

**DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

**THURSDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

A MEETING of the STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) was held at the VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS on THURSDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2021, at 4.30 pm.

**PRESENT:**

In the Chair – Paul Ruane

Councillors Jane Cox, Sue Knowles, Tracey Moran and Glynis Smith, and Mrs Pahani Kaur (Sikh), Mr Shaheed Syed (Muslim), Sally Faulkner (Teacher Rep), Andy Wright (Church of England) and Joel Ward (Baptist)

10 **Appointment of Chair**

Paul Ruane sought nominations for the position of Chair of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for the 2021/22 Municipal Year. However, there were no nominations received.

Members of the Committee were advised that anyone could take up this position regardless of their originating sub-group on the Committee and were urged to give it some thought in advance of the next meeting and contact either Paul Ruane or the Governance Services Team if it was something they wished to take on. A permanent Chair would provide consistency and unity for the Committee which was something that officers were looking to promote on SACRE moving forward.

**RESOLVED** that in order to move the business on the agenda forward, Paul Ruane be appointed as Chair of SACRE for the duration of this meeting only.

11 **Appointment of Vice-Chair**

Nominations were sought for the appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Glynis Smith be appointed as Vice Chair of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education.

12 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Teimoori, Lucy Saxton and Joanne Crowther.

13 **Declarations of Interest, if any**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

14 **Minutes of the meetings held on 25th February and 1st July 2021**

Councillor Susan Knowles asked that the minutes of 1 July, 2021 be amended to include her attendance which had been omitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 25 February and 1 July, 2021 be approved as a true record subject to the amendment as detailed above.

#### 15 DfE EYFS Requirements and Guidance applied to RE

The Committee considered a report, which provided guidance for schools teaching RE in the Early Years Foundation Stages.

RE was a legal requirement for all pupils and could be incorporated into learning in any way in order to further develop and enable children's key skills and knowledge in the following areas:-

- Communications and language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Education
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Lat Blaylock, RE Today Consultant, went through all the issues and points highlighted within the paper and members of the Committee were invited to add any comments or pose any questions.

Members were asked to approve the paper, which Lat informed the Committee he would update with some relevant local context prior to circulating it to local Doncaster schools for their information.

RESOLVED that the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education approve the Early Years and RE guidance for circulation to Doncaster Schools.

#### 16 Pupils with SEND and Religious Education

Lat Blaylock presented a paper to Members of the Committee, which provided information on the provision of Religious Educations for Children with SEND. Pupils, regardless of the educational setting were entitled to receive Religious Education and it was the belief that it was of huge benefit, as it would provide nurturing learning opportunities for every pupil.

Following consideration of the key points and issues contained within the paper, members of the Committee had a positive discussion and Members were happy for Lat to take this forward and circulate to all schools for their guidance and information.

Joel Ward, Baptist Representative, commended the paper, and as the parent of a child with SEN, commented that this was pleasing to see a positive and tactile way of teaching Religious Education. Coming from a faith family, it was sometimes difficult for children with SEN to make sense of many issues contained within Religious Studies and the processes described within the paper were relevant and positive.

RESOLVED that the Committee approve the paper for circulation in Doncaster's SEN Schools and all mainstream schools with a SENCO provision.

#### 17 RE Today Update - Lat Blaylock

SACRE were provided with the autumn update from RE Today, which provided information on a number of areas. One of the main points which Members attention was drawn to, was the falling number of students opting to take RE at GCSE and A-Level with on average the

number of entrants falling by 2.5% annually. This was worrying and it was hopeful that these figures would raise in the future, but was an issue that SACRE kept returning to and how it could be addressed.

The Committee also touched upon 'Visit My Mosque' and the resources that were available to schools for on-line tours and information packs. This provoked an engaging discussion amongst Members and the possibility of undertaking their own visits to religious establishments across the borough, inviting teachers to partake in these visits in order to engage schools and promote other opportunities and new ways to explore Religious Education. It was proposed that a walking tour of churches in the town centre area be arranged and teachers across the borough be invited to attend. Members were in favour of this, and welcomed the proposal, as it would be a positive way to engage teachers.

RESOLVED that Lat Blaylock would look to organise a visit for teachers in Doncaster and Members of SACRE to local churches in the coming months, with the Gurdwara, the Mosque and Doncaster Minster amongst those included.

18 Primary RE course

Lat Blaylock informed the Committee that this item related to feedback from the Primary RE Course held earlier. The feedback had only just been sent to himself, and therefore proposed that he provided an update to Members once he had time to digest the information and identified any key points.

19 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education would take place on Thursday, 17 February, 2022 at 4.30 pm. The location of the meeting would be communicated to Members nearer the time but it was hoped that this be held in person, at the Civic Office, Doncaster.

CHAIR: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_