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| ***Education Services*** | |
| **Meeting** | SACRE |
| **Venue** | Virtual meeting |
| **Date** | Thursday 1st July 2021 at 16.30 |
| **Present** | Julie Childs, Gillian Georgiou, Julie Beckett, Shereen Alankar, Pat Barlow, Katherine Bruning, Inga Greet, Matthew Ward, Amanda Mellows, Reverend Nick Nawrockyi, Nicky Best (Clerk) |
| **Apologies** | Nigel Bishop |

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| ***Agenda Item*** | | ***Attachments/Discussion/Actions*** |
| 1 | Introductions and Welcome | The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. The Chair welcomed the new members and a round of introductions took place. |
| 2 | Apologies | An apology for absence had been received from Nigel Bishop.  RESOLVED: That the apology be accepted.  There had been no apology received from Cllr Green. |
| 3 | Minutes and any matters arising from previous meeting | RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 04 March 2021 be approved.  Matters Arising   * MW would follow this up with Fr Andrew to keep him informed and help further the offer. MW advised that this had happened. * Update website – MW and the Clerk reported that investigations were underway on how to ensure that past and future documents were made accessible as this was required to take place before anything could be published on the NELC website. * KB and JC to look at constitution to be in line with NASACRE – The Chair advised that she had looked on the NASACRE website but as she did not have log in details had been unable to find the guidance on a standardised constitution. The Chair had further investigated another SACRE membership which consisted of many members which indicated that this SACRE would have capacity to expand. GG stated that different councils had different rules and any changes would need to be ratified. This would be further discussed at the next meeting. * KB would follow up with the Hindu Society – KB advised that she had not heard anything back from the Hindu Society, however she had received a response from the Jehovah’s Witness representative who was not interested in joining SACRE. * GG would follow up with the potential Church of England representative – GG advised that this had been done. * A draft job description for an RE Advisor would be written – The Chair advised that a meeting had taken place and a draft job description had been written. * JC and MW would discuss data with Deborah Weston – The Chair reported that this meeting had taken place. MW explained that he had been reluctant to share the data with schools at this time in light of the pressure Headteachers were under due to rising Covid cases. A discussion took place around the value of sharing the data now or in September 2021. GG stated that if the data was to be used this year, then it was important to share the information with schools now. IG pointed out that it was now too late to inform any change or implementation for September 2021 as schools started to plan timetables much earlier in the year. GG felt that it was important to ensure the communication focussed on the offer of support from SACRE, which would be beneficial to circulate now and again in September 2021. MW would action this. * Members would explore options for different communication strategies to present at the next meeting. The Clerk would add this item to the next meeting agenda – The Chair felt that the support had vastly improved with the involvement of MW as LA link and a dedicated Clerk, however there were ongoing issues with email communication being received into junk folders. The Chair was confident that when the RE Advisor was in place, communication to schools would greatly improve and the use of social media would further highlight the message. * The Clerk would circulate the training videos to all Heads of Schools and RE subject leaders – This had been done and the uptake from schools had been positive.   ACTIONS   * Clerk to add Constitution to the next agenda. * MW to circulate the data and the offer of support to Headteacher and then again in September 2021. |
| 4 | Membership | The Chair noted the appointment of Amanda Mellows and Reverend Nick Nawrockyi.  The Chair was saddened to note the passing of Leo Solomon who had been a passionate advocate for good quality RE. AM stated that she was in contact with his daughter and the Chair asked that she please pass on the deepest condolences on behalf of SACRE.  The Chair advised that as Cllr Rodgers had lost her seat at the recent election, she was no longer able to be a representative on SACRE. It was unknown if the same applied to Cllr Green. The Chair asked MW about the process of appointing another Councillor representative.  ACTION  MW would investigate the process of appointing another Councillor onto SACRE. |
| 5 | Correspondence | The Chair advised that a number of emails had been responded to, mainly around offers of support. GG reported that she had received an email regarding schools within the DRET wishing to adopt the East Riding and Hull syllabus for all schools within the Trust, including those in Lincolnshire. This would mean that SACRE would be unable to support those local schools who would be delivering a different syllabus to all other schools in the area. GG stated that as DRET was a multi-academy trust, they were able to deliver whichever RE syllabus they chose.    The Chair reported that NATRE had been involved in challenging schools that were not compliant in delivering the RE syllabus. |
| 6 | Locally Agreed Syllabus | The Chair reported that training videos had been sent out and had been well received. A considerable amount of support had been offered to schools and collaboration was improving. There was a NELC RE teacher support group drop in. GG reported that a survey had been sent to all schools in the area which referenced recent Ofsted research and outlined the high expectations of what RE should look like in schools. A rigorous curriculum was expected to enable pupils to look at their knowledge through different disciplinary lenses. When the survey was sent out, GG had pointed out the remit and what happened if RE was not included on the curriculum. A series of questions on confidence and knowledge were also asked together with implementation plans and any training needs. A good return rate across primary and secondary schools had been received. The majority of respondents had accessed the training materials on the new syllabus and felt confident on what was needed to make the syllabus work. However, schools were less confident on how they would implement this effectively as there was a lack of subject knowledge with a lack of RE specialists in school. This initial survey had been focussed on teachers and middle leaders and the next survey would be targeted at senior leaders. The Chair hoped to address this gap with training sessions and the newly appointed RE Advisor would be instrumental in this. KB asked how far along the recruitment process was for the RE Advisor. MW stated that the role and remit had been designed to cover primary schools due to local need, however secondary school support would also be provided. The next stage to gain approval through vacancy management was underway and feedback on this was still awaited. |
| 7 | Supporting Local Schools | This had been covered earlier in the meeting. |
| 8 | SACRE Funding | The Chair reported that she had attended a NATRE webinar which was focussed on data. Following this, a freedom of information request had been obtained on SACRE funding and the picture had been mixed but overall was not positive. The Chair was concerned that the RE Advisor role was for a fixed term period but this needed to be a long term, sustained investment from the LA and the Chair would monitor this. |
| 9 | AOB | GG asked what the NELC protocol on remote meetings was; would it be a mixed approach or return to face to face meetings from next year. There had been a temporary legal change to allow SACRE meetings to be held virtually, however prior to this it was a legal requirement for meetings to take place in person to allow public attendance if desired. Neighbouring LAs had informed their SACRE that there was an expectation for meetings to be held in person again from the next academic year. MW would seek clarification on this.  ACTION   * MW would seek clarification on the NELC meeting protocol. * Move forward with the RE Advisor role |
| **Next meeting** | | The next meeting would take place on Thursday 14 October 4.30pm (format TBC) |