

**OXFORDSHIRE
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Minutes of the Oxfordshire SACRE Meeting
held online, Wednesday 24th November 2021 at 4:15 pm**

Present: [SD = standing deputy]

Committee A: World Faiths, Christian Denominations

Giles Beck (SD)
Steve Beegoo
Fraser Long

Committee B: Church of England

Helen Norman
Carol Worthington

Committee C: Teacher representatives

Committee D: Local Authority

Councillor Bob Johnston
Councillor Nigel Simpson

Co-opted Members

Nigel Fancourt - Chair [subject to confirmation]
Margaret Godden
Arzhia Habibi

In attendance:

Helen Batten (Clerk)
Bill Moore (RE Advisor)

Apologies:

Shahin Bekhradnia (co-opted)
Christian McGuinness (C)
Sarah Montagu (A)
Christine Price-Smith (B)
Sheikh Ramzy (A)
Jane Ratcliffe (Local Authority)
Nicholas Wood (A)

1 Introduction

NF welcomed everyone to the meeting, and formally welcomed NS to SACRE. Introductions were completed. Apologies received were accepted.

2 Election of Chair & Vice Chair

It was clarified that the current constitution requires the Chair to be appointed from one of the four member groups, although a recommended amendment would be discussed later in the meeting. SACRE also agreed that NF should be considered a representative

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from the teaching profession through his higher education role with the Association of University Lecturers in RE, and a recommendation will be made for OCC to make this change.

NF had confirmed his willingness to serve as Chair, and was duly appointed to this role with immediate effect, pending LA confirmation of the points above. Subject to this agreement the meeting was confirmed to be quorate.

BJ offered to serve as Vice Chair and was duly appointed to this role.

3 Minutes of 8th June 2021 & matters arising

Minutes were approved without amendment.

BM reported on matters arising as follows:

- **Annual report 2019-20:** The report is on the website, and will be sent to all councillors.
- **Meeting arrangements:** Benefits and difficulties of both online and in-person meetings were recognised. It was agreed to plan to meet virtually again in March and in person in June.
- **Impact of Covid:** The ongoing impact of the pandemic on school and learning was covered in the annual report. Although SACRE is aware of other specific concerns, these fall outside its remit.

4 SACRE organisation

4.1 Review of constitution

Proposed changes, resulting from earlier discussion, had been circulated and further discussion followed:

- It was noted that the LA decides on representation from various groups and it was agreed to seek the view of the OCC Solicitor towards adding Humanism to group A. When a decision is received, consideration will then be given to including Zoroastrianism and Baha'i.
- It was agreed that Group C should include higher education representation.
- Frequent difficulties in ensuring representation from all groups and the need to avoid imposing unnecessary limitations were recognised. It was clarified that the LA appoints members based on nominations from various groups. With the above in mind, it was agreed under 'membership' that point C(ii) will state "... a member of SACRE will be eligible to hold office for a further three years, after which a new representative should normally be appointed."
- Various enquiries to increase teacher representation are ongoing.
- It was clarified that SACREs can decide how chairs and vice chairs are appointed, and agreed to amend membership point D(i) to include co-optees as eligible for these roles.
- It was agreed to amend the wording of several points in order to clarify their intended meaning.
- It was noted that the requirements of membership point C(vii) around non-attendance will need to be brought to the attention of all members and enacted where necessary.
- Other comments and points for further consideration were noted.

Action: BM will make the amendments agreed whilst the OCC legal decision is awaited.

4.2 Strategic aims, business plan & funding

It was agreed that SACRE's planned activities should link directly to OCC strategic targets and will make reference to the new Corporate Plan which includes 9 such points. Some which are not directly educational, such as creating safe communities, will also link well into the SACRE remit, and reference to the strategic targets will ensure that SACRE is integral to the OCC's aims. This will help to raise the SACRE profile within the LA, which in turn will help SACRE to create a compelling business plan and obtain the funding required. BM asked everyone to look at the NASACRE guidance on these aspects before the next meeting. The importance of timing in SACRE being able to have input in the budget setting process was raised and the time-table for 2022-23 will need to be checked.

Action: The OCC Corporate Plan will be circulated for information.

Action: SACRE members will read the NASACRE guidance which had been circulated.

5 Annual report framework

Members welcomed the new common report framework recommended by NASACRE, which will help to give SACREs a more powerful voice. BM advised that the 2020-21 report will need to be completed and submitted by the end of February, which will necessitate approval by email. Any contributions or reports on conference attendance or other activities should be submitted to BM as soon as possible for inclusion.

6 Date of next meeting

Thursday 3rd March 2022, 4:00 pm (start time to be confirmed).

NF thanked everyone for their attendance and input and closed the meeting at 5:45 pm.