

# Nottinghamshire County Council SACRE Meeting

Wednesday 25 November 2015

6.45pm

## Minutes

Present	Representing
Ashley Mortimer	Pagan Network
Alison Carter (for Gemma Pettifor)	Assemblies of God
Anne Lumb	Church of England
Craig Moxham	Church of England
Cllr Liz Plant	Councillor
Tania Goldsmith	Church of England
Graham Jennings	United Reformed Church
Gail Brockway	Secondary teacher
John Heard	Methodist
John Slater	NCC EIS
John Widdowson	ACSL
Ken Johnson	Secretary, SACRE
Kate Charlesworth	Church of England
Mike Arnold	Baptist
Michael Groves	Roman Catholic
Naomi Posner	Jewish
Val Jones	NCC/minuter

### 1. Welcome

Councillor Liz Plant Chair of Committee welcomed members and opened the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves.

Election of vice chair for Group C. Proposed Gail Brockway to stand as vice chair, Gail happy to stand so was duly elected.

### 2. Presentation from students training to teach RE at Trent University

Julia, one of the students from Trent University gave an in depth presentation of why she chose to take the humanities course, specifically RE at Trent University, hoping to teach primary school children when she graduates. She is in her third year of a 4 year degree course. Julia feels that there is a good mix of practical and theory taught. RE can be used to educate children about recent events, give them real life context and help them have, as well as being able to share opinions and beliefs. Part of the course included a Beth Shalom visit, which was very interesting too. Michael Groves, John Heard, Anne Lumb and Graham Jennings gave comment on the excellent presentation, and was applauded by all.

### 3. Apologies and membership

Apologies received from;

Krys Pietryka  
Cllr Kate Foale  
Gemma Pettifor  
Andy Fox

Bethan Inglis  
Mel Gotheridge  
Suresh Gunpatrao  
Mike Follen

Richard Linford  
Godfrey Nix  
Santokh Singh

There has never been any representation from the ASCL/ATL groups for over a year, thoughts about inviting someone from Higher Education suggested as this linked into the Effectiveness Plan of SACRE. Mike Arnold proposed Fiona Hunter to represent that group at SACRE. Fiona is happy to join SACRE.

**Action:** The Secretary to approach Nottingham Trent University for a nomination for this group.

#### 4. Minutes of the previous meeting

John Heard reminded Val that he was absent at the last meeting and had sent his apologies. Fiona said the PGCE course was a one year course not 4 year course and Cllr Liz Plant represented the councillors, all to be amended otherwise a true record of the meeting.

#### 5. Action points from the minutes update

- SACRE on Facebook – John Slater replied on behalf of Andy Fox to say NCC are in process of setting up a facebook page to enable teachers to share and learn about SACRE/RE. When questioned about time line the reply was that we need permission then we can proceed. The Holocaust centre had sent details to the secretary and were willing to help in this.
- Constitution – The constitution was accepted on 19 October 2015, now with just 3 councillor members. Someone had volunteered and is coming to the next meeting. Everyone to be updated with new membership.
- NASACRE award – the event at the Holocaust centre is happening in May 2016 – 9 schools are booked on, 10 places available. This was now being funded by the authority on a slimmed down budget in the light of failing to attract NASACRE funding.
- Update on the Aim Higher day in March, only 3 schools booked on but will also run as no cost to schools as funded by University of Nottingham who were organising the day.
- Letter for schools for parents on Agreed Syllabus – Ken Johnson said that this was waiting for Marion Clay's approval, **John Slater offered to chase this up, he can speak to Marion on Thursday.** Noted that the letter has full names of children, should only be first name for their protection. Ken said approval was given from Kimberley but can have names taken off. Another observation made was to have a statement to say parents have the right to withdraw, and staff can withdraw from religious assembly. Reply from Ken was that these schools should be announcing anyway, as this letter was intended to highlight the new syllabus. Liz Plant said this needs to be sent out as soon as possible.
- On involving governor services, John Slater informed SACRE a termly booklet goes out to governor services and Leonie Meikle has asked for RE newsletter to be put in, but will need to be sent as soon as possible for the Summer term, probably too late for Spring term now. This is sent out electronically. Concerns were expressed an electronic version would get missed but no option. View that might be good to send one year after introduction of syllabus ie autumn 2016. Ken brought up development plan on SACRE responsibility for RE could be one package. Could be a good time but this needs to be quite formal to legally set criteria on RE. Debate on whether to deal with syllabus and collective worship as separate items or not. **John Slater to ask Andy to draft up two versions and put on next agenda.**
- CPD events 2015-2016 – two events held – 18 delegates on the Assessing RE

course, one delegate from Rotherham. Ken discussed the evaluations which were positive.

**6. Matters arising not on the agenda**

Details of a Pilgrim Fathers event in Retford the next night were on the table. It was felt this was short notice for people to attend. This was a service to start the countdown to the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers sailing in 1620. Ken would be attending an exploratory meeting to see how SACRE might be supportive of events planned for 2020 with Bassetlaw District Council as there would be educational opportunities being developed. There is a display which might be able to visit schools or different locations. The current refugee situation was raised making this very topical and relevant to pupils in the county.

**7. Draft annual report**

Discussed, good report, quite straightforward, query on GCSE results on short course – Ken said no results available for short course or number of schools. John Slater said it is very hard to obtain data from secondary schools – we only have 3 maintained schools in NCC, and when we can obtain data it is very late. Discussion over changing report, suggested we send report as it is for this year, perhaps change the 2 opening paragraphs for next year.

**8. SACRE effectiveness plan 2015-2020**

Ken was thanked for all his hard work for the CPD courses – leading towards SACRE being self financing. Discussed issue of how to monitor RE in schools, if our responsibility is to advise NCC on RE how can SACRE monitor without data? Shouldn't we be engaging with NASACRE about this? Ken said if we send survey forms a large number wouldn't be returned. **Action: Ken to write to NASACRE for guidance.** Discussion over standards or quality of RE to be included in corporate directors report and quality mark for RE – none in Notts schools. Advice on Collective worship to be a main component of the next SACRE meeting.

**9. Developments locally/nationally**

Ken led group through Document E the Religious Education update for November SACRE and encouraged all to fill in the survey described on page 3. Discussion over saving RE. John Slater said that in the new Ebac. RE is eliminated which is a huge blow.

**10. Group interchange of news**

Godfrey Nix sent his apologies as holy day today for the Baha'i faith. There has been an increase of faith experiences especially in schools in the Rushcliffe and Mansfield areas. School RE ambassadors met with governors and the students gave a brilliant presentation.

**11. Dates of next meeting**

Ken has procured the Hindu temple in Beeston for next SACRE meeting, suggested dates February 23 and February 24 2016. Voted in favour of Feb 24, note shoes may need to be removed prior to entering the Temple.

Meeting closed 8.45pm