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| ***Education Services*** | |
| **Meeting** | SACRE |
| **Venue** | Virtual meeting |
| **Date** | Thursday 4th March 2021 at 16.30 |
| **Present** | Julie Childs, Gillian Georgiou, Sally Jack, Julie Beckett, Shereen Alankar, Pat Barlow, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Green, Nigel Bishop, Katherine Bruning, Inga Greet, Matthew Ward, Nicky Best (Clerk) |
| **Apologies** | None |

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| ***Agenda Item*** | | ***Attachments/Discussion/Actions*** |
| 1 | Introductions and Welcome | The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and a round of introductions took place. |
| 2 | Apologies | There were no apologies for absence received.  The Chair explained that MW had joined the meeting as LA link and NB as Clerk. LS was currently taking time away from SACRE but may return at a later date. Fr Andrew had been invited to join SACRE but he did not feel that he had anything to contribute in terms of the Catholic representative role.  ACTION   * MW would follow this up with Fr Andrew to keep him informed and help further the offer. |
| 3 | Minutes and any matters arising from previous meeting | RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2020 be approved subject to the following amendment:  Minute Point 4. – GG referred to the paragraph which stated that she would resend the letter and advised that she had shared the letter that had previously been put together, however subsequent letters needed to be sent by an LA representative.  Matters Arising  Minute point 3. Action – meeting to update website – The Chair asked if this meeting had taken place. SJ advised that the LA were in the process of setting up a new team with the addition of MW and NB and a meeting to discuss the website would take place in due course.  Minute point 4. Action – The Chair advised that the link to the training video had been circulated to SACRE members and Heads of schools/RE subject leads.  Minute point 5. Action - Cllr Rodgers had contacted Sister Bridgette for advice. |
| 4 | Membership | KB and JC would compare the constitution against the current membership to ensure it was in line with NASACRE and forward this information to the Clerk and this item would be added to the next meeting agenda.  NB was unsure of where he fit in terms of membership. The Chair advised that NB was part of Group A and would become a formal member of SACRE. A discussion took place around the constitution and how the different types of memberships worked.  KB reported that she had forwarded information to two potential representatives for Hinduism and Jehovah’s Witnesses. A reply had been received from the Hindu Society who were keen to be involved. GG noted that there had been no update from the Church of England representative and she would follow this up.  ACTION   * KB and JC to look at constitution to be in line with NASACRE. * Clerk to add Constitution to the next agenda. * KB would follow up with the Hindu Society. * GG would follow up with the potential Church of England representative. |
| 5 | Correspondence | The LA had liaised with North Lincs to access training and the costs for this had been shared between the two Local Authorities. Despite a number of emails reminding Heads of schools and RE subject leads to access the training, uptake had been poor. Another training session was planned for 23 March 2021 and an email reminding Heads of schools and RE subject leads would be sent. The Chair expressed her concern about the lack of uptake from schools as there was considerable emphasis on academic rigour and subject knowledge. There was a concern that schools would be unprepared when using the new syllabus. SJ was keen to identify the reason for the lack of uptake from schools and to explore alternative ways of communicating with key staff to boost engagement. GG felt that there was historically a lack of understanding and interest in RE in the local area and this had been evident at previous training events when uptake from schools in the LA had been low. This had however improved following the communication sent from MW with 17 schools attending the most recent training, although the training would not be repeated for those schools which had not attended. The Chair voiced her frustration on the perceived lack of support from the LA and the absence of a dedicated team to cascade information, however this situation would greatly improve due to the appointment of MW and a dedicated Clerk. |
| 6 | Locally Agreed Syllabus | The Chair reported that following a meeting with Deborah Western, she had been provided with concerning data in relation to RE in the county. Out of 150 Local Authorities, North East Lincolnshire Council had ranked the lowest in the country for GCSE entries for RE at only 11%. This was particularly disappointing as the data suggested that schools were not delivering a broad and balanced curriculum which included RS. The Chair stated that there was direct evidence to suggest that those students who did not study RS were negatively impacted on performance in other subjects. The Chair stated that there had been studies carried out to support this and quoted an extract of this information which found that students achieved an average point score of the equivalent of 2 grades less than those who had studied RS. The Chair stressed the need to share this information with Heads of schools and RE subject leaders to ensure they appreciated the value and power of RS. Cllr Rogers stated that, although hugely disappointed, it was not surprising. The matter should not only be spoken about in terms of GCSE results but the wider social implications on health, housing, work and education. The impact of RS needed to be more publicised to address the inequalities in the local area. GG stated that uptake from schools locally had increased since the introduction of the new Ofsted Inspection Framework and over the last 6-12 months, she had worked with a higher proportion of schools in the region. GG considered the key barrier to be the lack of subject specialists in the region and felt that the group should consider how best to address this need moving forward which may include CPD and working collaboratively with North Lincolnshire Council. IG noted that the data was not unexpected as she had found this in practice when reaching out to schools locally. Based on publicly available information, it would appear that there were currently only 2 schools locally which were compliant. MW noted that academies were competitive businesses and only focussed on certain subjects to support the business. Covid would also delay the implementation of the new syllabus as schools would be focussed on recovery. The Chair would arrange for the data to be shared with schools and academies. SA asked what accountability schools had as RS was a legal requirement. GG stated that SACRE were responsible for providing the locally agreed syllabus and support for its implementation for maintained schools; SACRE also had a responsibility to provide support for academies. If maintained schools were not fulfilling statutory duties relating to RE, this could be addressed by Ofsted. If academies were not fulfilling their duties in line with their funding agreement, this breach could be reported to the ESFA with the potential of lost funding, however, any breach could only be reported by a parent of a child at a particular school. The Chair noted that NATRE and the DfE would also work together to monitor the provision. Members of SACRE were keen to offer support to schools to deliver a RS provision. Cllr Rogers felt that it was easier to attract RS specialists in more affluent areas. SJ again stressed the importance of looking at different strategies to boost engagement and the Chair felt that the data was key. |
| 7 | Supporting Local Schools | The Chair stated that funding was an issue and the LA needed to appoint a dedicated RE advisor to address the gap. The Chair was concerned about the lack of training on the new syllabus accessed by schools and suggested that further training be arranged if possible.  ACTION   * A draft job description for an RE Advisor would be written. * JC and MW would discuss data with Deborah Western. * 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 Clerk would circulate the training videos to all Heads of schools and RE subject leaders.   A discussion took place around possible communication strategies and this would be further discussed at the next meeting. |
| 8 | AOB | Cllr Rogers asked if members had any ideas on how to reduce health and inequalities to increase access and uptake of the Covid vaccine for those in the BAME groups. GG felt that the key was communication with schools who have strong relationships with local families.  ACTION   * JC would provide contact details of the Hindu and Sikh representatives.   SA stated that mosques had already started this process through social media, but this had been hampered by the pandemic. |
| **Next meeting** | | The next meeting would take place on Thursday 1 July 2021 at 4:30pm |