

North Yorkshire County Council  
Children and Young People's Service  
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education  
SACRE meeting **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019**  
**The Pink Room, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AD**  
**2.00 pm – 4.00 pm**

**Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2019 **(Pages 3 to 6)**
3. Matters Arising
4. Minutes of the Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Conference held on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2019 **(Pages 7 to 11)**
5. RE Agreed Syllabus: Next Steps – Sharing with NYCC, Additional Support requested from Schools, Dissemination Events (Rebecca Swift and Olivia Seymour)
6. RE Training Programme 2019-20: Agreed Syllabus roll-out and support, Network meetings, Understanding Christianity, Teaching Islam KS3/4, LTLRE Subject Knowledge Workshops, RE Conference – York (Rebecca Swift and Olivia Seymour)
7. SACRE Constitution - Terms and Conditions: Membership Representation, New Teacher Representatives (Rebecca Swift and Sally Mitchell)
8. To report on any local or national updates: Commission for RE, OFSTED Consultation on the new Framework, LTLRE (Olivia Seymour)
9. Correspondence
10. Any Other Business
11. Date and time of next meeting – Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 at **The Evolution Centre, Northallerton** at 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Barry Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)  
County Hall  
Northallerton

# **Membership of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

<p><u>Membership</u></p> <p>County Coucillor Jim Clark  County Councillor Robert Heseltine  County Councillor Andrew Lee  County Councillor Patrick Mulligan  County Councillor Annabel Wilkinson</p> <p>Professor J Adams  Mrs B Belsham  Revd S Bennett  Mrs S Beveridge  Mr Robert Brownlow  Vacancy  Mr N M Emam  Mrs M Gibson  Mrs K Hill  Vacancy  Dr Neville Packter  Vacancy  Mrs O Seymour  Mrs C Taylor  Mrs H Sellers  Vacancy  Vacancy  Vacancy  Vacancy</p> <p><u>Co-opted Members</u></p> <p>Vacancy</p> <p><u>Officers</u></p> <p>Rebecca Swift  Sally Mitchell</p>	<p>Humanist  Methodist  Church of England  Teacher  The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- day  Saints  Society of Friends  Muslim  Church of England  Teacher  Catholic  Judaism  Teacher  Church of England  Buddhism  Baptist  Salvationist  Hindu  Church of England  Church of England</p> <p>Academic Expertise in Religious Education</p> <p>Children and Young People's Service  Legal and Democratic Services (Clerk)</p>
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**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, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2019

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Mrs Olivia Seymour (Church of England)

**County Councillors:** Robert Heseltine and Annabel Wilkinson

Professor John Adams (Humanist), Mrs Barbara Belsham (Methodist), Reverend Simone Bennett (Church of England), Mrs Sarah Beveridge (Teacher), Mr Robert Brownlow (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints), Mr Mohinder Singh Chana (Sikhism), Mrs Margaret Gibson (Church of England), Dr Neville Packter (Jewish), Mrs Helen Sellers (Baptist) and Mrs Christina Taylor (Buddhist)

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

**Also present:** Mr Daniel Harry (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager), as observers

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**Action**

<b>154.</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES:</b> Apologies were received from: County Councillors Jim Clark and Patrick Mulligan; Mr Nasr Emam ( Muslim) and Mrs Kate Hill (Teacher)</p> <p><b>RESIGNATION:</b> The Clerk reported that Mrs Rachel Oates (Teacher) had, due to the time pressures of work commitments, tendered her resignation as a Member of SACRE. The Chairman agreed to write to Mrs Rachel Oates thanking her, on behalf of SACRE, for her dedicated service over several years to the work of the SACRE.</p>	OS
<b>155.</b>	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED -</b></p> <p>That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be agreed and signed by the Chairman, as an accurate record.</p>	SAM
<b>156.</b>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING:</b> There were no matters arising from the Minutes.</p>	

<p>157.</p>	<p><b>DRAFT SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2017-18</b></p> <p><b>Considered –</b></p> <p>The draft SACRE Annual Report for 2017-18 for Members' approval (a copy of which appears in the Minute Book)</p> <p>Rebecca Swift introduced the Report and advised that it would be printed in full colour when finalised. Rebecca Swift expressed thanks to Mrs Helen Sellers who had undertaken the initial proof-reading of the draft Report and fed-back comments.</p> <p>Professor John Adams praised the content of the draft Report, but expressed disappointment that in Section 6, Member attendance continued to be listed by Group, rather than by individual Member. The Chairman agreed that the issue of listing individual Member attendance could be considered by SACRE for next year's Annual Report.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That approval be given to the finalisation and publication of the draft SACRE Annual Report for 2017-18 as circulated, including approval of the front cover sheet.</p>	<p>RS to finalise</p>
<p>158.</p>	<p><b>DRAFT REVISED SACRE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND CONSITUTION</b></p> <p><b>Considered –</b></p> <p>Draft revised SACRE terms of Reference and Constitution circulated for Members' approval.</p> <p>Rebecca Swift reminded Members of the background to the revision of the Constitution and who had been consulted during the re-drafting process, including Legal Services.</p> <p>Rebecca Swift took Members through a page-by-page commentary and highlighted areas of changed wording, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pages 1 and 2 – no changes</li> <li>• Page 3 – wording for the composition of Group A remained largely the same as national guidance, as it was written in law for SACRE's and was not in an individual SACRE's gift to change, but included Humanist membership</li> </ul> <p>Rebecca Swift advised that as Group A was a "representative" group it needed to record which 'body' had nominated the individual Member and what they were representing; equally Teacher Members should cover the Teacher organisations, or Unions. It was suggested that Teacher membership should ideally reflect Secondary and Primary education and could include representation from independent, or SEND schools.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 3 – Terms of Membership wording for length of membership be amended to read: “The <b>recommended</b> maximum time a member may sit on SACRE is <b>normally</b> 8 years (2 terms)”</li> <li>Page 4 – no changes</li> <li>Page 5 – no changes, but attempt to ensure all meeting dates are fixed for the year ahead</li> <li>Page 6 – wording for observers and members of the public ‘tightened-up’, together with bringing in protocols to ensure SACRE meetings follow official, formal County Council procedures</li> <li>Page 7 – voting process made clearer, along with Chairman and Vice-Chairman roles and tenure</li> <li>Pages 8, 9 and 10 – no changes</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That subject to the wording for the length of membership being amended as given above, the revised SACRE Terms of Reference and Constitution, as circulated, be approved as printed for recommendation for adoption by the Local Authority.</p>	RS
159.	<p><b>VOTE ON HUMANIST ASSOCIATION REQUEST TO JOIN GROUP A OF SACRE</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b></p> <p>That by unanimous Group vote, a representative of the Humanist Association be appointed as a full, voting member of Group A of North Yorkshire SACRE with immediate effect, with the Constitution being amended accordingly to reflect this position.</p>	RS/SAM
160.	<p><b>UPDATES ON ANY LOCAL AND NATIONAL ISSUES</b></p> <p><b>Commission Report:</b> Olivia Seymour suggested that it would be advisable to for SACRE to defer consideration of the Commission’s Report until a future meeting and commented that the current status of RE within the curriculum was unlikely to change.</p> <p><b>NATRE and Culham St. Gabriel’s Trust:</b> Olivia Seymour reported that Suzanne Tomlinson had recently been appointed as the North East Regional Ambassador and that she had contacted her via e-mail to make her aware of SACRE.</p> <p><b>LTLRE:</b> Members were advised that funding for the LTRE project was finishing at the end of 2019 and there were a small number of events still to take place up to the end of the year. For example, there was a Conference to be held in March focussing on effective RE in Primary Schools.</p>	To bring forward

**Action**

<b>161.</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE:</b> There had been no correspondence received since the last meeting.	
<b>162.</b>	<b>OTHER BUSINESS:</b> There were no items of other business raised at the meeting.	
<b>163.</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>  It was agreed that to enable Members to be able to attend the Launch event/Conference for the new RE Agreed Syllabus, the normal Summer Term meeting would not take place.  <b>RESOLVED -</b>  That the next meeting be held on <b>Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2019</b> starting at 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm at County Hall, Northallerton.	All to note SAM to arrange

The meeting concluded at 2.45pm

SAM

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

Minutes of the Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Conference held at County Hall, Northallerton on Thursday 21 February 2019.

#### **PRESENT:**

Mrs Heather Crocker (Teacher - Romanby Primary School), Hannah Gibson (Teacher - Selby High School), Claire Edwards (Teacher - Western Primary School, Harrogate), Fiona Tilson (Teacher - Western Primary School, Harrogate), Helen Hawkes (Teacher - Burton Leonard Church of England Primary School), Margaret Gibson (Member of SACRE - Diocese of York), Olivia Seymour (Chairman of SACRE - Diocese of York), Reverend Simone Bennett (Member of SACRE - Diocese of Leeds), Dr Neville Packter (Member of SACRE), Helen Sellers (Member of SACRE), Barbara Belsham (Member of SACRE), Christina Taylor (Member of SACRE), Mohinder Singh Chana (Member of SACRE), Robert Brownlow (Member of SACRE), Professor John Adams (Member of SACRE), County Councillor Annabel Wilkinson (Local Authority Member of SACRE), County Councillor Robert Heseltine (Local Authority Member of SACRE), Sarah Beveridge (Teacher Member of SACRE) and Dianne Johnson (Teacher - Snape with Thornton Watless CE Primary School).

#### **OFFICERS:**

Mrs Rebecca Swift (Equalities Adviser & Adviser to SACRE - Education and Skills - Children and Young People's Service) and Mrs Sally Mitchell (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

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The RE Agreed Syllabus Conference considered the following documents which were circulated at the meeting:-

Copy of PowerPoint presentation given at the meeting, RE Teachers' online survey: Autumn 2018 - comments and Agreed Syllabus for RE - A "model" syllabus from RE Today.

Rebecca Swift outlined the RE agreed syllabus review process:-

- ◆ September 2018 SACRE decided to begin the process of 2013 RE Agreed Syllabus revision.
- ◆ Agreed Syllabus Working Group was established to consider options, namely:- i) Adapt/Up-date North Yorkshire's own existing Syllabus ii) Adopt RE Today "model" Syllabus iii) Bespoke re-writing of own Agreed Syllabus
- ◆ It was agreed by the Working Group to adopt the RE Today "model" Syllabus.
- ◆ Autumn Term 2018 - RE Teachers' online survey undertaken
- ◆ 21 February 2019 - Agreed RE Syllabus Conference – meets to discuss the proposals more widely.

- ◆ Draft RE Syllabus prepared.
- ◆ 9 April 2019 - SACRE meeting to formally approve the new RE Agreed Syllabus.
- ◆ Summer Term - Launch event/Conference for the new Syllabus.
- ◆ Regional half-day Training events and new RE Agreed Syllabus shared with all schools.
- ◆ September 2019 - schools begin teaching the new RE Syllabus.

Olivia Seymour (Chairman of SACRE) outlined the requirements for a new RE Syllabus:

- ◆ A five year review of the Agreed Syllabus was a legal requirement.
- ◆ New RE Syllabuses were a shared endeavour between all North Yorkshire Schools and Teachers, the Local Authority, the Church of England and the many faith and belief communities in the local area; all to 'agree' the Syllabus on behalf of the whole community

Olivia Seymour advised that the new RE Syllabuses needed to take account of the following:-

- ◆ The CoRE Report (September 2018) and its focus on entitlement, big ideas in RE and Subject improvement.
- ◆ 2013-14 National Curriculum structures and the REC's Review (October 2013).
- ◆ Changes to EYFS and GCSE and 14-19 ages.
- ◆ The end of AT's and Levels and the fragmentary new structures for assessment using outcomes.
- ◆ DfE policy eg in relation to legal cases about Humanism and non-religious world views.
- ◆ The "British Values" agenda for liberty, respect, tolerance and democracy (in wider SMSCD context and HMI review - curriculum breadth and balance).

Olivia Seymour further advised that many schools saw the need to make their RE more creative, engaging, questioning and interesting. The aim of a good new Syllabus was to give clear requirements, offer exemplary guidance and support, together with a fresh vision for what RE offered to all pupils. Sound educational thinking would be at its foundations and schools really wanted detailed planning and schemes of work.

Rebecca Swift reminded the meeting that the Agreed Syllabus Working Group had considered three options, namely:

1. Adapt/up-date North Yorkshire's existing Syllabus;
2. Adopt RE Today "model" Syllabus; or
3. Prepare a bespoke re-writing of North Yorkshire's own Agreed Syllabus



and explained the reasons which had led the Working Group to agree to use and adopt the RE Today “model” Syllabus.

Rebecca Swift advised that the RE Today Syllabus included:

- ◆ The aim and purpose of RE; legal requirements for RE; contribution of RE to whole-school: SMSC, wellbeing, literacy, PSHE, citizenship, British Values, religions and world views.
- ◆ Breadth of study: which religions and beliefs were to be studied and when.
- ◆ Programmes of study: ages 4 to 19, EYFS-KS5
- ◆ Assessment processes “after levels” - an age-related outcomes based approach.
- ◆ Planning processes for teachers to use and fully applied in the Unit plans; Inclusion Statement; application of Syllabus requirements to Special school context.
- ◆ Advice on including Academies and all their pupils.

Rebecca Swift went on to explain what RE Today’s scheme of work provided.

Rebecca Swift advised the meeting that following group discussion of the sample pages of the “model” Syllabus from RE Today, a formal proposal would be put to the Agreed Syllabus Conference that it recommends to the SACRE that:- North Yorkshire adopts the RE Today Model A Agreed Syllabus, for the five years commencing in September 2019. Rebecca Swift outlined the implications and costs together with the arrangements RE Today would make, if contracted to provide its proposed model for adoption.

**The meeting adjourned to enable members to form four informal groups to discuss the proposed new Syllabus and Teaching Units, together with considering whether the proposed new Syllabus would meet the needs of North Yorkshire schools.**

**Group 1 - Primary Teacher feedback -**

- ◆ Planning ‘our journey’ - good level of content of learning and matched the existing syllabus.
- ◆ Like the assessment process which it felt would meet the requirements of school system (target tracker) for progress recording and language - check other school systems?
- ◆ Like flexibility of buying in additional Units which was felt to be a positive.

**Secondary Teacher feedback -**

- ◆ Good detail and good flow into GCSE.
- ◆ Importance of knowledge at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 – appears to be sufficient material and need to “grasp the basics”.

- ◆ Depth - sufficient to provide impetus for enquiry.
- ◆ Diversity within religious and world views - very necessary for learning.
- ◆ Non-specialist knowledge training for non-RE teachers – therefore, network meetings and training will still be necessary.
- ◆ Non-professional approach to take into account spiritual views.
- ◆ Importance of non-confessional approach and spiritual questions, also inclusion of non-religious views. The purpose of RE - skills are key and the language could be improved, “balance” needed and to include religions and beliefs.
- ◆ Positive feedback for the proposed content of the model syllabus.

**Group 2 - Feedback as follows -**

- ◆ Mix of old and new syllabus - changes in terminology could be confusing.
- ◆ Length of time involved/allocated to RE being timetabled - appears to get “squeezed out” by other things.
- ◆ Does not preclude support of SACRE to schools and looking at RE’s place in the wider curriculum and curriculum development.
- ◆ Focus on subject RE leader within the curriculum - Ofsted advice not all about complying with Ofsted expectations. Key Stage 2 contents - it would be helpful to show prior learning and the journey through it and give clear outcomes or expectations. For example, what a pupil had been doing in Year 4 and then Year 5 clearly showing essential elements when transfer through to secondary school.
- ◆ Each Unit could have a “knowledge organiser”.
- ◆ Need to build up really core knowledge before moving on to next element.
- ◆ Need close co-ordination between Primary and Secondary transfer - would be helpful to know what Year 6’s know and have learnt to ensure no repetition or gaps in knowledge.
- ◆ Teachers could share their best practices and think about the vocabulary used – ‘professional generosity’ was key and sharing and networking vital.

**Group 3 - Feedback as follows -**

- ◆ Assessment was very useful to be able to track the progress pupils have made.
- ◆ Outcomes do still matter but would refocus on what progress looks like and how it would sit in the new Ofsted framework.

- ◆ Concern that three Abrahamic beliefs, plus Humanism could be studied, but Buddhism was not studied at all at primary level and it was felt that it would be difficult to suddenly “tack it on” at secondary level.
- ◆ Sikhism was also a major religion and it was felt that should also be covered within the syllabus.
- ◆ There was a real emphasis on the importance of reading and it would be very useful to have a good range of books listed, which were current to be alerted to.

Olivia Seymour advised the meeting that schools could ‘add on’ any other faiths and beliefs such as Buddhism, Sikhism if a specific school wished and reminded the meeting that Christianity plus one other Key Stage 1 and Christianity plus two others at Key Stage 3 onwards were for the core RE studies and were a national requirement. SACRE could look again about places of worship being added in, or teaching of other religions showing samples of good practice. SACRE could also look at again together with diversity days in schools.

**Following the discussions on the contents of the proposed new RE Syllabus, the meeting reconvened and a formal vote was taken by the Agreed Syllabus Conference.**

Following a majority vote, with Professor John Adams and Christina Taylor abstaining from the vote, it was -

#### **Resolved -**

That it be **recommended to the SACRE** that North Yorkshire adopts the RE Today “Model A” Agreed Syllabus for the five year period from September 2019, subject to the following terms:

- ◆ All schools will receive digital and hard copy versions of the syllabus and key support materials and access to the scheme of work at discount; and
- ◆ SACRE will pay per school (eg 318 schools at £29 = £9,220) expecting to recoup some costs from well marketed launch events or syllabus sales to individual schools not attending launch events and RE Today will arrange and contract for these services, provide launch programmes and speakers and support SACRE in the syllabus use for the five year period of its life

The meeting concluded at 17.10

SAM