

**Telford & Wrekin Council**  
**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**  
Meeting held on 10 November 2021 at Ercall Wood Technology College, Golf Links Lane, Wellington, Telford TF1 2DT

<b>Attendees</b>
Jacquie Osmund-Smith (Chair), Angela Evans, Mark Harrington (Acting Chair), Mary Jennings Cathy Landau and Sajid Younis
<b>In Attendance</b>
Jayne Clarke (Clerk) and Michelle Parker
<b>Apologies</b>
Cllr Veronica Fletcher, Cllr Raj Mehta, Tim Carter and, Jon Rawson
<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked M Jennings for hosting the meetings.</li><li>• The Chair acknowledged the anniversary of Kristallnacht and held a 1 minute silence for those involved previously in war and involved in war at the present time. She also read two poems.</li></ul>
<b>2. Minutes of the previous meeting</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 8 July 2021 were agreed</li></ul>
<b>3. Matters Arising</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michelle Parker was to check if there was a link to NASACRE on the website - <b>*Action Point</b></li><li>• Jon Rawson to give an update on NATRE and NATRAS at a future meeting as he had given apologies for this meeting - <b>*Action Point</b> (NATRE.org.uk)</li><li>• There was a typographical error on Page 3 of the minutes where it said “guild” instead of “build”.</li><li>• Newsletter – Michelle Parker would report on this later on the Agenda</li><li>• Profiles of SACRE Members - A short piece written about themselves as a Member – a picture with a few lines to say who you represent and give a sense of the faith group / why you attend SACRE meetings. This to be sent to <a href="mailto:Democratic.services@telford.gov.uk">Democratic.services@telford.gov.uk</a> - <b>*Action Point</b></li><li>• Visits to Synagogues – progress to be picked up by Jacquie Osmund Smith and Michelle Parker. Contact details to be sent by Cathy Landau to <a href="mailto:Democratic.services@telford.gov.uk">Democratic.services@telford.gov.uk</a> <b>* Action Point</b></li><li>• Mark Harrington confirmed that Singers Hill was booked directly through English Heritage and he would send a document to <a href="mailto:Democratic.services@telford.gov.uk">Democratic.services@telford.gov.uk</a> to be circulated - <b>* Action Point</b></li><li>• RE today run training sessions and some are free to join – could SACRE join as a professional membership – the annual conference was good - <b>*Action Point</b></li><li>• To what degree did SACRE use world views? – There was currently a big debate on this nationally as to what its definition was and how wide it was made. Not everyone would agree.</li><li>• There was a stream from NASACRE discussing world views if this was something SACRE would be interested in.</li><li>• It was also asked how climate changes could be brought into RE lessons. Mary Jennings said that their school had begun bottle top collecting and operated a Fair Trade tuck shop. They tried something new with each year group and had linked up with a refugee school as a link to the outside world. The children had found it engaging.</li><li>• Mark Harrington mentioned the picture news aimed at younger students and “nobody stands nowhere”</li></ul>

### 3. Reporting on RE in Schools

- Michelle Parker reported that Dr Opinder Takar had undertaken some research following a recent racist incident. She felt that there was a particular picture of Sikhism within the local Schools. Dr Takar would attend the meeting of SACRE on the 15 February to discuss this as a Local Authority and to hear about what we needed to do.
- With regard to the questionnaire – there was nothing to report.

### 4. National Quality Mark

- Michelle Parker had not been able to explore the quality mark further at present. Her first action was to email schools to ascertain who wished to take part in the Quality Mark and if someone who was using this currently could talk about the merits and demerits of the scheme and the costs involved.
- It had been felt in the past that SACRE was a “talking shop” but following the conference and the review of the syllabus this had given SACRE a goal and it was suggested that SACRE volunteer to go into school with a set of questions to find out how RE was being taught in schools and if the agreed syllabus was being utilised. She had spoken to non-faith schools who were delighted to have been part of the conference. It was asked that volunteers (at least 2) spend ½ day to talk about RE to the subject leads, pupils and look at the work and talk about development and inform our CPD. Sajid Younis, Cathy Landau and Jacquie Osmund Smith agreed to help. It was suggested SACRE have training prior to going into schools together with guidance for consistency.
- It was suggested that good practice would be to have children’s school work at the conference
- Mark Harrington confirmed it was £475 for the quality mark and there was no extra funding – could SACRE help schools through the use of grants. He was unable to find any Telford and Wrekin Schools who had the quality mark presently.
- The quality mark had been started some years ago by Joan Furlow and the Democracy Officer would see if anything could be found on this – \* **Action Point**
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### 5. CPD/Conference 2022

- Visits to different faiths was requested
- Sajid Younis apologised that the visit to the Mosque had to be postponed – he would investigate some dates and report back to SACRE - \* **Action Point**
- The evening would be for school staff and SACRE to ask questions. The visit would be undertaken during an evening. Mar Harrington had done a preliminary visit and felt that this made the job easier
- SACRE to provide model risk assessment which could be adapted and shared with a set of questions as a scaffolding tool Michelle Parker would need help with the set of questions to compare and contrast and to give teachers a start point to help structure the school visits.
- It was felt the visits may increase the number of GCSE learners choosing RE as a subject

### 6. SACRE Young People’s Perspective

- Michelle Parker suggested that SACRE run a Young Persons Conference in the second half of the spring term run and presented by KS4/KS5 with key note speakers and possible some more mature KS2 students to talk about faith and morality and climate and the big issues out there.
- March – May 2022
- Give children chance to produce videos and be reflective of SACRE
- Need to consider school calendar to take in half term and Easter break
- Conference to take place on a school day in a school hall

- Newport Girls High School/Hadabashers Adams may be able to present on the Holocaust
- Ask Academy Trusts if they wish to attend
- The Imam from the Conference was very engaging
- A group of young volunteers would be needed to help drive the conference
- Speakers would need to be decided by the adults
- Working Group to be set up - \* **Action Point** to discuss:
- Suggested topics such as s rights as a child / British Values / why racism is in schools – look at stairs to inclusivity
- Peer on peer reviews – peer abuse such as “banter”/bra strap tweaking / domestic abuse and big questions such as healthy relationships and the need to have difficult conversations, creating trust and mutual respect to find a brave space and not just a safe space

#### 7. Any Other Business

- Poems to be circulated by Democracy Officer
- Venue for next meeting to be confirmed
- Mary Jennings to ask the Head if Ercall Wood Technology College could be used for the conference for the whole day from 10am onwards and for refreshments to be provided
- Date of Conference to be 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- Vox Box at the start of the meeting – effective videos from the BBC learning zone
- AOB items to be sent in prior to the meeting and circulated with the Agenda - \***Action Point**

#### 7. Future meeting dates

- Wednesday, 25 May 2022 (venue/remote meeting tbc)

The meeting ended at 7.41 pm.