### Surrey SACRE – Agenda

**Meeting of the Surrey SACRE**

**Date:** Wednesday 23rd March 2016  
**Venue:** GSTC, Larch Avenue GU1 1JY  
**Time:** 1.00 – 4.00 p.m.  
**Refreshments from 12.30 p.m**  
The formal agenda will begin at 1.00pm

| 1. **Apologies for absence** | VS |
| 2. **Welcome and introductions**  
  Visiting today..... | MH |
| 3. **Minutes of last meeting** | Attached |
| 4. **Matters Arising**  
  SACRE clerk & budget updates (Including food.....)  
  SCC website: SACRE webpage & virtual visits site – update  
  News from Janice  
  Speakers’ Forum update (brief) incl. feedback from school & article  
  Ramadan briefing – SCC bulletin  
  Southwark Diocese & Prevent guidance – next meeting | RB  
  RB  
  JT  
  Forum group |
| 5. **SACRE membership**  
  Quaker representation  
  Methodist representation | MH |
| 6. **RE – the national issues influencing the review**  
  Issues affecting the syllabus review  
  Reviewing national documentation | RB |
| 7. **Agreed Syllabus revision: convening of Agreed Syllabus Conference**  
  • ASC: some reminders. What is each committee responsible for?  
  • Initial feedback from schools  
  • Agreed Syllabus questionnaire  
  • What’s changed since the last review?  
  • What requires revision?  
  • What else *might we do*?  
  • What happens next? | MH / RB  
  RB / PW  
  RB |
| 8. **AOB** | |
| 9. **Dates of next meetings**  
  • full SACRE meetings Wednesday 15th June & Wednesday 5th October  
  • ASC date(s) to be decided at this meeting | |
SURREY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RE (SACRE)

Notes of the meeting held on 23 March 2016
Guildford Schools Training Centre, Larch Avenue, Guildford

Present: Mrs Margaret Hicks (Chairman)

Group A: Sarah Harris (Vice Chairman)
Tony Wenman
Peter Ward
Kruawan Sookcharoen
Rajendra Pandya
Rev Allan Taylor (Methodist)
Rachael Milling (Quaker)

Group B:

Group C: Liz Esdon (Group C Chairman)
Deborah Drury

Group D: Colin Kemp

Co-opted Member Jennie Johnson

In Attendance: Rachel Boxer (Associate Primary RE consultant, Babcock 4S)
Paula Wright (representative from Reigate School)
Maria Macky (accompanying Kruawan Sookcharoen)
Charlie Yianoullou (Farnham Humanist Group)
Janice Taylor & Melanie Harris (SCC)

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| 1 | **Apologies for Absence**  
Adrian Norton  
Lorraine Abbott  
Kauser Akhtar  
Shaun Burns  
Rosslyn Doney  
Keith Taylor  
Jane Whittington | |
| 2 | **Welcome and introductions**  
MH welcomed everyone to the meeting with a brief reflection on the tragedies in Belgium - thinking of both those in pain and those who caused the pain.  
Visiting today was Paula Wright – representative from Reigate School, and leader of the NATRE-linked Secondary network.  
Charlie Yianoullou– visitor from the Farnham Humanist group.  
MH welcomed the potential new members of SACRE (Quaker and Methodist) | |
| 3 | **Minutes of the last meeting – 20 January 2016**  
Two amendments to be made to the previous minutes: | |
Change the date of when the meeting was held to 20 January 2016 (not September 16th!)

Apologies - Deborah Drury had given apologies before the previous meeting.

The minutes were agreed.

4 Matters arising

- **SACRE clerk & budget updates (Including food….)**
  
  There is no clerk at present following Vivian’s retirement. Someone in Babcock office would type up the minutes. There is a possibility that the clerk role would be dealt with by SCC, possibly for the next meeting. Melanie Harris has a meeting in 2 weeks at which this would be discussed.
  
  RB - the budget has not been confirmed but it would be on a shoestring this year, and unlikely to include lunch in the future.

- **SCC website: SACRE webpage & virtual visits site – update**

  The Cathedral virtual tour cannot be amended as there is no access code so it has been taken down. The Cathedral has its own website although it does not have a virtual tour. It may be a possible future discussion with the Cathedral.
  
  There are two other virtual tours – the synagogue and the mosque.
  
  The SACRE page can be found on the SCC website. There is a link to the virtual tours on the SACRE page. The SACRE logo would be added to the webpage. The logo now has the Baha’I symbol.

  Thanks were expressed to the SCC website representative Usman Hasan. His support was greatly appreciated.

- **News from Janice**

  Janice Taylor - Surrey County Council is stepping down from SACRE as she is retiring. Thanks were expressed for all her contributions to SACRE. Melanie Harris is likely to be the new commissioning officer for SCC.

- **Speakers’ Forum update (brief)**

  - A local paper reported on the Speakers’ Forum held at The Warwick School. Positive feedback was given by the school. Another forum has been requested by a school and a date has been set for 28/6/16. The forum would work on the idea of a panel of people being set up.
  
  - A logo was voted on and agreed by SACRE.
  
  - When invited into schools, people are sometimes asked in their role as a member of SACRE and sometimes as a specific member of a faith or belief.

  Both invitations are valuable but people are asked to make it clear to the school under which capacity they would be attending.

  Lorraine Abbott - the secondary teacher from The Priory School, Dorking is happy for anyone from the Speakers’ Forum group to come and observe her teach. She can be contacted directly on her school email address which is: lat@priorycofe.com

- **Other discussions held**

  **Ramadan**

  SACRE advice has been sent out to schools in the Surrey bulletin about Ramadan in schools. It has an impact this year especially as it is during the summer exam period. Some GCSE exams have been moved so that they are either side of Ramadan.

  These decisions about the exams were made without consulting the local mosques. Kauser has been in contact with mosques.
**Surrey bulletin**
Melanie H would email a link to Surrey bulletin to RB so that all SACRE members would have access to the bulletin.

**Prevent**
Prevent training updates would be deferred to the Autumn meeting when Shaun Burns would be available.

**SMSC conference feedback**
Impact on schools of Prevent was huge as it was causing ‘shadows’ in schools.

### 5 SACRE Membership
New members were welcomed and introduced as:
- Melanie Harris- commissioning officer, Surrey County Council
- Rachael Milling- Quaker rep
- Rev Allan Taylor – Methodist rep. On the register the letter ‘J’ to be removed.

New members will have their places ratified at the next meeting.

TW requested that a new list of SACRE members be sent out. This was agreed.  

MH

### 6 RE – the national issues
Schools Week publication have produced 35 points on RE. No mention of SACRE on the 1 page summary.

Peter Ward brought SACRE up to date on:
- Academies not needing to follow local syllabus. Some authorities are not producing a local syllabus as the schools in their area are academies. RM asked if schools can do what they like. Peter went through their choices.
- Academies and CW. No need to apply to SACRE if schools want to amend focus.
- New GCSE courses in a number of subjects from Sept 2016. Still waiting for exam boards to submit programmes of study. This has implications for schools and publishers.
- RS criteria and BHA. DfE says that humanism is not a religion and therefore not a part of RE but it should be RE and Belief. Debate going on at legal and human rights level.
- Ofsted have announced 2 HMI for RE. Susanne Lithgow and Mark Evans will share the role of National Lead Position.

Thanks expressed to Peter Ward for his contribution.

### 7 Agreed Syllabus revision: convening of Agreed Syllabus Conference
RB went through the requirement for the ASC
- Looked at the NASCRE website for info on what an Agreed Syllabus Conference is.
- Reminders were given that the ASC needs to focus on the children.
- Ofsted RE: Realising the Potential This report talks about ‘doing fewer things in greater depth’. Need to give pupils excitement about the subject and the units.
- JJ asked that there be more of non-religious worldviews in the AS. JJ supportive of Christianity and other religions being taught referred to the BHA website as a good source of material for schools.
- SH said that it is important that the smaller religions have a voice on the syllabus.
- RB reported what teachers say about the current syllabus: it is very contained and that they would like to link units together: it is not clear what is statutory. Teachers need to be confident with what needs to be taught.
- Surrey Syllabus and Guildford Diocese Syllabus are run closely together.
- There will be some funds but they will need to be used creatively.

**Discussion held on ASC**

ASC needs to:
- help pupils to see the connections between beliefs and practices in different religions and worldviews.
- demonstrate coherence and progression in the breadth of study.
- Do children need to cover all the religions?
  For example -
  KS1 - Christianity and at least 1 other religion/worldview
  KS2 and KS3 - Christianity and at least 2 other religions/worldviews
- ASC needs to be held on what possible changes need to be made to the AS.
- How can SACRE equip teachers with ideas and knowledge?
- Does ASC need a KS4 section?

### AOB

Maria Macky, from the Woking Buddhist Centre, suggested that representatives on SACRE could write a brief 2 page resume of the key beliefs of their religion/worldview.

Paula Wright from the NATRE-linked secondary network, which meets in Reigate, reported to SACRE about what the RE teachers have found as KS2 children move to KS3. The children don't know key Bible stories. RE will only be core if it is delivered as GCSE subject. It is not part of EBacc. If children do not do GCSE exam they do not need to have 1hr of RE a week. Some schools may have an RE day periodically but it is not a requirement.

JJ - Godalming College has a secular society on Wed lunchtime where a range of topics are covered. Students went to see Jeremy Hunt MP at a local surgery. Could be shown on video at the next meeting.

SH - Holocaust Memorial Day. Local school was invited to Weybridge synagogue to meet a survivor of the Holocaust. Very successful. Will be repeated next year.

Thanks were expressed to RB for her hard work

Meeting ended at 3:50.

### Dates of next meetings

- **full SACRE meetings Wednesday 15th June & Wednesday 5th October (12.30pm for 1pm start, Guildford Training Centre, Guildford)**
  - ASC date(s) to be decided at this meeting No date was set.
  - A date for the Speakers' Forum group to meet (in preparation for a presentation at Gordon's School in June) will be agreed by email