

**CUMBRIAN STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 2 OCTOBER 2023
PENRITH METHODIST CHURCH AND ALSO VIA TEAMS**

	Committee A: Other Faiths/ Denominations	Committee B: Church of England (CE)	Committee C: Teacher Associations	Committee D: Local Authority	Co-opted: Vicky Bunter Carolyn Reade Rebekah Ackroyd
Present:	Sheila Gewolb Karen O'Donoghue Wendy Ridley Rashmi Manemi Jane Yates Michael Watmough	Richard Cox Laura Watson	James Douglas Brian Eaton Irene Roberts- Green Katherine France	Neil Hughes (W&F) Elaine Lynch (Cumberland) Sue Sanderson (W&F)	Clerk to SACRE Sue McGaw LA Support Officer David Hodgkiss (W&F) Rachel Laverack (Cumberland)
Apologies:	Rev David Milner		Bernadette Little	Chris Southward (Cumberland)	Georgia Prescott
Vacancies:	Baptist	Pentecostal Unitarian	United Reformed Orthodox	Salvation Army	

1. Welcome and introductions

Apologies for absence and substitutions – as above. The meeting was quorate. This was a hybrid meeting. This was the first meeting for Cllr Sue Sanderson (Committee D), Michael Watmough (Quaker rep) and Rebekah Ackroyd (University of Cumbria) they were welcomed to the meeting and members introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 5 June 2023 – the minutes were agreed.

3. Matters arising not covered in the agenda - none

4. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair - JY

Two members had put themselves forward for these roles. Karen O'Donoghue (Chair) and Sheila Gewolb (Vice-Chair) see separate sheet for their statements of interest. JY thanked Richard Cox who said he would step in if no other members had volunteered. In future the Vice-Chair will automatically step into the role of Chair (after a 2 or 4 year period). Need to write this into the Constitution. These appointments were approved. All members asked to consider stepping in to one of these roles in the future.

JY was thanked for all the fantastic work she has done as SACRE Chair.

**DH
ALL**

5. Locally Agreed Syllabus – update JY

This was on the agenda for the working group, meeting held this morning. The syllabus was launched at the RE Conference on 26 June with around 100 teachers in attendance. we are taking the next year to implement it. JY and Laura Watson (LW) are working with Norfolk on delivering training for schools, starting in the autumn term. Question asked about training for Governors, JY has done some in the past, but the priority is teachers.

JY/LW

6. Constitution - DH

This was updated earlier in the year and passed to Legal Department who came back with a lot of suggestions, it has now been re-written taking these suggestions on board and passed back to Legal. We are awaiting their response. Legal Department are a hosted service which means there is not a separate service for each council.

DH

7. SACRE Development Plan

This was on the agenda for the working group, who didn't have enough time to discuss it properly. Another meeting has been arranged for 28 November in Kendal, starting at 1pm. Members asked if they would like to volunteer to be part of the group to update the plan, email SMc if you are interested. A copy

ALL

of the existing plan 2017-22 is on the council website under SACRE. The NASACRE Self-Evaluation is being worked on which will feed into new plan.

8. SACRE Annual Report - JY

The report for 2022-23 has now been completed, SMC will send a copy to members. It is also shared with schools, NASACRE and the Secretary of State. Although it is a statutory requirement, not all SACREs actually complete one. A copy will be added to the council website along with previous years.

SMc

9. Faith Update (Rashmi Manemi)

This has been put back on the agenda as a regular item.

RM gave an interesting talk on her faith as a Hindu and how it affects everything that she does. Hinduism is the third largest religion. Unfortunately, the nearest temple is in Newcastle. The Hindu community is growing in Cumbria and their aim is to have their own temple in the next few years.

SMc

10. Cumbrian SACRE/RE Conference – RL

Evaluations from the conference were very positive in respect of the location, venue and speakers. Some delegates said they would like some of the sessions to be more interactive with more networking. JY has already started working on the Conference for 2024. Julia Diamond-Conway from RE Today has been approached. A provisional date of 4 June has been set and North Lakes Hotel is available, it was agreed that Penrith is a preferable location for all schools across the county. It will be administered by Westmorland and Furness council with Cumberland taking it on the following year. JY is running more localised CPD on the Agreed Syllabus for teachers in Wigton and Kendal. Focus for the conference is still to be decided.

It was noted throughout the meeting that members attending via Teams were having issues hearing the members speaking in the room at Penrith Methodist Church. There was also a suggestion that future meetings should all take place via Teams to stop this happening. However, Cockermouth School has already been approached to host the spring meeting (SACRE have already agreed that one meeting a year should be held in a school so that a session with pupils can be arranged). SMC to check with future venues that they have good hybrid meeting facilities.

11. North West RE Hubs - JY

This is a new initiative. JY has been appointed as one of ten hub leads. They provide lots of useful information and links and also provide training for school speakers (some of our members have already taken part and been accredited)

RL and DH are arranging to send information about the hub to schools.

See link to the site. <https://www.re-hubs.uk/>

12. National Update – distributed with the agenda

Members asked if they had any comments on the update

Page 4 recruitment –

- can SACRE find out when RE posts are advertised, are RE specialists applying for the posts? As schools have less money when specialists leave, they are more likely to ask for existing non specialists to take on the role. This problem also exists for other subjects.
- Rebekah Akroyd (RA) said she would go back to the university to see how they could collaborate on this.
- What is the percentage between, specialist and non-specialist teachers. JY to adapt survey for secondary teachers to include recruitment and specialist teachers. Suggested we ask Katherine France to discuss with the Cumbria Teachers RE Group.

RA

JY
KF

Representation on SACRE – do we reflect the results on the census?

- as a SACRE we do try to recruit new members, Mohammed Dhalech (Muslim rep) will now be able to attend meetings again. JY has been actively looking for a Sikh rep.
- JY has been the Humanist Rep for our SACRE on Committee A for some time, she had previously not been allowed to be on Committee A. This is a council decision and not a SACRE one. Add this to the Constitution.

JY

DH

13. Arrangements for future meetings

Spring meeting – Wednesday 13 March – SMC to contact Cockermouth School.

The format for meetings is normally 3 per year, one in a school, one in a place of worship, one in a council office.

RE Conference – Tuesday 4 June 2024.

Summer meeting – Tuesday 18 June 2024.

SMc

14. SACRE Newsletter – RC

Autumn newsletter – to go out to schools on 30 October, after half term. Deadline 16 October.

- to include JY's update.
- Interfaith week, provide details on this. Virtual Voices to attend Katherine's Cumbria RE Teachers group in preparation for Interfaith Week. <https://www.interfaithweek.org>
- Add piece on new Chair with photo (Karen O'Donohue).
- Members asked to email SMC any pieces they would like to be included by 16 October.
- Access to school speakers – add piece to newsletter.
- Michael Watmough and Rebekah Akroyd to submit a piece on themselves as new members. ***Discussed after the meeting to also ask Cllr Elaine Lynch and Cllr Sue Sanderson.***
- RA will also provide training links for non-specialist teachers.

RC

ALL
JY
MW/RA

RA

15. Update from members

LW – CofE schools, Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Inspections - the new framework is now live.

KO'D 16-17 October holy days on Bahai calendar

28 November – Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha – construction of his shrine has been completed.

See - Bahai world news website.

JY thanked Irene Roberts-Green who has been Vice-Chair for many years, for all her valuable contributions to SACRE.

New members to email SMC who can arrange a SACRE buddy, someone they can go to if they have any questions.