Surrey SACRE – Minutes

Meeting of the Surrey SACRE

Date: Wednesday 20th March 2019
Venue: Strictly Education 4S, Leatherhead, Conference Room
Time: 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

Present: Kay Hammond (Chairman)

Group A: Sarah Harris (Vice Chairman)
Dr Nabil Mustapha (Chair Group A)
Kauser Akhtar
Rev Allan Taylor
Jennie Johnson

Group B: Shaun Burns
Jane Whittington (Chair Group B)

Group C: Deborah Drury (Chair Group C)
Rosslyn Doney
Liz Esdon
Genevieve Rose

Group D: Keith Taylor (Chair Group D)
Mike Goodman

In Attendance: Rachel Boxer (4S Associate Consultant & Advisor to the SACRE)
Melanie Harris
Mary Suphi (Outgoing SACRE Clerk)
Kate Woodhouse (Incoming SACRE Clerk)

Visiting: Simon Mortimore, proposed replacement for Nabil Mustapha, who is retiring

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<th>All papers for the meeting are sent as attachments, named by item number for ease of reference</th>
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| **1.** Apologies for absence
Apologies have been received from Inderjeet Singh Rehncy, Rajendra Pandya, Peter Ward (PEW), Sarah Feist (apologies arrived after meeting started), Kruawan Sookcharoen, Dr Tony Wenman, Rev. Andy Turnbull (resigned), Canon Peter Bruinvels, Fiona White |
| **2.** Welcome and introductions
KH thanked everyone for coming including RB. KH then introduced Kate Woodhouse as the new incoming SACRE Clerk. She explained the retendering process for the Surrey contract and that Guildford Diocese had been awarded it for 2019-2021. SACRE would be retaining RB as SACRE Adviser. Introductions were made to KW, who in turn introduced herself. KH also reminded everyone that NM was retiring and that SM was succeeding him. SM then introduced |
himself to all. NM nominated SM as a member and this was seconded by JJ. SM was duly appointed to Group A. NM will continue to support SACRE and SM.

JJ volunteered to be Chair of Group A. SH nominated JJ and she was seconded by NM. KH thanked JJ for volunteering.

3. **Chairman’s actions**
KH explained that since the last meeting the retendering process had happened. She also was involved with monitoring visits which she found stimulating. She noted that SACRE was gaining experience as a result of the visits and the feedback reports have been welcomed by the schools.

4. **Minutes of last meeting**
There was a mistype on Item 6 – Group D should read Group C. Otherwise, minutes were agreed.  

| Action: MS |

5. **Matters Arising, numbered as per minutes of last meeting**
2. MH noted that as Arundel & Brighton have schools in Surrey it would be possible for PEW to remain on SACRE committee. However clarity is needed regarding whether SF is a temporary or a permanent member of SACRE.

5. RB is clarifying with the Diocese of London as to whether they wish to have a representative on SACRE.

5. KH suggested a review cycle of two years for the Constitution. All agreed. Next review will take place in June 2020. RB suggested that membership is updated on an ongoing basis and all agreed.

6. Group C – DD will be Chair

8. KH referred to a Q&A that is on the NASACRE website regarding SACRE and Academies, which will be circulated to all. KH felt that there should be a co-opted Academies representative on the SACRE committee. RB suggested Gemma Packsworth, Head of RE at Beacon School, Banstead. GP is interested in returning to the SACRE committee and would be co-opted into Group C. KW to invite her to next meeting.

SB asked if free schools should have a representative on SACRE. MH commented there were 3 free schools in Surrey. KH suggested doing some exploratory work about this.

8. SACRE’s future: Guildford Diocese takes on the SACRE contract from Surrey CC on April 1st. RB noted that updating the SACRE pages on the Surrey website has been difficult and going forward there will just be a link on the Surrey LA website to the Guildford Diocese SACRE pages.

MH reminded the committee that 4S was still offering a traded service and that the statutory services were just returning to the council. Two contracts were retendered – SACRE and Governance Services Database.

MH also confirmed that the contract was two years in duration, with a review after 1 year. She also reminded the committee that under GDPR, 4S were the data processors. All committee members **URGENTLY** need to consent to the Diocese
to have their personal data stored for the effective operation of SACRE. MS to email members requesting that they consent to KW directly.

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<th>6. Dates and Venues of next meetings</th>
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<td>A discussion took place about possible venues going forward. It was decided to hold the next meeting at County Hall and to look at rotating to places of worship after that. Considerations are: parking availability and free venues.</td>
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<td><strong>Dates</strong>: June 12th 2019</td>
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<td>October 16th 2019</td>
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<td>March 11th 2020</td>
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<td>June 17th 2020</td>
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<th>7. RE – the national issues</th>
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<td>RB read the 11 Recommendations for RE from the CoRE Final Report. A discussion took place about how much time to spend on the report as it was just recommendations at this point. Other SACREs have the report on their agenda.</td>
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<td>RB felt the point 8 was the most important. KH informed the committee that she would attend the next conference. SM noted that the names are very important and that 'Religion &amp; Worldviews' was quite broad and not a useful term. RB stated that legislation supports SACRE and a name change cannot happen without a change to the law. NM was concerned that the word ‘Network’ was very loose. There is no indication when the report will be issued. KH recommended that committee members print off the executive summary of the report and read it. RB noted that Section 7 was very useful regarding the role of SACREs in the future. She said that if members wished to act in advance, they could feedback on the commission website.</td>
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<td>SH raised concerns about oversight of academies and what is being taught there.</td>
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<td>RB suggested asking Rudolf Elliott-Lockhart (Chief Executive Officer at Religious Education Council of England and Wales) to attend the next meeting.</td>
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<td><strong>Draft Ofsted Handbook</strong></td>
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<td>Consultation about the draft is open until April 5th. It references RE curriculum for the first time in years. It will likely be the handbook for inspectors from Sept 2019.</td>
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<td>SB noted that while it is positive that RE is mentioned, RE is not carried through the draft. RB agreed and said that would be her feedback on the consultation.</td>
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<th>8. Surrey SACRE Annual Report 2018</th>
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<td>KH reminded members that the Annual Report would be produced in March so that the GCSE results would not have to be amended. RB noted that the changing grade boundaries made it difficult to make comparisons.</td>
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<td>GR commented that schools had been given little guidance. RB said there was a dip in numbers nationally and a pressure on the LA to make RE compulsory but the reality is that a significant number of students would not choose it.</td>
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<td>GR noted that the RS GCSE exam had been quite difficult. RB said that for the first time, the total pass rate for students in Surrey was below the national average. KH felt that it was a new curriculum and too soon to see it as a trend.</td>
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<td>JW wondered if schools were giving RE the same number of hours on the timetable as other subjects. RB noted that the syllabus recommends that all KS4 students take an RE exam. JW suggested putting guidance out about what</td>
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students do if they do not take RE for GCSE and asked if it would fill a gap. JJ agreed that it was better to act now. KH felt that there were two points: 1) provision of GCSE and trends and 2) a broad balanced curriculum teaching worldviews. She wondered if schools needed something more that could be added to the syllabus to provide some support with statutory RE for pupils not undertaking GCSE courses. JW agreed and commented that this was particularly important to schools with students not taking GCSE RE if Ofsted put RE in their handbook.

MH noted a parallel with the change in legislation around PSHE and Emotional Health & Wellbeing.

RB suggested that Gemma Papworth has been doing work on the statutory element of RE and could do a small presentation. KH felt this was too much to ask of her before she is a co-opted member. KH asked for it to be an agenda item at the next meeting to decide how to take it forward.

**GCSE Results**

It is difficult to compare results to previous years’ grades. The number of entrants is down compared to previous years. Only 26 schools out of 55 entered more than 70% of their students on the full RE course. Of the 55 schools, 49 are academies; some are denominational schools, some are using the Agreed Syllabus.

Only 15 schools entered students for short course. MH said that the LA has a statutory responsibility to challenge academies about their RE provision. KH offered to write a special letter for secondary schools and ask for dates when SACRE could visit them as SACRE are responsible for those schools.

SB suggested that on point 3.3 of the Annual Report, it should be noted that the report also goes to the DIE and nominating bodies to SACRE. KH asked if it would be useful to send out to all Surrey County Council members, including Liz Mills, and all agreed it would. All amendments were agreed.

### 9. SACRE Monitoring Updates

RB informed the members that 5 visits have been completed and one more is pending.

**Website Audit**

MH to check if all responses have been sent to RB.

MH said that Area Officers at LA will monitor statutory requirements especially as Ofsted can fail a school for non-compliance. Ofsted will check a school’s website before informing them of a visit. KH said it will be raised at the next sub-committee meeting and discussed in smaller groups.

MH offered to raise it at the Quadrant meetings where heads and chairs can be reminded. She suggested writing to Joanna Jones to put it as a reminder on their agenda. KH offered to speak at Quadrant meeting. MH offered to send Annual report to Joanna Jones. KH agreed as it demonstrates that monitoring visits have not been conducted in years. MG noted that while half of schools appear not to be compliant, it may be the case that they are compliant and that their website is not up to date.

RB suggested that the summary report may be the best document to circulate.

**Action:** MS

**Action:** MH & KH
schools should use their diocesan curriculum. RB and JW raised the issue of the website compliance with Guildford Diocesan schools and they will ensure compliance.

SB asked about a SACRE leaflet, publicising what SACRE does. He also suggested that if schools see the Annual Report they would see that the DfE also receives it. RB suggested putting the list of organisations who receive the Annual report to the front of the document.

KH recommended another website audit. RB said that the summary of monitoring visits would form part of next year’s annual report. If all agreed, the final version would be circulated for members’ approval once this term’s visits have been completed. All agreed.

**Action:** RB  
**Action:** KW

| 10. | **SACRE Development Plan 2019-2020**  
KH suggested a development plan was needed and the committee should consider what other SACREs have in place as a starting point. She suggested this could be done via the monitoring sub-committee. All thoughts/comments should be sent to KH.  
RB noted that the first round of monitoring visits were to not so challenging schools. She has identified schools that should be looked at with concerns and so that SACRE can support schools that need it.  
**Action:** All |

| 11. | **Speakers’ Forum**  
Four events took place since the last meeting with positive feedback. KH thanked those that participated and asked that the Speakers’ Forum be moved up higher on the agenda for the next meeting so that a fuller discussion could be had. It should also form part of the Development Plan discussions.  
RB noted there were only invitations to primary schools pending, with no invitations to secondary schools.  
**Action:** KW |

| 12. | **SACRE Membership Issues**  
SACRE members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings shall cease to be a member under the Constitution which was agreed in June 2018. As there are a small number of members that would fall into this category, KH has offered to write to those members to remind them of the date of the next meeting. If they cannot attend (or send a substitute) they will cease to be a member of SACRE. All agreed.  
**Action:** KH |

| 13. | **Farewells and Thank yous**  
Andy Turnbull (Baptist representative) has resigned effective immediately from SACRE. A replacement will need to be sourced. KH thanked NM for 13 years of wonderful contribution to SACRE and wished him luck in his retirement. NM said it was a privilege and he has got to know many good people. KH also thanked MS, who will hand over Clerking duties to KW from March 31st. |