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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Date: Thursday, 13 June 2019

Time: 6.00 pm

Place: National Holocaust Centre and Museum, Acre Edge Road, Laxton, Nottinghamshire, NG22 0PA (Phone: 01623 836627)

Governance Officer: Catherine Ziane-Pryor **Direct Dial:** 0115 876 4298

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3 PRESENTATION BY THE NATIONAL HOLOCAUST CENTRE ABOUT THEIR WORK WITH SCHOOLS

6.30pm to 7pm

4 JOINT MEETING OF NOTTINGHAM CITY AND COUNTY SACRES

7pm to 7.40pm

a WAYS OF WORKING TOGETHER

City Councillor Neghat Khan to lead

b PLANS TO DETERMINE AN AGREED SYLLABUS 2020-2025

County Councillor Boyd Elliot to lead

5 SEPARATE CITY AND COUNTY SACRE MEETINGS

7.40pm to 8pm

a MINUTES

(i) Of the meeting held on 14 June 2018 (for confirmation, as the last meeting on 22 November 2018 was inquorate).

(ii) Of the informal meeting held on 22 November 2018 (for noting).

b MATTERS ARISING

c DATES AND VENUES 2019/20

6 RECONVENE JOINT SACRE MEETING, SUMMARISE AND CLOSE

SACRE is the 'Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education'. Since 1944 every Local Authority is required by law to have a SACRE. Its role was further strengthened in the Education Reform Act of 1988 and most recently in 1996.

The responsibilities of SACRE are:

- to provide advice to the Local Authority (LA) on all aspects of its provision for RE in its schools (this does not include Voluntary Aided Schools);
- to decide whether the LA's Agreed Syllabus for RE needs to be reviewed and if so, to ensure that this is completed;
- to provide advice to the LA on Collective Worship in its schools (this does not include Voluntary Aided or Voluntary Controlled Schools);
- to consider any requests from Headteachers to hold Collective Worship that is not of a broadly Christian character;
- to advise on matters relating to training for teachers in RE and Collective Worship;
- to publish an Annual Report of its work.

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES of the meeting held at Bluecoat Academy (Aspley) on 14 June 2018
from 4.30 pm - 5.58 pm

GROUP A – Representatives of religious / faith denominations (13)

Absent	Bishop James Stapleton	African Caribbean Churches
	No representative	Assemblies of God
	No representative	Baptist
Present	Krishna Dasi	Hindu
Present	Chris Richards	Humanist
Present	Hafiz M Muntazir	Islam
	No representative	Jewish
Present	John Heard	Methodist
Present	Caroline Mackeith	Quaker
Absent	Eddy Walton	Roman Catholic
Apologies	Martin Bennett	Salvation Army
Apologies	Rav Kalsi	Sikhism
	No representative	United Reformed Church

GROUP B - Church of England representatives (6)

Present	Reverend Annabel Copeland	Bluecoat Aspley
Present	Alison Rowe	Bluecoat Wollaton
Absent	Reverend Andy Morris	Bulwell
Present	Debs Hunt	Crossteach Education Charity
Present	Jill Edmonds	South Wilford
Present	Jane Lewis	Southwell & Nottingham Diocese

GROUP C - Teacher representatives (6)

Present	Kirsty Lacey	Bluecoat Academy
Present	Asima Qureshi	Dunkirk Academy
Present	Yasmin Khalique	Middleton Primary
Absent	Ralph Surman	National Education Union
Apologies	David Wand	UNISON
Apologies	Caroline White	Victoria Academy

GROUP D - City Councillor representatives (6)

Present	David Mellen (Chair)	
Apologies	Jackie Morris	
Absent	Mohammed Ibrahim	
Present	Patience Ifediora	
Present	Neghat Khan	(as substitute)
Present	Marcia Watson	(as substitute)
Apologies	Sam Webster	

Also present

Mark Leavesley	-	Governance Officer (Nottm City Council)
Heidi Shewell-Cooper	-	LA Officer for SACRE
Helen Baird	-	Observer (Middleton Primary)
Robina Din	-	Observer (Kairimia Institute)

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor David Mellen, welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Helen Baird	–	Middleton Primary (Group C)
Martin Bennett)	Salvation Army (Group A)
Julie Obermeyer)	
Rav Kalsi	–	Sikh representative (Group A)
David Wand	–	UNISON (Group C)
Councillor Morris)	Nottingham City Council representative (Group D)
Councillor Webster)	
Caroline White	–	Victoria Academy (Group C)

3 CHAPLAINCY, COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT BLUECOAT ACADEMY, ASPLEY

Kirsty Lacey, representative from Bluecoat Academy, gave a presentation on Chaplaincy, collective worship and religious education at Bluecoat Academy, highlighting the following points:

- (a) pupils at Bluecoat Academy are mainly Christian, but many other faiths are also represented, such as Hinduism and Islam;
- (b) every year 7 pupil was presented with a Bible on Founders' Day;
- (c) the Academy holds a 'Believe Day' where pupils' individual beliefs are shared and celebrated;
- (d) student-led worship is held weekly;
- (e) a multi-faith Holy Communion is held;
- (f) the end of term service is held at St Margaret's church in Aspley and Saint Mary's church in Wollaton;
- (g) each week, two acts of worship are observed within year groups. This 'Believe Time' can take the form of prayer or reflection;
- (h) local Christian youth workers mentor all students, and a Iman visits every Friday for mentoring;
- (i) the religious studies team covers Church of England, Islam, and Atheism. GCSE and A Level Religious Education include theology and feminism, and involve trips to Lourdes and Jerusalem;
- (j) an event called 'Bluecoat Big Questions' involves discussions between pupils and invited guests;
- (k) a good translation of the Koran is available in class;
- (l) there are minimal issues concerning parents objecting to the content of religious education.

4 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising

(a) Determination requests

There were no determination requests.

(b) Annual Report

Rav Kalsi, representative of Sikhism, will prepare the Annual Report and present it to the next meeting of Nottingham SACRE.

5 RESOURCES (UNIVERSITY OF CARDIFF)

Heidi Shewell-Cooper, Local Authority Officer for SACRE, presented the Cardiff University booklet - Diversity of Religion and Belief, a guidance and resource pack for primary schools in England and Wales (a copy of which is appended to these minutes).

6 NASACRE BRIEFING (SUMMER TERM)

The NASACRE 'RE - Practice, Policy and Powerful Knowledge - A conference for professionals in religious education' event will be held over Saturday / Sunday, 13 / 14 October 2018 in Crewe. Visit <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/sacre-news-and-events> for further information.

7 FEEDBACK FROM THE RE NETWORK EVENT MARCH 2018/NATRE MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT

Jane Lewis, of the Southwell and Nottingham Diocese, informed SACRE that twelve representatives attended the City Primary RE Event, which was led by Fiona Moss of RE Today. Discussions are ongoing regarding organising further RE events, including one on 19 July from 4pm to 5pm.

A questionnaire for RE Leaders and faith settings is appended to these minutes for feedback.

Actions

- (i) Debs Hunt offered to support website development with guidance for places of worship regarding welcoming school visits;**
- (ii) Robina Din offered to link with the inter-faith council re developing the resource for schools in accessing Places of Worship.**

8 MEMBERSHIP AND 2018/19

The next meeting of Nottingham SACRE will be on Thursday 15 November 2018 (4.00pm for a 4.30pm start) at:

Nottingham Liberal Synagogue
Lloyd Street
Sherwood
NG5 4BP

<https://www.nottinghamliberalsynagogue.com>

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1) Members wished to extend their thanks to the staff at Bluecoat Academy for use of the school as a meeting venue, and for their informative presentation.
- 2) Members would like to hear how schools are implementing the new syllabus, and to hear from RE Teachers on challenges.

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES of the meeting held at the Nottingham Liberal Synagogue, Sherwood, NG5 4BP, on 22 November 2018 from 4.30 pm - 6.10 pm

GROUP A – Representatives of religious / faith denominations (13)

Present	Bishop James Stapleton	African Caribbean Churches
-	No representative	Assemblies of God
-	No representative	Baptist
Apologies	Krishna Dasi	Hindu
Present	Chris Richards	Humanist
Present	Hafiz M Muntazir	Islam
-	No representative	Jewish
Present	John Heard	Methodist
Present	Caroline Mackeith	Quaker
Absent	Eddy Walton	Roman Catholic
Absent	Martin Bennett	Salvation Army
Present	Rav Kalsi	Sikhism
-	No representative	United Reformed Church

GROUP B - Church of England representatives (6)

Present	Jill Edmonds	South Wilford
Apologies	Debs Hunt	Crossteach Education Charity
Absent	Jane Lewis	Southwell & Nottingham Diocese
Absent	Alison Rowe	Bluecoat Wollaton
-	Vacancy	
-	Vacancy	

GROUP C - Teacher representatives (6)

Apologies	Yasmin Khaliq	Middleton Primary
Absent	Kirsty Lacey	Bluecoat Academy
Absent	Ralph Surman	National Education Union
Present	David Wand	UNISON
Absent	Caroline White	Victoria Academy
-	Vacancy	

GROUP D - City Councillor representatives (6)

Present	David Mellen (Chair)
Absent	Ilyas Aziz
Apologies	Mohammed Ibrahim
Apologies	Patience Ifediora
Apologies	Neghat Khan
Apologies	Marcia Watson

Also present

Mark Leavesley	-	Governance Officer (Nottm City Council)
Heidi Shewell-Cooper	-	Lead Officer for SACRE
John Dexter	-	Director of Education (Nottm City Council)
Ahmed Peerbhai	-	Observer (Green Academy Trust)

10 WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Mellen, welcomed attendees to the meeting and informed them that due to requirements of section 9 of the Constitution, the meeting is inquorate, meaning that no decisions can be taken, although the meeting can continue on an informal basis.

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Group A: Krishna Dasi (Hindu)

Group B: Debs Hunt (Crossteach)

Group C: Yasmin Khaliq (Middleton Primary)

Group D: Councillors Ibrahim, Ifediora, Khan and Watson

12 INTRODUCTION TO THE SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich introduced herself and informed members of the history of the Nottingham Liberal Synagogue (NLS) and Judaism in general. The main points were as follows:

- a) she was born in Minsk, Belarus, moved to London in 2004 and then became the full-time Rabbi at NLS in 2009;
- b) the NLS (formerly Nottingham Progressive Jewish Congregation) was founded in 1965, moving into the current building in 1972;
- c) NLS practices liberal, not orthodox, Judaism, meaning women play an equal part, hence her being the Rabbi;
- d) May 2019 will see the 4th anniversary of the 'Salaam Shalom Kitchen', a partnership between NLS and Muslim charity Himmah, and which provides a hot meal and company every Wednesday for those suffering food poverty, asylum seekers, refugees, those with mental health issues and the elderly and isolated;
- e) the 'kitchen' recently won the 'Liberal Judaism' Mitzvah Day 365 award;
- f) NLS works with the local community, on issues such as domestic violence, across all faiths, not just Jewish;
- g) NLS has 5 Torah (Holy Book) - the Austerlitz Scroll, the Kamenice Scroll, the Swiss Scroll, the Derby Scroll and the Small Scroll;
- h) during summer 2018, a trip to the Czech Republic was undertaken by the Rabbi and 36 young people from the community, including visits to Slavkov (formerly Austerlitz) and Kamenice nad Lipou to visit the sites of temples previously holding the Torah.

Those present thanked Rabbi Sakhnovich for her informative introduction to NLS and Judaism.

13 MINUTES / MATTERS ARISING

Those present noted the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2018 and that there were no matters arising.

14 CORRESPONDENCE TO / FROM MEMBERS

Heidi Shewell-Cooper reported that a letter had been sent to Reverend Andy Morris (Bulwell - CofE representative) in respect of attendance, to which no response had been received (see 'Membership update', minute 20 below).

15 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT SECONDARY LEVEL

John Dexter, Director of Education, Nottingham City Council, informed members of the current position in respect of religious education at secondary level. The main points were as follows:

- a) last year, of approximately 2,500 pupils, 843 (34%) took RE as a GCSE subject;
- b) currently there are only 4 schools (Bluecoat Aspley & Wollaton, Emmanuel and Trinity) teaching the full GCSE KS4 RE curriculum and entering a majority of their year 11 pupils in exams;
- c) the majority of schools only have 10-15 pupils taking RE at exam level;
- d) 8 schools do not teach RE at all;
- e) one of the main factors for the reduction in numbers is that RE is no longer a mandatory subject (as parents can withdraw their child from lessons) and, as a result, most RE teachers only have one class per week and are teaching other subjects the majority of the time.

During discussion, the following comments were made:

- f) RE should be considered a platform for children to discuss ethical / moral issues, not just for religious discussion;
- g) the community should be 'educated' to show that RE is also about community cohesion etc, not just about 'becoming a priest or a vicar';
- h) changing the name from RE to something encompassing may help to get youngsters engaged with the subject.

Those present thanked Mr Dexter for the informative presentation and noted the content.

16 PRIMARY RE NETWORK - UPDATE

Heidi Shewell-Cooper provided an update on the most recent Primary Subject Leader Network, held on 05 November 2018 at the RS Resource Centre, The Vine, Hyson Green.

12 teachers from across the City took part in activities related to the offer from the RS Centre, as well as having input from Jane Lewis, RE Advisor, Southwell and Nottingham Anglican Diocese. This group is supported by the Nottingham Schools Trust, but is open to any primary maintained school or academy in the City. It will meet once per term and future sessions will include assessment and progression, as well as curriculum planning.

Those present noted the update.

17 UNDERGROUND STORY

John Heard, Methodist representative, informed the SACRE of 'Underground Story', and stated the following:

- a) it is a new translation of the New Testament, undertaken over the last four years by a group of scholars from Durham, Cambridge and Oxford Universities, aimed at 9-13 year-olds;
- b) it is accurate to the original text, but in a language today's young people will more readily understand;
- c) the scholars are seeking input from teachers and students and comments should be forwarded to the writer at brian.d.brown@durham.ac.uk;
- d) the scholars are also looking for 600 schools to pilot the 'Story' and any schools interested should contact Mr Heard at jdheard@gmail.com.

Those present noted the information and contact details for the author.

18 COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

Heidi Shewell-Cooper reported that the Commission on Religious Education final report 'Religion and World Views: The Way Forward - A national plan for RE' was attached to the agenda for information and, although 'final', it is a live document.

Those present noted the report and suggested that Ms Shewell-Cooper considers inviting the universities in Nottingham to attend future meetings.

19 CONSTITUTION / TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mark Leavesley, SACRE Clerk, presented a revised SACRE Constitution, which updated that created in 2007, bringing it in line with current requirements, and also reflecting changes in the religious make-up of Nottingham.

Those present noted the revised Constitution.

20 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Heidi Shewell-Cooper reported the following:

- a) in light of there being no response to her letter (see minute 14 above), as per section 4.7 of the Constitution, Reverend Morris has ceased to hold office and is no longer considered a representative on SACRE;

- b) representatives Reverend Annabel Copeland (Bluecoat Academy - CofE) and Asima Qureshi (Dunkirk Academy - Teacher) have both resigned from SACRE.

Those present noted the amendments to the membership.

21 SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Rav Kalsi, Sikh representative, presented the SACRE Annual Report 2017-18, which detailed work undertaken during 2017/18 and plans for SACRE going forward.

Those present noted the Annual Report.

22 NASACRE / NATRE UPDATES

Those present noted the update from Heidi Shewell-Cooper.

23 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Those present requested that Heidi Shewell-Cooper, in consultation with the Chair, considers organising dates / venues for meetings to be held during the municipal year 2019/20, and inform representatives accordingly.

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