

**OXFORDSHIRE  
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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**Minutes of the Oxfordshire SACRE Meeting  
held at County Hall, Oxford,  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 4.00 pm**

**Present:**

**Committee A: World Faiths, Christian Denominations**

Sheikh Ramzy

**Committee B: Church of England**

Peter Foot

Sue Scott

**Committee C: Teacher representatives**

Giles Beck

Nigel Fancourt: Chair

Helen Norman

**Committee D: Local Authority**

Councillor Bob Johnston

Councillor Nigel Simpson

**In attendance**

Helen Batten (Clerk)

Bill Moore (Advisor to SACRE)

Jane Ratcliffe (Local Authority)

**Apologies**

Steve Beegoo (A)

Shahin Bekhradnia (co-opted)

Jessica Edwards (A)

Arzhia Habibi (co-opted)

Rae Hancock (C)

Christian McGuinness (C)

Sarah Montagu (A)

Elizabeth Pitkethly (B)

Christine Price-Smith (B)

Chandra Vadivale (A)

**1 Welcome & preliminary items**

- NF welcomed members to the meeting and introductions were completed.
- Quorum was confirmed.
- Apologies received were accepted.
- No substantive items of AOB had been notified.

**2 Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 & matters arising**

Minutes were approved without amendment. Agreed actions were complete or would be covered by the current agenda.

**3 Matters arising**

**Induction training:** Actions are in hand to set up training as discussed during September. BM confirmed that these sessions will be for Oxfordshire SACRE only.

**4 Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus 2023**

**4.1 Review of Syllabus Launch, 14<sup>th</sup> June**

- BM reported that positive feedback has been received from attendees who enjoyed the presentations and felt that the event was a success. Slides of the presentations have been circulated to all attendees. Members agreed that the launch also provided a useful networking opportunity that has informally raised the profile of SACRE.
- Discussion raised some further comments:
  - ~ BM's excellent presentation clearly showed his passion and commitment to excellence in RE and was very well-received.
  - ~ Conversations raised awareness of how SACREs need to operate in a wider arena where there are very different views on how RE should be presented.
  - ~ SACRE needs to ensure that the syllabus document now becomes effective in schools by providing inspiration and support for teachers.
  - ~ A guest had commented that there was little evidence of other faith groups at the launch and questioned their input into the syllabus. It was agreed that although the syllabus has been agreed at every stage by SACRE this process is not necessarily obvious to the outside world. It will be helpful to include contributions from SACRE faith representatives in syllabus support materials for schools.

**4.2 Implementation**

- BM reported that three online training sessions for primary schools and one for secondary schools have looked at how to bring the syllabus to life. Approximately 80 schools have taken part and feedback from participating teachers was very positive. Some further sessions are being planned.
- The syllabus has been published on the OCC website and distributed to all schools by various means, and will continue to be sign-posted.

**5 Plan of work 2023-24 & development of SACRE**

**5.1 Review of 2022-23:** The document *Review of SACRE budget plan April 2022-March 2023* was considered. It was noted that the additional time spent on the syllabus work post-April 2023 will need to be added when confirmed, and that *B2 monitoring the standard of RE* will roll forward to 2024-25. As discussed previously, members agreed that the plan was too ambitious and it will therefore be essential to prioritise activities in 2023-24 and monitor the impact of money spent.

**5.2 3-year plan:** The document *SACRE 3-year plan 2023-26* was noted. Members agreed the overall approach which reflects discussion at the February meeting. It was confirmed that dates refer to financial years and this will be clarified. Some specific changes were also agreed to refine the sequence of activities and add detail to some items.

**5.3 Action plan 2023-24**

- *Action Plan 2023-24* was considered, with some amendments agreed.

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- *Budget Plan 2023-24* was discussed. The RE Advisor time required will need to be checked to include the adjustments to the action plan that have been discussed. Following the review of the previous year and agreement of the current year plan, the November and March SACRE meetings will monitor progress and agree any adjustments required.

**Action: BM will amend documents as agreed.**

**6 NASACRE conference feedback**

- HN reported that the conference on 22<sup>nd</sup> May was based around a general celebration of the last 30 years of SACREs, looking at both achievements and the challenges faced, and included interesting presentations from three speakers.
- It was suggested that NASACRE might consider formally raising concern at the general lack of government interest in the work of SACREs and make a case for better national resourcing and members agreed that discussion can return to this in future and also consider other possible approaches. However the current focus should be on prioritising the work that can be achieved by this SACRE over the next year, and ensuring effectiveness.

**7 SACRE annual report**

The draft 2021-22 report was noted and discussed. SACRE membership and attendance information, and the Chair's introduction will be added, subject to which the report was approved for publication. **Action: BM will complete and circulate the annual report.**

**8 SACRE constitution update**

Following agreement of the constitution by SACRE in February, OCC Legal Services have suggested some further changes based on a different document. Further checking is now required to confirm that everything necessary has been included and also that the agreed inclusion of Humanism is clear, and the constitution will be brought back to the November meeting for further approval.

**9 2023-24 meeting arrangements**

SACRE meetings will be held on the following dates at 4.00 pm, with venues to be confirmed:

- ~ 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023
- ~ 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024
- ~ 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**10 AOB**

- SR asked how information to raise awareness of issues of human trafficking and modern slavery can be got into schools. BJ advised that the local County Councillor will be able to raise specific concerns at Full Council for further action. It was also confirmed that Safeguarding and Prevent training delivered to school staff and volunteers covers these concerns and is regularly updated.
- As this had been her last meeting members joined NF and BM in thanking JR for the support she has given SACRE, and wished her good luck in her new role.

NF thanked everyone for their attendance and input and closed the meeting at 5:50 pm.