p>13. JW to explore further with HfL Education about recording the conference for those delegates unable to attend.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>Bill Moore Juliet Whitehead</p>
4	<p>The Advisory Council noted the update</p> <p>Agreed Syllabus Support Materials and CPD update:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> JW gave an update on CPD to be held during the summer term 2023 (May/June) to help teachers with the implementation of the new Syllabus. There will be 2 online sessions for secondary teachers and 4 face to face sessions for primary teachers together with one online session. The online sessions will be recorded and published on the Grid for those teachers unable to attend. 4 venues have been sourced. They are Herts County Hall, Fearnhill School, the University of Hertfordshire and a primary school to be sourced via SARETT in the St Albans/Harpenden area. These will be free to delegates. Action: JW to send out dates for the CPD asap. 	<p>Juliet Whitehead</p>
5	<p>The Advisory Council noted the update</p> <p>Monitoring of secondary schools and data on examinations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> JF introduced this item. He explained that 52 responses have been received to the secondary questionnaire undertaken during summer term 2022. The responses have been collated into an excel spreadsheet. He has continued to work on the missing schools that didn't respond and where possible added information to the excel spreadsheet. Has completed 70 responses in total. One of the main issues being picked up is difficulties with RE teacher recruitment. A letter has been sent to all headteachers thanking schools for responding, setting out analysis of main issues and setting out next steps for SACRE and the likely timetable. This letter was shared with members at the meeting. It was noted that the letter also explains that SACRE has other opportunities to monitor the RE offer for those schools that didn't respond to the questionnaire. 28 schools requested a SACRE visit. JF noted that we are unsure what kind of visit the schools are looking for. JF suggested SACRE asks schools to clarify need. 	

	<p>8. BM explained that training will be provided for members who are willing and able to help out with these visits but was clear that this would not be in a professional capacity but rather a way for SACRE members to find out more about what the school offers in terms of RE curriculum. Rather like a governor type visit. What we want is to collect information on good practice. Any support for improving RE would come from BM's time.</p> <p>9. Action: JF/BM/JW to work on a survey to send out to those 28 schools to gain an understanding of what type of visit the schools are expecting.</p> <p>10. Action: SACRE members to indicate if they would like training on visits and would be willing to undertake visits.</p> <p>11. BM explained the exam data that had been shared in advance of the meeting. This showed exam entries in 2019 and 2022. BM noted that there was a caveat to the data in that there are some inaccuracies, so SACRE needs to liaise with HfL Education to ensure that any errors are rectified.</p> <p>12. BM noted that although there is no data for KS3 as Core RE is not examined and we are still waiting for KS5 data that the information we do have together with the secondary monitoring and the website work, we are beginning to get a clearer picture of what is happening across Hertfordshire Secondary Schools.</p> <p>13. LP observed that Catholic schools must give 10% of curriculum time to RE so pupils will be entered for RE GCSE.</p> <p>14. WL asked if GCSE entries have crashed between 2019 and 2022.</p> <p>15. LE reported issues with RE teacher recruitment and impact on EBACC on choices.</p> <p>16. JL noted that RE must be taught regardless of RE recruitment issues and if necessary, this must be done by the Head.</p> <p>17. BM emphasised need for good rationale as to why RE is so important and this has been done in the new Syllabus. He is presenting at the next HfL Chairs Strategic briefing, and he will make this point there.</p> <p>18. Action: MW and BM to compose a letter to be sent to DfE/Secretary of State about recruitment issues and impact on RE.</p> <p>19. Action: TD to review letter and see if this could potentially be something that HCC could also lobby DfE about.</p> <p>20. Action: JF/BM/JW to see what evidence could be collated and then sent to University of Hertfordshire via AM to enable her to lobby for a greater push on RE Teacher training.</p> <p>21. AM to explore whether University of Hertfordshire could work with schools facing particular recruitment issues.</p>	<p>John Fellows/Bill Moore/Juliet Whitehead</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>Mark Watkin/Bill Moore Terry Douris</p> <p>John Fellows/Bill Moore/Juliet Whitehead Alison McLauchlin</p>
6	<p>SACRE and Diversity, Equalities and Inclusion (DICE) (BM)</p> <p>a) Working with Interfaith Associations with Reynold Rosenberg, Chair Herts Interfaith Forum</p> <p>b) HfL Well Being Team, Karin Hutchinson</p>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BM introduced this item. He explained that the RE Syllabus needs to promote community/equalities and through its content help schools with their anti-racism work. 2. BM welcomed Rabbi Mr Reynold Rosenberg, to the meeting. 3. Mr Rosenberg explained that he is Chair of Hertfordshire's Inter Faith Forum and that its objective is to bring all religious and faith communities together into one group and to find good practice which can be shared with schools. 4. There is a school visits programme focused on the primary phase. They would love to work more closely with schools, but schools need to understand what they are able to offer. 5. WL explained that the WHISPA project used to offer training and quality assure the visits but the funding for this has now dried up, so training is offered via zoom but no quality assurance. If SACRE members want to join this training, they are able to do so. 6. Karin Hutchinson, HfL Education then introduced herself and explained her team's roles which focus on Behaviour, RSHE and Equality. 7. Her colleague Shammi Rahman spoke about her work on Pupil Voice and her previous work in Milton Keynes setting up a Youth SACRE. 8. She welcomed the opportunity to come to SACRE and hoped that this will provide opportunities to forge closer links. 9. Action: Shammi Rahman to be co-opted as a SACRE Member. 10. Action: MW to follow up with SR about her work on Pupil Voice. 11. Action: JW to share the Faith Visits Directory with SR. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Tracey Middleton/Julie t Whitehead Mark Watkin Juliet Whitehead</p>
7	<p>National and Local Updates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. JL gave a brief update on local NATRE meetings including SARETT and Watford. 2. She noted that nationally RE Teacher recruitment is an issue so not just a Hertfordshire problem. 3. BM referred to the NASACRE Briefing 34 (https://mailchi.mp/678c6a35477e/6g3v9uvmy6-8176855?e=da7db1e3e7) in particular: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>RExChange</u> b. <u>Freedom of Information (FOI) request</u> c. <u>2023 Conference and AGM</u> d. <u>Conference workshops</u> e. <u>SACRE teacher survey</u> f. <u>Westhill Awards</u> g. <u>NASACRE Online Training</u> h. <u>NASACRE website</u> i. <u>Other work and RE News</u> j. <u>Regional REHubs</u> 4. Action: JL to send update to JW to circulate. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Juliet Lyal/Juliet Whitehead</p>
8	AoB	



	1. There was none.	Meeting closed at 16.00	
9	Date of next meeting Tuesday 13 th June at Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara, in Letchworth		ALL to note