



City of Wolverhampton Council SACRE Minutes - 23 May 2019

Attendance

Members of the City of Wolverhampton Council SACRE

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| Martin Gomberg (Chair) | Representative of the Jewish Community |
| Akeel Ahmed | Representative of the Muslim Community |
| Jaswinder Singh Chaggar | Representative of the Sikh Community |
| Charlotte Harding | City of Wolverhampton Council |
| Rev. Stephen Jackson | Representative of the Baptist Church |
| Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre | Cabinet Member for Education and Skills |

In Attendance

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| Shelley Humphries | Democratic Services Officer |
| Angela Hill | RE Today |

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

1 **Welcome and Introductions**

2 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Craig Fullard, Rebecca Wood, Mark Cooper, Ourmala Devi and Yvonne Fegan.

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolved:

That the minutes from the meeting of 28 February 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 **Matters Arising**

Minute 4

Following a query in respect of the Kirpan policy, it was clarified that the policy had been signed off by the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board. It was also noted that an accompanying 'Frequently Asked Questions' document was being developed following consultation with Wolverhampton's Sikh schools. It was anticipated that both documents would be available for the next meeting of SACRE.

5 **Report from Religious Education (RE) Today**

Angela Hill, representing RE Today, delivered a verbal update on the activities of National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) and National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE).

The update provided Wolverhampton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) members with a news update on the following:

NATRE Meetings with the Department for Education (DfE)

It was reported that representatives continually met with the DfE to ensure adequate provision of religious education in schools and discuss non-compliance issues. It was reported that the organisation was working closely with the DfE to provide subject knowledge enhancement training courses for secondary trainee teachers.

NASACRE hears from the DfE about school compliance on RE

It was reported that Neil Lawson from the Curriculum Unit of the Department for Education had written to NASACRE Chair, Paul Smalley, setting out the expectations of the government with regards to school compliance in RE. It was noted that a copy of this letter could be viewed online and a link was provided.

<http://nasacre.org.uk/file/nasacre/1-97-item-2.pdf>

National and Regional Ambassadors

A link was provided with the paperwork to give more information on the ambassadors. It was noted that Chris Giles, Regional Ambassador was not a member of SACRE however he had expressed an interest in working with Wolverhampton SACRE and had offered his support. It was agreed that Chris Giles, Regional Ambassador would be invited to the next SACRE meeting to present an item on the National and Regional Ambassadors. It was noted that two years' worth of funding had been secured for the scheme and further funding was being sought.

BBC Bitesize

It was reported that the RE teaching support and GCSE revision material developed by Lat Blaylock, RE Today had been launched on the BBC Bitesize website. It was noted that the material included quizzes, videos and other content, with further material specifically targeted to Key Stages 3 and 4. It was reported that the launch had been well received by teachers and students and feedback had stated that the content had been useful during lessons. It was noted that all content was free to access and also incorporated material provided by exam awarding bodies OCR and EDUCAS.

The RE All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)

It was reported that, at the January meeting of APPG for RE, NATRE Primary Vice-Chair Katie Freeman provided a verbal account on the positive impact of RE for pupils and how it is delivered in the classroom. This information reached an audience of parliamentarians and guests from various branches of the RE community. Wolverhampton SACRE members were invited to provide any thoughts on this and it was suggested that local MPs be encouraged to engage with schools.

NATRE and Culham St. Gabriel's

It was reported that NATRE and Culham St Gabriel's were jointly offering a new 200-hour DfE funded subject knowledge enhancement course. This was designed for new teachers who wanted to teach the subject but didn't have a degree in theology or other RE related subjects. A link was provided with detailed information about the course at www.teachre.co.uk as well as information about other already established courses for those already teaching, such as Teach: RE Tailor Made.

It was clarified at this point that the statutory requirements were to make RE provision available to all pupils, unless partially or fully withdrawn from the subject by parents or guardians. There had also been reported a high degree of non-compliance in meeting statutory requirements of RE provision in secondary schools. Discussions had taken place in previous Wolverhampton SACRE meetings on how to address the issue as many secondary schools had shown to be underperforming in terms of hours dedicated to RE during the school week.

It had previously been agreed at the last meeting of Wolverhampton SACRE that a letter to Headteachers and School Governors would be drafted to outline the benefits of RE and to remind schools of the statutory obligations to provide RE tuition. It was reported that the letter was in the final draft stages and was to be sent on behalf of Meredith Teasdale, Director of Education. It was noted that the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills would also be consulted. It was agreed that once this letter had been distributed, feedback from schools would be provided at a future Wolverhampton SACRE meeting. A suggestion was made to include the content in the letter in a future Headteacher Bulletin to help further disseminate the information.

It was also suggested that a course could be introduced to influence headteachers of schools that were not currently meeting standards and to inform them of the positive impact that RE provision could have.

Better RE in 1000 Primary Schools

It was reported that NATRE had received funding for a project known as Primary RE 1000, which was to offer 1000 schools across the nation a support package for RE. Wolverhampton SACRE members were invited to nominate schools that were thought to require further encouragement to engage with RE. The package had been designed to support and enhance schools' provision of RE by using digital content and free-to-use classroom resources as well as offer the opportunity to share best practice with local RE teachers. Discounts on membership of NATRE and discounted training courses were also included. It was suggested that contact details for schools could be provided to NATRE who would approach schools with the offer.

It was clarified that information provided previously on the number of hours dedicated to RE in schools had only been based on secondary school figures therefore it may be a challenge to identify primary schools in need of encouragement. It was suggested that a measure could be taken by analysing how many primary schools had been recorded as participating in previous RE training courses.

In respect of data gathering, it was also suggested that the emerging issue of right-wing extremism could be discouraged by providing workshops to schools in areas of potential risk. It was suggested that the West Midlands Police crime map could be utilised to identify these areas by number of crimes committed.

It was agreed that both these measures would be explored and details of schools that may benefit from the support would be passed to NATRE.

Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships

It was reported that the 2019 Annual NASACRE Conference and Annual General Meeting had been held in Manchester on Wednesday 22 May 2019 and had been well-attended with a wide and varied audience. It was reported that there had been various guest speakers and a programme of workshops had taken place. It was

requested that thought be given to a Wolverhampton SACRE delegate attending the 2020 Conference event.

Jewish Museum: Teachers' Seminar Days

It was reported that the Jewish Museum were offering teachers' seminar events designed to support teachers in line with the curriculum and provide them with an opportunity to share good practice. Booking details were provided to SACRE members for two Teachers' Seminars to be held this Year; one specifically tailored to GCSE and A level students on 4 July 2019 and the other aimed at primary teachers which was scheduled for 5 July 2019. It was requested that information on these events be cascaded to Wolverhampton schools.

Resolved:

1. That the Report from RE Today be received.
2. That, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, a letter from Meredith Teasdale, Director of Education be sent to schools to outline the benefits of RE and the statutory obligations to provide RE tuition.
3. That feedback from schools be provided on responses to the letter at a future SACRE meeting.
4. That details of primary schools in need of extra support with the RE syllabus be passed to NATRE for consideration for the Better RE in 1000 Primary Schools project.
5. That a representative from Wolverhampton SACRE be nominated to attend the next annual NASACRE Conference and Annual General Meeting.
6. That information on the Teachers' Seminar Days at the Jewish Museum be cascaded to Wolverhampton schools.

6 **Primary Subject Leader Network 2019 - 2020**

Charlotte Harding, School Governance and Workforce Coordinator provided a verbal update on the Primary Subject Leader Network 2019 – 2020 and advised that the latest meeting had taken place today. It was reported that the Angela Hill, RE Today had delivered a seminar on the Philosophy of RE Teaching, which had been well received with positive feedback.

It was noted that 20 schools had purchased the Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the RE Subject Leader Network for the academic year 2018-2019, and ten schools had been purchased the SLA for 2019–2020.

It was reported that the focus for the next year's Subject Leader Network would be around the new Ofsted Inspection Framework of 'Intent, Implementation and Impact.' It was stated that further details had been posted to the SLA Network but plans had been put in place to advertise more widely to encourage better engagement.

Resolved:

- That the Primary Subject Leader Network 2019 – 2020 update be received.

7 **Secondary Education**

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting of Wolverhampton SACRE when a response could be fed back from the letter of escalation as discussed earlier.

Resolved:

That Agenda Item 7 be deferred to the next meeting of Wolverhampton SACRE.

8 **2019 - 2020 Provision of Services**

Charlotte Harding, School Governance and Workforce Co-ordinator provided a verbal update on 2019 – 2020 Provision of Services. It was noted that the 2018 – 2019 contract with RE Today was drawing to a close and members had been provided with an outline of syllabus proposals for 2019 -2020 from RE Today as part of the agenda pack.

It was noted that it had been agreed at the last meeting of Wolverhampton SACRE that a decision would be made following approval of the Council Final Budget Report for 2019 – 2020 budget allocations at the full Council meeting of 6 March 2019. It was reported that this had been approved, therefore the recommendation was for Wolverhampton SACRE to approve the renewal of the contract held with RE Today.

It was noted that the cost of the contract renewal was £6,600 which included:

- A representative from RE Today to attend the three Wolverhampton SACRE meetings to provide updates and advice to members;
- Provision of support outside meetings in the form of information and support for schools;
- Co-ordination of three Primary Network meetings;
- A review and update of the agreed syllabus which would be tailored to suit Wolverhampton schools and to reflect any changes in the Ofsted framework.

It was noted that the Primary Network events were ticketed with an attached fee for attendees, therefore income generated from this would offset a portion of the spend.

The proposals were thought to be greatly beneficial and it was agreed that the contract would be renewed with RE Today at a cost of £6,600.

Resolved:

That the contract with RE Today be renewed at a cost of £6,600.

9 **OFSTED Findings During the Last Quarter**

Charlotte Harding, School Governance and Workforce Coordinator provided an update on the Ofsted finding during the final quarter of the year.

It was reported that West Park Primary School and Dunstall Hill Primary School were rated as 'Good' and Penn Fields School as 'Requires Improvement'. West Park Primary School was particularly commended for its welcoming ethos, inclusivity and the values placed on the rich diversity of pupil cultural backgrounds.

Resolved:

That the Ofsted findings be noted.

10 **Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) / Inspection 48 Findings During the Last Quarter**

Charlotte Harding, School Governance and Workforce Co-ordinator provided a verbal update on SIAMS inspections. It was reported that St. Stephen's Church of England Academy had been visited and rated as 'Good.'

It was noted that the SIAMS report stated that RE played an important part in celebrating the diversity and richness of the school family by building a sense of respect.

Recommendations for the school from SIAMS were to:

- Revisit and review the vision and values with the current school family
- Build on the existing pupil voice activities
- Further develop worship in school

It was reported that no Inspection 48 visits had taken place since the last meeting.

Resolved:

That the SIAMS inspection findings and recommendations be noted.

11 **Any other business**

It was recalled that at the last meeting of SACRE, Mark Cooper Representative of the Church of England had offered to deliver a presentation on SIAMS and that further consideration would be given to this.

It was agreed that an invitation to a future SACRE meeting would be extended to Chris Giles, Regional Ambassador to talk about NATRE and share ideas.

It was also agreed to invite a representative from the Primary Network to Wolverhampton SACRE to discuss the impact of their experiences.

Resolved:

1. That Chris Giles, Regional Ambassador for NATRE be invited to a future meeting of Wolverhampton SACRE.
2. That a representative from the Primary Network be invited to a future meeting of Wolverhampton SACRE.

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Dates of further meetings

Future Wolverhampton SACRE meetings for the coming municipal year were confirmed as:

- 10 October 2019
- 27 February 2020