

# North Yorkshire County Council

## Children and Young People's Service

### Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Minutes of a meeting held at Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2015, commencing at 1.45 pm.

**PRESENT:**

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

**County Councillors:** Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley and Robert Heseltine

Professor John Adams (Humanist), Mrs Barbara Belsham (Methodist) and Mrs Margaret Gibson (Teacher)

**Visitors:** Mr Mark Cosens and Mr Stephen Munzer (The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints) and Mrs Katherine Bruce (NYCC)

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

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**Action**

<p>26.</p>	<p><b>PRESENTATION BY STUDENTS OF ERMYSTED'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL</b></p> <p>An oral presentation, introduced by Mrs Amanda Price (Head of English), was given by several students of Ermysted's Grammar School on their Muslim Voice Project.</p> <p>The students outlined the vision and aims of the Project to give young North Yorkshire Muslims a 'voice': the opportunity and platform to describe and share their experiences of life as young Muslims in North Yorkshire/Britain.</p> <p>The Project had included: Reading – a Reading Buddy scheme with Ermysted's and Ings Primary School, Skipton students; Year 9 Community Cohesion; Writing – published life stories of Muslim students at Ermysted's; Form – time work – the 'Selfie' Project and Talk – the Years 8 and 9 Animation Project.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the contents of the Muslim Voice Project be noted and the appreciation of SACRE be expressed and praise be given to the students of Ermysted's Grammar School, for their excellent Project and presentation and on the positive outcomes of the Project.</p>	
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27.	<p><b>PRESENTATION ON 'OUR SPACE' PROJECT</b></p> <p>An oral presentation was given by Judy Rogers (Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust) and Yesmien Bagh Ali (Founder Member of the 'Our Space' Project).</p> <p>The 'Our Space' Project, was Lottery funded, celebrating global citizenship and providing a unique intercultural residential experience for children; bringing children together from different cultural backgrounds within the setting of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, in order to understand and celebrate diversity.</p> <p>All the 'workshops' offered within the Project were designed to complement the PSHCE Syllabus for KS1 and 2 and incorporated theatre work, team challenges, learning through the landscape, music, cooking and much more.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the contents of the 'Our Space' Project be noted and the thanks of SACRE be given to Judy Rogers and Yesmien Bagh Ali for their informative presentation on the Project.</p>	
28.	<p><b>APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from: County Councillors Jim Clark and John Savage, Mrs Simone Bennett (Church of England), Mrs Sarah Beveridge (Teacher), Mr Mohinder Singh Chana (Sikh), Mr Martin Dickinson (Quaker), Miss Mollie Haigh (Church of England), Mrs Amanda Head (Teacher), Mrs Rachel Oates (Teacher), Dr Neville Packter (Judaism), Mrs Olivia Seymour (Teacher) and Mrs Christina Taylor (Buddhist).</p>	
29.	<p><b>ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2015 - 2016</b></p> <p><b>The Clerk advised that, under the Terms of Reference, because of the overall number of members present at the meeting and as there was no Member of Group B present, the SACRE was not quorate, therefore, a Chairman for the new School Year 2015 - 2016 could not be elected.</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) It be agreed that the current Chairman, Nasr Emam, remain as Chairman of SACRE and Mrs Margaret Gibson, as Vice-Chairman, until the next meeting due to be held on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016.</li> <li>2) Members be reminded that they were all eligible to stand as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of SACRE.</li> <li>3) i) The Clerk be authorised to invite expressions of interest in the role of Chairman of SACRE, from all Members at least one month prior to the next meeting; requesting reasons as to why they would</li> </ol>	SAM to action

	<p>like to become Chairman and an explanation of what they felt they could bring to the role;</p> <p>ii) Interested candidates would declare their interest to the Clerk a week before the meeting, together with their reasons.</p> <p>4) It be noted that nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be proposed and voted upon in the usual way at the next meeting of SACRE, to be held on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016.</p>	
<b>30.</b>	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2015 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.</p>	
<b>31.</b>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>Minute No. 15 (7) Prevent Training refers –</b> Rebecca Mason updated Members on the progress of the WRAP Training to raise awareness of the PREVENT agenda, which had been rolled out across all School’s in the County and had now been undertaken by the majority of Head Teachers. There were 2 hour workshops available for Senior Management Teams and School Governors and 1 hour training sessions available for all secondary school staff. In addition an online training course is available, which was the minimum training requirement for all staff in schools.</p> <p><b>Minute No. 18 Visits to Places of Worship refers -</b> Rebecca Mason reported that an up-dated North Yorkshire Educational Visits Website had been introduced which gave greater planning guidance to Schools on visits to places of worship and which now also included a “Feedback” option to be completed at the end of each visit.</p>	
<b>32.</b>	<p><b>SACRE SELF-EVALUATION AND ACTION PLANNING</b></p> <p><b>Considered –</b></p> <p>North Yorkshire SACRE Action Planning: September 2015 (a copy of which appears in the Minute Book)</p> <p>Rebecca Mason sought Members’ agreement to the 5 key topics identified in the Action Plan being finalised for implementation.</p> <p>Focus Point 1 - it was reported that Academy Schools had been invited to take part in forthcoming Training and Events, via Smart Solutions.</p> <p>Focus Point 2 – it was suggested that in view of the planned KS4 Examination grading/curriculum changes, it may be necessary to revisit the range of curriculum models; and it was advised that FRONTER, the On-line learning resource was being phased out over the year and moved elsewhere. It was agreed that Rebecca Mason would investigate the possibility of creating a “page, or space” for SACRE Members only, on the new site.</p>	RM to action

	<p>Focus Point 3 – Rebecca Mason advised that preparing information sharing regarding good practice around Collective Worship was ongoing and she would report back on this, in due course; it was reported that as far as she was aware, no Member had visited a School to observe Collective Worship as yet and she advised Members to E-mail her and she would put the Member in touch with a School; it was also thought advisable that a School would need a briefing beforehand regarding the nature of a Member’s visit. It was agreed that a report on the impact of the Clarke and Woodhead Discussion Paper (<b>Minute No. 19 refers</b>) be brought to the next meeting.</p> <p>Focus Point 4 – Mr Mark Cosens informed the meeting that there was a York Interfaith Website which listed planned events 12 months ahead and the site also included Topics for discussion which were open to all to participate in. There was, however, currently no Young Peoples’ Interfaith Group.</p> <p>Focus Point 5 – it was agreed that the North Yorkshire Community Cohesion Officer be invited to a future meeting of SACRE.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the North Yorkshire SACRE Action Planning: September 2015 be approved, as drafted and the planned actions be implemented; together with the additional actions, as given above.</p>	<p>RM to note</p> <p>RM/SAM to note Agenda Item</p> <p>RM to action invite</p> <p>RM to action</p>
<p><b>33.</b></p>	<p><b>RE ANNUAL RETURN FOR SCHOOLS</b></p> <p>Rebecca Mason reported that the On-Line RE Annual Return for Schools had now been trialled and finalised with a completion and return date agreed for 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2015</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the position on the RE Annual Return for Schools be noted.</p>	
<p><b>34.</b></p>	<p><b>THE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015</b></p> <p>Rebecca Mason reported that the RE GCSE and A Level examination results had only just been published, so she had been unable to incorporate this data into the draft Annual Report for 2014-2015 in time for Members’ consideration at the meeting, but did inform Members orally of some of the statistics which appeared to be in-line with what was happening nationally.</p> <p>No agreement was reached on Professor John Adams proposal that the Attendance record which appeared in the Annual Report should reflect individual, named Members’ attendance at SACRE meetings, rather than by been shown by Group only.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That Rebecca Mason finalise the draft SACRE Annual Report 2014-2015, with a view to circulating this, via E-mail, for Members’</p>	<p>RM to finalise draft, circulate for comment SAM/RM Item for next meeting</p>

	comments in early January, 2016 and it be considered for approval at the next meeting to be held on Thursday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March, 2016.	
<b>35.</b>	<p><b>UP-DATES</b></p> <p>i) <b>REInspire Hub</b> - In the absence of Olivia Seymour, Rebecca Mason advised Members that 8 Teachers had applied for training at the Hub; 5 from North Yorkshire and 3 from York. SACRE was reminded that this was a Joint York Authority/York SACRE/North Yorkshire initiative which would finish at this time in 2016. The aim of the REInspire Hub was to provide 1 year of training, 1 day per term to enable the Teachers to become specialists in RE and become Hub Leaders and to support forward planning.</p> <p>ii) <b>The Westhill NASACRE Awards</b> – Rebecca Mason reported that SACRE’s project proposal: “Celebrating our Diverse Voices” had not been approved for an Award on this occasion, however, it was intended to ‘firm-up’ that original proposal and re-submit to the Westhill NASACRE Awards, for consideration. It was suggested that the Scarborough and Ryedale areas of the County should also be included in the proposal. Rebecca Mason welcomed contributions from Members and would also liaise with the Chairman, with a view to a draft being submitted for approval at the meeting to be held on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That –</p> <p>1) The up-date on the progress of the REInspire Hub be noted; and</p> <p>2) Rebecca Mason circulate to Members, via E-mail, the current North Yorkshire SACRE: Celebrating Our Diverse Voices document and requesting assistance and ‘in-put’ into the finalising of the proposal, with a view to this being considered for approval, at the next meeting to be held on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016.</p>	<p>RM to note</p> <p>RM to action, seek comment SAM/RM Item for next meeting</p>
<b>36.</b>	<p><b>YOUNG HUMANIST ESSAY COMPETITION 2016</b></p> <p><b>Considered –</b></p> <p>An notice provided by Professor John Adams (a copy of which appears in the Minute Book) launching a Young Humanist Essay competition.</p> <p>Professor Adams advised that the competition was entitled “Can you be good without God” and was aimed at Secondary School aged children. The results of the competition would be announced on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016, on the North Yorkshire Humanists Website.</p>	<p>RM to circulate</p>

	<p><b>RESOLVED -</b></p> <p>That Rebecca Mason circulate the Essay Competition notice, via E-Mail/, to all the County's Secondary Schools.</p>	
37.	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>i) <b>High Court Decision re: RE Curriculum</b> – Professor John Adams reported that Schools may have to teach students about Atheism and Humanism in their RE Syllabus, following a High Court ruling on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. He advised that the Department for Education would have the opportunity to appeal the ruling which would mean making changes to the new RE Curriculum being introduced for next September, to ensure the Subject 'must' develop students' knowledge of non-religious beliefs. SACRE Members agreed that this ruling would have immediate implications for the RE GCSE Subject and its teaching and may delay the course specifications for September. Rebecca Mason advised that Teachers would have to receive advice from Edexcel and agreed to keep SACRE up-dated on the position.</p> <p>ii) <b>Future Conduct of SACRE Meetings</b> – in view of the poor attendance at this meeting, it was agreed that an Item be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting to be held on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 to discuss whether any changes could be made to: the timing of meetings; the venues; or the dates, to better facilitate and improve the attendance of Members at the SACRE meetings. It was also agreed that Professor John Adams proposal regarding how attendance at SACRE meetings is recorded in the Annual Report should be included in the discussion on the future conduct of SACRE meetings.</p> <p>iii) <b>Appointment of New Member to SACRE</b> – it was agreed that Mr Mark Cosens be appointed as a Member of Group A of SACRE, to represent the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, with the proviso he could provide an informal substitute, if he was unable to attend a meeting of SACRE.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That the agreed action on the above items be noted.</p>	<p>RM to note re: updates on position</p> <p>RM/SAM to note item for next meeting</p> <p>SAM to amend Membership list</p>
38.	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p><b>Resolved -</b></p> <p>That the next meeting be held on <b>Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016</b> at Leyburn Community Primary School) starting with a Lunch at 12.30 p.m.</p>	

The meeting concluded at 4.40 p.m.  
SAM