

North Yorkshire County Council

Children and Young People's Service

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Minutes of a meeting held at Leyburn Community Primary School on Thursday, 3 March 2016, commencing at 1.00 pm.

PRESENT:

County Councillors: Robert Heseltine and John Savage.

Professor John Adams (Humanist), Mrs Simone Bennett (Church of England), Mrs Sarah Beveridge (Teacher), Mr Mohinder Singh Chana (Sikh), Mr M Dickinson (Society of Friends), Mr Nasr Emam (Muslim), Mr Bill Kimberling (Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints), Dr Neville Packter (Jewish), Mrs Olivia Seymour (Church of England) and Mrs Christina Taylor (Buddhist)

Officers: Mrs Rebecca Mason (Equalities Adviser – Education and Skills – Children's and Young People's Service), Mrs Sally Mitchell (Principal Democratic Services Officer)

Action

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| <p>39.</p> | <p>PRESENTATION BY PUPILS FROM LEYBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HEADTEACHER</p> <p>Mrs Sarah Beveridge advised Members on what changes had been made to the teaching of RE since she had been appointed Head Teacher of the School, in that the curriculum was now in compliance with the Agreed Syllabus and more teaching hours had been devoted to the subject. Pupil 'leadership' and ideas were encouraged and more had been made of opportunities in their locality and from visitors from various beliefs and faiths.</p> <p>The pupils gave a PowerPoint presentation on their experiences of Hindu, Muslim and Humanist visitors to School; explained the aims of their 'Rights Respecting Schools' initiative and who was involved; together with giving examples of why they liked to go to the local Church and what it meant to them as individuals.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the thanks of SACRE be expressed to Mrs Sarah Beveridge (Headteacher) for hosting the meeting and appreciation to her pupils for their excellent presentation and accompanied tour of the School.</p> | |
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| 40. | <p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies were received from County Councillors: Bob Baker, Jim Clark and Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley and from Mrs Barbara Belsham (Methodist), Mr Chris Devanny (Catholic), Mrs Margaret Gibson (Teacher), Mrs Amanda Head (Teacher) and Mrs Rachel Oates (Teacher)</p> | |
| 41. | <p>ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2016</p> <p>RESOLVED -</p> <p>That Mr Nasr Emam be elected Chairman of SACRE for the academic year 2015-2016</p> | |
| 42 . | <p>MINUTES</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 26 November 2015 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.</p> | |
| 42. | <p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>Minute No. 32 refers – Rebecca Mason had investigated the possibility of creating a “page”, or space for SACRE Members only on the FRONTER site. From September 2016, Rebecca Mason advised that a new Website was being launched and that although she had put in the request on behalf of SACRE, she was still waiting to hear back, but what was being offered was a “Shared File Area” which may prove unsuitable.</p> <p>Focus Point 5 – Because of the amount of business on the Agenda for this meeting, the invitation to the Community Cohesion Officers had been postponed until the July meeting of SACRE</p> <p>Minute No. 36 refers – Professor John Adams was pleased to report that there had been a good response to the Young Humanist Essay Competition 2016. The deadline for submission had been 29th February, 2016 and entries were currently being marked by three retired academics. The successful entrant would receive his award presentation in which ever School he, or she attended.</p> | <p>RM to persue</p> <p>RM to renew the invitati on</p> |
| 43. | <p>PRESENTATION BY THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF THE LATTER DAY SAINTS</p> <p>The Chairman introduced President Bill Kimberling and welcomed him to the meeting, as substitute for Mr Mark Cozens who was unable to attend.</p> <p>The planned presentation, unfortunately, was unable to be given at the meeting, however, Mr Kimberling gave a very informative talk and question and answer session on the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, its membership, of whom there were 200,000 in the UK and what they do. Members were advised on current</p> | |

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| | <p>projects, namely the Helping Hands Project, where over 300 volunteers had helped in the recent flooding crisis in York, in conjunction with North Yorkshire County Council and York City Council; had raised £10 million in their Humanitarian Aid Fund towards helping Syrian refugees; and ran an Interfaith Project.</p> <p>Resolved -</p> <p>That the appreciation of SACRE be given to President Bill Kimberling for attending the meeting and the intended presentation be placed on the Agenda for the July meeting of SACRE.</p> | SAM/R M to note |
| 44. | <p>SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15</p> <p>Considered -</p> <p>The Annual report of the North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the School Year 2014-15</p> <p>Resolved -</p> <p>That the contents of the SACRE Annual Report 2014-15 be approved as printed, subject to checking the membership status of Revd. Robin Davill.</p> | |
| 45. | <p>WESTHILL AWARD</p> <p>Considered -</p> <p>A paper produced by Rebecca Mason, a copy of which was circulated at the meeting, outlining an application proposal for the Westhill/NASACRE Award 2016-17</p> <p>Rebecca Mason advised Members that there had initially been two project proposals; a Youth SACRE and a Diversity Day for KS2 pupils. It had been decided to progress the Diversity Day with KS2 Primary pupils, which would involve bringing together pupils from 10 schools in the Scarborough area to experience and explore diversity through a range of activities, led by people from a range of different faiths.</p> <p>As part of the day, pupils would decide on the contents of faith artefacts boxes that could then be used by all the schools in the area to support the teaching of RE and the delivery of the Agreed Syllabus.</p> <p>Suggestions for appropriate venues for hosting approximately 100 children on the day were welcomed, as were suggestions for contributions towards creating the artefacts boxes.</p> <p>Resolved –</p> <p>That - i) approval be given to the application proposal for A Diversity Day with KS2 pupils exploring 4 different faiths being put forward for the Westhill/NASACRE Award 2016-17</p> <p>ii) Rebecca Mason to develop the proposal in more detail and</p> | RM to action |

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| | circulate to SACRE Members for comments, before Easter. | |
| 46. | <p>COLLECTIVE WORSHIP VISITS TO SCHOOLS</p> <p>Considered -</p> <p>A paper produced by Rebecca Mason, a copy of which was circulated at the meeting, outlining proposals for SACRE Members to undertake visits to Schools to observe examples of good practice in Collective Worship.</p> <p>Members were informed by Rebecca Mason that two Schools, Parish CE Primary School in Skipton and Killinghall Primary School had expressed an interest in a Members' visit.</p> <p>It was suggested that any such visit should be arranged through Rebecca Mason and it may be appropriate for Members to conduct such visits in pairs.</p> <p>Mrs Olivia Seymour advised caution that a Church of England, or Catholic School may not be found to be following NYCC guidance, as they could be following Diocesan guidance and would be in a different context to a Local Authority Community School.</p> <p>Resolved -</p> <p>That Rebecca Mason E-mail the guidance notes on visits to Schools to observe Collective Worship, to SACRE Members; together with a list of Schools which would welcome a visit from SACRE.</p> | RM to action |
| 47. | <p>ORGANISATION OF FUTURE SACRE MEETINGS</p> <p>A discussion with Members took place on suggestions, including venues and timings, in order to better facilitate Members' attendance at future SACRE meetings.</p> <p>Resolved -</p> <p>That it be agreed i) the Autumn Term meeting continue to be held at County Hall, Northallerton starting at 2.00 p.m – 4.00 p.m;</p> <p>ii) the Spring Term meeting be held in a School, starting with a Lunch at 12.30/1.00 p.m., followed by the formal meeting</p> <p>iii) the Summer Term meeting be held more centrally within the County, starting at 4.00/4.30 p.m.</p> | SAM/RM to make necessary arrangements |
| 48. | <p>UPDATES - FOR INFORMATION</p> <p>(a) NASACRE REPORT</p> <p>Considered -</p> <p>The Chairman reported on the theme of the forthcoming NASACRE Annual Conference, which would be held on 17th May, 2016 at Westminster Central Hall.</p> | |

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| | <p>Members were advised that here was a vacancy for a second Executive Member to be nominated to NASACRE and sought expressions of interest.</p> <p>Resolved -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That approval be given to the Chairman, Mr Nasr Emam, attending the NASCRE Annual Conference in London on 17th May 2016; 2) Nasr Emam E-mail details of the Conference to SACRE Members and seek nominations for a vacant Executive Member position on NASACRE <p>(b) Report from All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on RE and Prevent</p> <p>Considered -</p> <p>The report of Rebecca Mason updating SACRE on the first meeting of the APPG held on 19 January 2016.</p> <p>Rebecca Mason advised that seven expert speakers had addressed the meeting on the contribution that RE could make to combatting extremism and promoting community cohesion and character development.</p> <p>Resolved -</p> <p>That the report be noted and Rebecca Mason would keep Members informed of progress on the subject.</p> <p>(c) RE Inspire Hub Updates</p> <p>Considered -</p> <p>The report of Olivia Seymour updating SACRE on the development of the Inspire RE Hubs Programme.</p> <p>Olivia Seymour advised that she had nothing to add to her Report, but that the 7 Teachers from across the region who had signed up to the Training Course started in January 2016, had settled in well and were currently undertaking research.</p> <p>Resolved -</p> <p>That the report be noted and Olivia Seymour would continue to provide feedback on the project to SACRE.</p> <p>(d) Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life</p> <p>Considered -</p> <p>Professor John Adams circulated a briefing paper at the meeting outlining the High Court Ruling on Humanism and Agreed Syllabuses.</p> | <p>NE to action</p> <p>RM to note</p> <p>OS to note</p> |
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| | <p>Professor Adams urged SACRE Members to read the Report, which contained a large number of recommendations and covered more than just education, but the changing landscape of religion and belief.</p> <p>Olivia Seymour suggested that Members also needed to read the Clarke and Woodhead Report in conjunction and she had documentation that addressed the contents of all 3 Reports which she could provide for Members' information.</p> <p>Resolved -</p> <p>That Olivia Seymour provide SACRE Members with the links to the documentation and would report to the next meeting of SACRE.</p> <p>(e) Religious Education Annual Return</p> <p>Considered -</p> <p>The RE Annual Return from Schools.</p> <p>Rebecca Mason presented the Report and explained to Members' how the feedback from Schools had been sought. 135 Schools had responded with feedback (approximately one third) 19 Secondary, 5 Special Schools, 5 PRU's and the rest were Primary Schools.</p> <p>Members were advised that there had been very positive responses received from Primary Schools regarding the RE Agreed Syllabus, but there appeared to be a lack of RE provision at KS4 for some students who were not taking RE at GCSE, which was of concern.</p> <p>Rebecca Mason advised that only 1 School was involved and agreed to a suggestion from Olivia Seymour that such matters should be followed-up by SACRE, if a School was found not to be following the legal RE provision requirement. Rebecca Mason informed Members that there were other areas that also needed to be followed-up with Schools and that she would likely do this via E-mail.</p> <p>SACRE was advised by Rebecca Mason that a question would be added to the questionnaire to Schools for Sept 2016 relating to acts of Collective Worship.</p> <p>Resolved -</p> <p>That the contents of the RE Annual Return be noted; and Rebecca Mason follow-up any issues of concern identified in the Return, on behalf of SACRE.</p> | <p>OS to action RM/SAM to note item for next meeting</p> <p>RE to action</p> |
| <p>49.</p> | <p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>i) Growing-up in North Yorkshire Survey Years 2,6, 8 and 10: Rebecca Mason advised Members that pupils were to be asked whether they followed a religion, in this year's survey</p> <p>ii) "Lift the Lid" Project: Rebecca Mason informed members</p> | |

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| | <p>that the “Lift the Lid” Project run by the Malton Elim Church had resource boxes full of activities eg. Easter and Christmas Boxes which they made available to lend to Schools, free of charge. They were currently running an ‘Easter Experience’ where children could ‘walk through’ various ‘rooms’ telling the Easter story, through live actors..</p> <p>Rebecca Mason agreed to let Headteachers have the E-mail link to the Elim Church to be able to contact them if they were interested in borrowing the artefact resource boxes for use in their own Schools.</p> <p>iii) Ramadan: The Chairman advised that the Festival of Ramadan occurred in June this year, which had a potential impact on the health and well-being of students undertaking GCSE & A Level Examinations and he undertook to circulate an advisory briefing note to all Secondary Schools.</p> <p>iv) Sikh Festival: Mohinder Singh Chana advised that April was the period of the Sikh Festival and suggested that Headteachers and RE Teachers should also be made aware of that and possibly be encouraged to invite Sikh visitors into School, during that time.</p> <p>RESOLVED – That Rebecca Mason circulate the link to the SHAP Calendar to all Schools, which would advise them of all the dates of important religious festivals.</p> | <p>RM to action</p> <p>NE to send to RM to action</p> <p>RM to action</p> |
| 50. | <p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Resolved -</p> <p>That the next meeting be held on Thursday, 7 July 2016 at Jesmond House, Harrogate starting at 4.30 p.m and on Thursday, 1 December 2016 at County Hall, Northallerton starting at 2.00 p.m.</p> | <p>SAM to note & arrange</p> |

The meeting concluded at 4.10 p.m.

SAM