

# North Yorkshire County Council

## Children and Young People's Service

### Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton, on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2015, commencing at 2.00 pm.

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Mr Nasr Emam (Muslim)

**County Councillors:** Jim Clark, Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley, Robert Heseltine and John Savage

Professor John Adams (Humanist), Mrs Barbara Belsham (Methodist), Mrs Sarah Beveridge (Teacher), Mr Mohinder Singh Chana (Sikh), Mr Chris Devanny (Catholic), Mr Martin Dickinson (Quaker), Mrs Margaret Gibson (Teacher), Mrs Rachel Oates (Teacher), Dr Neville Packter (Judaism), Mrs Gill Sellars (Baptist) and Mrs O Seymour (Church of England)

**Officer:** Mrs Rebecca Mason (EDA Humanities – Education and Skills – Children's and Young People's Service)

**The Chairman read out a prepared Statement prior to the start of the meeting, expressing his condolences on behalf of Muslims in North Yorkshire, to the families of the victims involved in the recent IS terrorist attack in Tunisia**

Action

<b>13.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>  Apologies were received from County Councillor Joe Plant and Mrs Simone Bennett (Church of England), Mrs Amanda Head (Teacher) and Mrs Christina Taylor (Buddhist)	
<b>14.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>  <b>RESOLVED -</b>  That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.	
<b>15.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</b>  <b>Minute No. 6 refers</b> – Rebecca Mason informed Members that the 'Understanding Faiths' course proposed by Fiona Protheroe of Craven Development Centre had been postponed, but would be held in the future.	

	<p><b>Minute No. 7 refers</b> – Rebecca Mason informed Members that most Secondary and Primary School Head Teachers had now received a 2 hour WRAP Training session (Workshop to raise awareness of Prevent), organised jointly by the Local Authority and the Police to raise awareness of the PREVENT agenda and to help in identifying those vulnerable to ‘radicalisation’. It was intended that this training would also be rolled-out to all teaching staff. Professor John Adams enquired whether there had been any feedback from Schools regarding this new duty placed on staff in preventing pupils being drawn into extremism and was informed by Rebecca Mason that the Teaching Unions had expressed concern about taking on the responsibility. It was suggested that as this was an important issue, SACRE could be kept informed as to how it was being received in Schools.</p> <p><b>Minute No. 9 refers</b> – Concern was expressed that ‘Discover RE’ was utilising the North Yorkshire RE Agreed Syllabus developed by SACRE for its own business purposes and it was felt that advice should be given to potential users that this was not a North Yorkshire County Council resource. It was proposed that rather than invite Jan Levery of ‘Discover RE’ to attend a SACRE meeting, it would be more helpful if Rebecca Mason met her to discuss the situation and report back to SACRE.</p>	<p>RM to note</p> <p>RM to action</p>
16.	<p><b>TERMS OF REFERENCE – SACRE</b></p> <p><b>Considered –</b></p> <p>An introduction to North Yorkshire SACRE – a report outlining the Terms of Reference (a copy of which appears in the Minute Book)</p> <p>Rebecca Mason introduced the Report and advised that the Minutes of SACRE and Reports had not been generally available to the public, but steps had now been taken to rectify this and they would be placed on the CYPS information Website for the future.</p> <p>It was suggested that it would be helpful if each SACRE Member could provide Rebecca Mason with a short profile and photograph, which could be placed on the Website.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the Terms of Reference for SACRE be noted and be reviewed on an Annual basis.</p>	<p>RM to pursue individual profiles &amp; photos</p> <p>RM to bring forward for 2016</p>
17.	<p><b>SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT RESTRUCTURE</b></p> <p><b>CONSIDERED –</b></p> <p>A diagram outlining the School Improvement Re structure Final staffing Structure (a copy of which appears in the Minute Book)</p>	

	<p>Rebecca Mason informed Members that within the CPYS School Improvement re-structuring process she would have been made redundant on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2015 and there would have been no RE Adviser to SACRE in the new staffing set-up. She was pleased to report, however, that she had been appointed to a newly created post of Equalities Adviser and would, therefore, continue in the role of providing professional support and advice to SACRE on behalf of the Local Authority.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the staffing position on the School Improvement Restructure and the Adviser to SACRE, be noted.</p>	
18.	<p><b>VISITS TO PLACES OF WORSHIP</b></p> <p><b>Considered –</b></p> <p>A Guidance document on organising visits to places of Worship (a copy of which appears in the Minute Book)</p> <p>Rebecca Mason advised Members that recently there had been a worrying trend in parents withdrawing their consent for their children to take part in school visits to Mosques. SACRE was informed, however, that a Mosque visit undertaken by Egton Primary School had been very successful and well attended by a party of children, their parents and some of the school Governors.</p> <p>Members were informed that the Guidance document sought to support Head Teachers and RE Subject Leaders in planning visits and to pre-empt parental concerns.</p> <p>It was suggested that the North Yorkshire Educational Visits Notification Website should have an Evaluation Questionnaire to be completed at the end of each visit, which could provide valuable and helpful feedback.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the contents of the Guidance on organising visits to places of Worship, be noted.</p>	<p>RM to consider implementing suitable Exit Questionnaire</p>
19.	<p><b>COLLECTIVE WORSHIP GUIDANCE</b></p> <p>Rebecca Mason reported that, although she had received very little response from Teachers on the impact so far of the Collective Worship Guidance in Schools; the feedback which she had received, contained nothing of a negative nature.</p> <p>Professor John Adams expressed the view that any act of compulsory, collective Christian worship was improper within Society as it was today, but was advised that as long it was a legal requirement, SACRE would uphold that requirement.</p> <p>Mrs Olivia Seymour commented that the Clarke and Woodhead discussion paper ‘A new settlement: religion and belief in schools’</p>	

	<p>would be a good item for future discussion by SACRE and that she was currently gathering “blogs” and discussion documents on the subject which she could produce for a future meeting.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the current position be noted and a report be brought back to a future meeting of SACRE, by which time more extensive information on the impact of the Collective Worship Guidance should be available.</p>	OS/RM to note
20.	<p><b>RE HUBS</b></p> <p>Mrs Olivia Seymour was pleased to report that the bid for funding for RE Hubs had been successful and it was hoped that 10 Teachers would be able to undertake the course.</p> <p>Rebecca Mason advised that additional funding could be applied for through Westhill/NASACRE Awards to enable additional places to be allocated.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the position be noted.</p>	
21.	<p><b>SACRE SELF-EVALUATION REVIEW AND ACTION PLANNING</b></p> <p>Rebecca Mason circulated the draft documentation at the meeting, seeking Members’ comments on the 5 topics to be discussed in groups and requested comments.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That Rebecca Mason incorporate the comments made by Members at the meeting, with a view to incorporating the feedback into one document for consideration at the next meeting, together with drafting an Action Plan for moving forward.</p>	RM to action

22.	<p><b>NASACRE CONFERENCE</b></p> <p>Mr Nasr Emam reported that he had attended the NASACRE Conference held on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2015 where the main topic for discussion had been about the challenges facing RE throughout the Country. Approximately 150 delegates had attended the Conference and taken part in the various workshops. The NASACRE Annual General Meeting would be held on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2016</p> <p>Mr Nasr Emam also reported that NASACRE had launched a new Website recently and he undertook to share the password with Members, to enable them to access the Website.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the oral report on the NASACRE Conference be noted.</p>	NE to action
23.	<p><b>STUDENT VOICE</b></p> <p><b>Considered –</b></p> <p>A paper on North Yorkshire SACRE: Youth Voice and NYCC/North Yorkshire Children’s Trust booklet “The Promise” which were circulated at the meeting (copies of which appear in the Minute Book)</p> <p>Rebecca Mason sought Members’ comments on the suggestions contained in the paper on how to obtain feedback from children and young people, about the quality of RE Learning in Schools and to enable this information to feed into SACRE.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That -</p> <p>i) Rebecca Mason would explore with Education &amp; Skills the feasibility of obtaining feedback from pupils about RE and Collective Worship via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teachers building-in some ‘feedback’ from their RE teaching and sharing with the LA;</li> <li>- approaching some schools to see if they could set-up a pupil RE Forum within school;</li> <li>- compiling some specific questions to go in the Growing up in North Yorkshire Survey for May 2016 around the impact of RE teaching, and</li> <li>- holding a 1 day RE Youth Conference in Autumn 2016.</li> </ul> <p>ii) a report be brought back to the next meeting of SACRE</p> <p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>i) <b>Mormon representation on SACRE:</b> Mr Nasr Emam</p>	RM to action and report to next meeting
24.		NE to

