

Telford & Wrekin Council
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
Meeting held on Monday 9 November 2020 via Remote Conference

Attendees
Jacque Osmund-Smith (Acting Chair), Mark Harrison, Cllr Veronica Fletcher, Jon Rawson, Henry White, Rev Merry
In Attendance
Jayne Clarke (Clerk)
Apologies
Cllr Raj Mehta, Michelle Parker. Sylvia Bailey. Tim Carter

1. Welcome and Introductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending at the first remote meeting of SACRE.

2. Minutes of last meeting
Councillor V Fletcher raised a query regarding whether the budget had been approved by Full Council and that the 2020/21 budget would reduce to £2,500 due to the expenditure in 2019/20 unlikely to exceed £4,000. The Chair confirmed that at the point of the previous meeting they were unaware of the budget position. Councillor Fletcher felt that the budget needed to be clarified and this should be raised with the Chief Financial Officer.
Upon being put to the vote the minutes were approved.

3. Approval of SACRE Budget
A discussion took place with regard to delaying approval of budget to give M Parker and the Chair time to discuss the budget with the Chief Financial Officer with regard to the proposals for 2021/22. It was proposed in the budget that the budget for SACRE would reduce from £4,000 to £2,500 in 2021/22 and Members of SACRE felt that they had not been consulted. They felt that SACRE should have an input into the budget and be allowed to put forward the reasons that the funding was required going forward. The work SACRE was undertaking would need commitments and finances from existing budget for syllabus and with more and more schools coming on board they could be recompensed for the work undertaken. Although it was suggested that NASACRE may have a budget that could be tapped into. It was also felt that the Council needed to recognise its statutory obligations and responsibilities. It was hoped that the syllabus would have been launched prior to the pandemic and this would have meant there would not have been an underspend in the budget and there would have been sufficient finance to achieve the work being undertaken. SACRE felt that there would not be sufficient funding to set up a new syllabus if the budget was set at £2,500. A suggestion came forward that NATRE may have resources that could be used and that Chris Giles was the contact.

4. Review of the Syllabus
The working group met on the 22 October despite their workload due to lockdown. The drive came from the teachers themselves to see what was feasible going forward and they consulted with Severn Teaching Alliance.
J Rawson confirmed that two meeting had taken place with the Multicultural Development Team, together with Mary Jennings Head of RE at Ercall Wood to feed into agreed syllabus. This proved to be a very useful meeting, It was considered that as many teachers as possible needed to be on board to contribute to the syllabus. It was agreed that they look at the units as they were and update some of the resources and initial part of the syllabus review and legal requirements. The progression assessment group met online Thursday 22 October with representation from schools and James Holt chaired meeting. Lots of work had been completed on the documentation and

updating as part of syllabus. There was a good paper around progression, knowledge, concept and mapping which would be useful to add into syllabus as well as RE knowledge and skills and where main religions come in mapping was a useful basis for revising. Year 6 syllabus would consider how Moorfield Primary has revised and presented their materials and look at the Woodside Primary Assessment. There had been a lot of input from primary schools and schools who were willing to adapt the syllabus and work together to look at what needed to be kept or updated for the 3 units KS1, KS2 and KS3 and provide example materials on the way forward on selecting and using the models and units. The syllabus would provide a framework to work within and units could be chosen that worked best in the setting. The working party would be meeting again soon with an expanded team of teachers.

The Chair confirmed the next meeting would be held on 9 December 2020.

During the discussion SACRE members were encouraged by the involvement and the sharing of resources, looking at what schools can best give the children's needs, Ofsted, the understanding of Christianity and the work being undertaken with the Lichfield Diocese, building in clear mapping and guidelines. It was suggested that Lichfield Diocese send a representative to SACRE meetings and it was asked if there was a designated representative who could attend SACRE.

Action - The Chair would look into asking for a representative from Lichfield Diocese to attend at SACRE meetings.

5. Conference Planning

The conference was still at the planning stage but the suggested date was 29 April 2021. This would be a slimmed down remote meeting/virtual conference and it would be announcing the new exciting reviewed syllabus. It was felt that following the meeting on 9 December 2020 that the date may need to be reviewed.

It was suggested that staff may not be able to attend a remote conference during the day due to commitments but the Chair confirmed that the conference would take place after school.

6. Updates from NASACRE

The Chair reminded SACRE to look at the NASACRE briefings as it kept members informed of what was happening nationally, such as the West Hill Awards.

H White suggested that teachers put forward ideas to get involved with the Awards. Shropshire had previously been successful and had produced DVDs on the 4 faiths and humanism which were used in assemblies. He would look at the detail needed to apply to get funding. The projects needed to be well thought out beforehand and would look at the NASACRE website.

The Chair suggested that this was something the Multicultural Team may be able to look at as it may be too much work for SACRE to take on.

The Chair asked if SACRE continued to buy in the annual subscription to NASACRE as this was approximately £100 out of the budget. The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that the NASACRE invoice has been forwarded for payment.

Action – Jayne Clarke to chase payment of the NASACRE invoice.

7. AOB

The budget would still need to be approved and the Chair would do this via email to SACRE members.

Exam results for the previous year could not be discussed as they had been done via teacher

assessments.

The Annual Report has just been submitted and a copy was circulated after the July meeting.

8. Black History Month

The Chair report that work had been taking place in some Schools regarding Black History Month.

9. Future meeting dates

Provisional dates to be confirmed:

15 March 2021

23 or 30 June 2021

The meeting ended at 7.14pm.