

**SHROPSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
15 March 2023, 18.15
The Lantern, Shrewsbury**

Present

Adrian Black (Chair) (1)	Mark Michaels (3)
David Bowgett (3)	Sue Michaels (3)
Mark Harrington (2)	Rachel Parsonage (1)
Fi Iddon (2) from 7.15	Steph Shirra (1)
Kate Linnell (1)	

(Numbers in brackets are Committee numbers)

In Attendance

Beth Blizzard (Observer), Fiona Moss, John Rowe, Helen Woodbridge (Clerk)

1. Welcome from chair

The chair welcomed all to the meeting. He acknowledged that the meeting would not be quorate as no members of committee 4 were in attendance. Therefore, any decisions would need to be deferred until the next meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from:

Name	Reason
Akasharaja Bruton (potentially 3)	Work commitment
Roger Evans (4)	Other commitment
Inderjit Singh Gill (potentially 3)	Other commitment
Simerpreet Kaur Gill (potentially 3)	Other commitment
Ruth Gittins (2)	Illness
Mike Isherwood (4)	Family commitment
Simon Nightingale (4)	Other commitment
Jacquie Osmund-Smith (3)	Other commitment
Suna Pandya (potentially 3)	Illness
Sohayb Peerbhai (3)	Work commitment
Denise Samari (3)	Other commitment
Amanda Skidmore (1)	Work commitment
Garry Ward (2)	Illness
Sue Round	Family commitment

Fi Iddon had advised of her late arrival.

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3. Declaration of interest

Fiona Moss advised that she works for RE Today and is CEO of the National Association of RE Teachers.

Secondary school representatives may have an interest in the Compliance item.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 10 November 2022

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes above (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

6	The chair will remind Fi Iddon to make contact with Emma Elliott. The letter of thanks had been sent to Jane Crouch. No-one had yet been able to establish a contact for Bill Morris. John Rowe agreed to raise the issue of a representative from Catholicism with the Diocese representative at his next meeting.
7	The Google feedback form had been created and shared. The chair had received the new Shropshire Council logo.
10	The Annual Report had been completed and submitted.
11	The clerk had asked the RE lead from Bomere about presenting to SACRE but had not heard back. Findings from the workforce data had been sent to David Shaw, Steve Compton, John Rowe and Sue Round. These had subsequently been shared with headteachers and were well received.

6. Membership

Membership was considered and colleagues were pleased that some vacancies had been potentially filled.

Committee No	Proposed new member	Existing member Extended TOR	Action
1		Steph Shirra	To be extended to Summer 2023 (Steph will then be leaving teaching and SACRE)
1	Beth Blizzard has been a teacher for 12 years and has just moved to Lacon Childe School from a school in Walsall		To be considered for appointment from Summer 2023
3		Sohayb Peerbhai	To be extended for a further four year team if agreeable.
3	Simerpreet Kaur Gill, Sikhism		To be considered for appointment from Summer 2023
3	Inderjit Singh Gill, Sikhism		To be considered for appointment from Summer 2023
3	Suna Pandya, Hinduism		To be considered for appointment from Summer 2023
3	Akasharaja Bruton Buddhist		To be considered for appointment from Summer 2023
4		Roger Evans	Shropshire Council to consider for appointment of councillor

SACRE expressed approval of the new members and the extended TOR for representatives whose term of office was due to expire. This would all need to be recommended for approval at the next meeting.

SACRE agreed to consider moving some of the meetings to a later time in order for Sohayb Peerbhai to be able to attend.

John Rowe agreed to pursue the nomination of a Lichfield diocese member.

7. Feedback from visits - standing item

Simon Nightingale had submitted a report confirming that he had visited several schools in Telford & Wrekin.

David Bowgett had not made any school visits but is keen to do so.

Mark and Sue Michaels had made 12 visits (2 in Wales). There had been positive feedback about a visit to a school in Shrewsbury made to other colleagues on SACRE.

Mark and Sue Michaels are both being accredited through the Board of Deputies.

John Rowe suggested someone from SACRE attending the small school heads meeting to talk about visits/visitors. He will email the chair with dates.

8. Update on Primary Videos

The chair apologised for any confusing messages,
A short video (3/4 mins) was requested (appropriate for KS1/EYFS about Unit 1.9). The intention is to put the videos on the YouTube channel.

Denise Samari has completed one but needs support in sending it.

Simon Nightingale had produced one but it is more suitable for KS2 so he is working on a KS1 version.

Steph Shirra has provided some sentence starters.

Mark Harrington had provided a video which he will redo for KS1 and add images to the KS2 version.

Sue and Mark Michaels are to work on this and David Bowgett is considering.

The chair would like any videos in time for the summer meeting.

Steph Shirra undertook to circulate some questions.

9. Web Links for New SLG

John Rowe advised of the switch to the new SLG on 6 April

He demonstrated the generic Sacre LOGIN and provided the password.

All agreed to let John Rowe know of any links that could be added (via the chair)

Fiona Moss suggested using links from the national update.

John Rowe is to arrange for the chair to have editing rights for RE/SACRE Networks/CPD are to be added.

The cross religions calendar link (SHAP calendar) was also suggested.

10. Compliance

Fiona Moss shared the school workforce data from secondary schools. again. This data had been presented and explained to secondary leaders. Mark Harrington had spoken about it to MAT leaders.

SACRE agreed to triangulation with GCSE data and websites where necessary. The acknowledged that Ofsted would flag that action was needed as the handbook states that SMSC has to be considered before the final judgement.

Fiona Moss reported that analysis of inspection reports had shown that those graded requires improvement or inadequate had a higher percentage of RE mentions.

John Rowe agreed to ask Steve Compton for the data, so that checks to websites can be made. He also agreed to flag this up to secondary school leaders again.

11.Census

The Census data was considered.

Less than half of the population in England and Wales is Christian - 46.2%

There has been a fall in Shropshire where 55.5% are Christian.

There has been a national increase in those with no religion - 13m to 21m, and in Shropshire 22.7% to 36.92%.

The ONS site provides maps so that populations in school areas can be seen. Appendix to be added with link to SLG.

There is no requirement for a major change to the makeup of Shropshire SACRE.

Simon Nightingale had raised several issues.

Members were asked to think about the appropriateness of making group/committee 3 available to Humanists.

12.Advisor's Update

Face to face training had been held today and everyone was positive about this. Schools acknowledged that the agreed syllabus had made a difference.

Ofsted reports

Belvidere Primary and Greenacres Primary – limited knowledge of faiths

But there were more positives which means a mixed picture in Shropshire schools.

Kate Linnell added that there is an issue when children are not confident speakers - pupil voice and testing what they know is important .

RE Hubs Training

SACRE members were encouraged to share this.

National update

A comprehensive national update was provided.

The difficulties in recruitment of specialist RE teachers are a continuing concern.

SACRE members undertook to spread the word about promotion of RE following the Westminster debate in November 2022.

NASACRE Conference 22 May 2023 in London

Colleagues were to advise the chair if they wished to attend.

13.To confirm dates, times and venues of the meetings for 2023/24

Wednesday 5 July 2023 – 6.15 – 8.15 at The Lantern, Shrewsbury.

14.Any other business

There was no other business.

Mark and Sue Michaels recognised the fantastic response from the Council in removing some antisemitic graffiti in Bridgnorth.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Summary of Actions from the meeting

5, 6	Remind Fi Iddon to make contact with Emma Elliott. Raise the issue of a representative from Catholicism with the Diocese representative at his next meeting.	Chair John Rowe
6	Add approval of membership to the next agenda. Purse the nomination of a Lichfield diocese member.	Chair John Rowe
7	Email the chair with dates of small school heads meeting.	John Rowe
8	Send any videos to the chair in time for the summer meeting. Circulate some questions.	SACRE members Steph Shirra
9	Let John Rowe know of any links that could be added to the SLG (via the chair)	SACRE members
11	Consider the appropriateness of making group/committee 3 available to Humanists.	SACRE members
12	Share RE Hubs Training. Advise the chair if wish to attend the NASACRE Conference.	SACRE members

Date Chair

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