

Nottinghamshire County Council SACRE Meeting

Southwell Minster Notts

Tuesday 21 March 2023

Groups meet at 6.15pm -6.45pm

Full SACRE at 7.20 pm – 8.30 pm

Present	Representing
Alan Darlington	D Methodist Church
Bryony Charnock-Walmsley	NCC
Cllr Boyd Elliott	A Council Chair
Cllr Tracey Taylor	A Council
Cllr Richard Butler	A Council
Dr Anne Lumb	B Church of England
Graham Jennings	D United Reformed Church
Kate Charlesworth	B Church of England
Mike Arnold	D Baptist
Pearl Day	C NAHT
Richard Linford	C Primary teacher
Russell Davies	D Pagan Society
Sally MacDonald	Secretary
Val Jones	NCC/minuter

1. Welcome from Cllr Boyd Elliot

A tour was given to those present of Southwell Minster by Diana Ives and refreshments were very well received by those who attended

2. Apologies & Membership

Apologies received from Craig Moxham, Godfrey Nix, Megan Brooksby, Jon Hoover, Mary Moran, Mike Follen (Pearl Day was the representative), Naomi Posner, Simon Foulds, Caroline Hornsby, James Wale, Jeetendra Rathod, Gemma Pettifor, Gurjeet Singh, Tom Drew. Membership - Sally has been chasing up a representative from the Roman Catholic church and the Buddhist community, we now have a new RC representative David Quinn but send apologies for tonight's meeting. Discussion over low attendance at this and previous meeting. **Action: Bryony to draft a letter reminding members of the importance of attending this statutory group and Boyd and Sally to agree before sending to members**

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes agreed to be a true record of the last meeting. Boyd confirmed he had written a letter to Nottinghamshire MPs to promote the agreed syllabus and ask for their support in asking government to promote the appointment of RE teachers. The letter is in the process of being sent.

4. Appointment of vice-chair from group D – as group not quorate to be deferred again until the next meeting

5. Development plan

Graham said there was not enough time in group time to discuss this in detail. Other members noted that the timings on the plan indicated their priority. Other members noted that the timings on the plan indicated their priority. Sally to prepare report for next meeting on Ofsted's findings in Nottinghamshire Schools where RE is mentioned.

Action: Boyd and Sally to prioritise items in the plan. Sally to change date for starting to review the syllabus to 2025

6 Code of conduct

Discussion around several points in the code of conduct, Mike asked who is the RE professional? We know Sally is the new SACRE secretary. Bryony said EIS do not have an RE Advisor now, there are no curriculum advisors, nearest would be Bryony, might need to reword to say LA representative. Mike also referred to visits in schools where the point 'do not say or do anything to put SACRE in disrepute'. The current climate suggests anything said could be inflammatory whether you are representing SACRE or your personal faith. Tracey clarified to say if you are speaking personally regarding your own faith, it should not be viewed as inflammatory. Graham and Richard will look at this and feed back at next meeting in particular the wording around denigrating comments when visiting a school. Graham mentioned going back to constitution as there are 19 members in group D but not all attend the meetings, perhaps make it clearer that SACRE is statutory and if a member not able to attend to delegate a representative.

Action Graham and Richard to look at the code of conduct further, liaise with Sally and feedback at next meeting

6. Draft Annual SACRE report

Update on ratifying SACRE report, Tracey has sent to democratic services, and it is still with them.

Action: Tracey continuing to find out how to ratify the Annual Report

7. SACRE budget

Boyd has been investigating further in having a dedicated SACRE budget against being absorbed into EIS budget

Action Boyd still trying to get an answer on this

For this meeting;

8 Membership issues

Ongoing with Sally trying to recruit and too many no shows at the last 2 meetings.

9 Review of advice to governors

Pearl asked if this advice could go to academies and MATs as well as maintained schools. The information to governors does go out to academies as well as maintained schools, Tracey said that she can check it does now go to all governors' emails via the hub as well as school email addresses. Richard pointed out we cannot enforce onto academies, can only be advisory, perhaps make it known SACRE is there to help?

Action: Sally to update contact details and language to make accessible to academies

10. Review of advice on collective worship

Russell shared the view of some schools just having a thought for the day instead of an assembly. SACRE don't have the figures to show how many schools have an assembly, noted broadly Christian assemblies in faith schools. The group agreed that our advice on collective worship allowed schools to be inclusive whilst remaining broadly Christian. It was agreed that no changes were needed.

11. National and regional updates

Sally had a message from Ken at the RS Resource centre, asking for volunteers to help with faith experiences in schools.

12. Local faith and world views groups' news and events

Jon Hoover raised the Nottingham University has a prize for A Level Essays but need more students to participate, any suggestions welcome. Graham said the Nottingham interfaith AGM meeting will be on 15th June 2023 at the Friends Meeting House. Russell Davies highlighted the Thunorsmoot festival 11 – 13 August 223 at Mapperley Farm, tickets available on Facebook and a link has been put on the SACRE page. Lat Blaylock has a SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) RE conference in Doncaster, the SACRE RE Conference we have in June 2023 is not covering SEND. Bryony said she would ask if a place can be funded for a member of SACRE to attend

Action: anyone interested in attending SEND RE conference to let Bryony know, Sally to share this with network.

Boyd thanked all for attending and for Diana's hospitality at the Minster then closed the meeting at 8.30pm