



Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

MINUTES

07.07.2020 Virtual Meeting . Face to face meetings not allowed due to Coronavirus 19

1 Reflection

BF delivered a reflection on students' attitudes and views of the future as they face these challenging times. See attached.

Attendance

Committee A

Members representing the "Free Churches"

Mrs Sue Cox (Baptist)

Two members representing the Roman Catholic Church

Sister Stella Kelly

Mrs Alison Burt

Members representing non-Christian faiths

Mr. David Downer (Buddhist)

Mrs Anne Sechiari (Buddhist)

Mrs Norma Corney (Baha'i)

Mrs Mary Clarke (Quaker)

Committee B

Representing The Church of England

Mrs Beryl Miller

Committee C

Representing the teachers of the Isle of Wight. Nominated by appropriate groups.

Secondary Miss Beth Feltham The Bay C E School

Committee D)

Representing the Local Authority.

In attendance

Harry Kirby Clerk/Coordinator

Dr. Patricia Hannam RE Inspector (Secondary)

2. Apologies for Absence

Debbie Andre (CC), Ebrahim Jeewa (Moslem), Rt Rev. Peter Leonard (CE), Nickey Mobley (Headteacher), Alex Augustus (LA), Lionel alexander (Jewish Faith)

3. Declaration of Members' Interest and Chair's correspondence

- No declarations
- NASACRE AGM on the 18th May was cancelled.

4. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 14.11.2019

- Accepted as true record. Proposed DD, seconded NC

5. Matters Arising from the minutes of 20.06.19

- The Annual Report will be presented to the LA at a virtual meeting on 23.07.2020 It is expected that PH and HK will participate (BF is not available)
- The Agreed Syllabus' Conference (ASC) recommendation to review the Agreed Syllabus has be forwarded to the LA
- Policy on Determinations to be on next agenda

6. Membership update

- Resignations received from Diane Walsh and Vicky Bridle; both CE Reps. The Diocese is seeking replacements
- New members Rt Rev. Peter Leonard (CE), Alex Augustus (LA), Mary Clark (Quaker)

7. Monitoring Report

- This meeting focussed on considering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on RE. No GCSE or A level examinations had taken place in this exam series. Teachers have been required to submit their judgement, through their schools, to Ofqual this has included ranking the students across the whole cohort as well as withing each grade.
- BF explained that some schools may have had more data to inform their judgements than others, and some schools may have encouraged young people to take their books home at the beginning of 'lock-down' anticipating further study. It is possible that judgements have not all been based on the same evidence. Schools have had to have evidence to justify every grade. Schools' prior data will be used as a benchmark to monitor above- expected school grades.
- The fact that there are some particular anomalies likely for RE were noted. For example, last year a school may have entered a whole cohort. In some cases, not only would students have had varying attitudes and varying attendance, but the course may not have been taught in the correct amount of teaching time. If in this academic year the same school entered instead a single one class of committed, enthusiastic students. The vast difference in potential results will be questioned. Another possibility where there will be an anomaly is where there is no previous data since no GCSE exam entries made in previous year and in this year there is full cohort. There is to be no appeal process against Ofqual's decisions. SACRE adviser noted that national representation has been made to Ofqual regarding such anomalies and it is hoped consideration will be made.
- SACRE professional adviser informed SACRE that two LA schools on the Isle of Wight entered no students for RE exams this year. Furthermore, there are no students moving into year 10 or into year 11 in 2020/21 studying RE GCSE. **This concerning detail was noted by SACRE. SACRE has a duty to monitor the effectiveness of the agreed syllabus and has an interest in ensuring young people in LA schools receive their entitlement to RE.** SACRE's professional adviser was asked to raise SACRE's concern when the Annual Report is presented to the LA scrutiny committee on 23rd July 2020. **(Action PH)**
- One result of the current pandemic is the emotional and social difficulties being experienced by students. Social skills are not being developed and "normal" in-school relationships and friendships are virtually impossible.
- RE networks and communication between RE teachers have been continuing across the Isle of Wight. The Isle of Wight Secondary and Primary RE network meeting supported by HIAS has been effective in renewing contacts. Support networks are being used. Teachers are using a range of methods to access resources.
- The Hampshire Secondary RE conference this year will be a virtual one on 16.10.2020. A virtual conference aids access for IW teachers as difficulties of transport costs and time spent travelling are removed. The theme will be "Genocide".

- A cross-phase Island-based RE conference is being planned by Justine Ball.

8. Agreed Syllabus Review of LD111 2020-2021

- Portsmouth, Southampton and Hampshire will be reviewing LD111 with the IW.
- The first meeting of the review group is planned for this Friday 10th July. It will be a virtual meeting. The Island “team” of representatives include SC, BF, AB, HK, BM and hopefully at least one of the elected members DA and GC. Not all will be available at the same time
- The revised AS will be ready for presentation to SACRE’s Agreed Syllabus Conference by Autumn 2021.

9. Activities of National and Regional bodies including SC Hub meeting

- HK reported on the recent South -Central Hub meeting. Subjects discussed included :- How the member SACRE’s were managing to carry out their duties under the current extraordinary circumstances. How new members are appointed to SACREs (LA or delegated to SACRE to carry out this function). Challenges presented to schools and students in the home-learning procedures and environment . SC asked if members reported back to their groups. Some did, others did not have the facility. SC and BM, in the past have sought advice from the Anglican Diocese on a possible method.
- The AREIAC AGM took place virtually on Tuesday 7th July.
- The RE Council is undertaking a project on “World Views”. It follows previous discussions on “Religion and World Views”. SACRE Professional Adviser has been elected to The Board of the REC and has been part of the ‘Worldviews’ research taking place in light of the recommendation from the CoRE report. There will be a conference for REC member organisations in the Autumn. Living Difference III is being reviewed at a good time to coincide with the findings of this research and ensure there are strong links with the latest national thinking regarding RE.

10. Date and venue of the next meetings

- 05.11.2020 Venue to be confirmed (County Hall?)
- 18.03.2021 Primary School in Newport

Reflection for SACRE 3/7/2020
Topic: COVID-19 and our young people
Put together by Beth Feltham but the words of her students.

Covid-19 has impacted us all. In different ways everyone's life has dramatically changed. Today, as we meet in this now normal but unusual format I want to take this time to focus on the young people on the Isle of Wight, how their lives have changed and how they are feeling.

I asked students in year 9 and year 10 (13 – 15 year olds) who have chosen to take GCSE RE to share their thoughts. I asked them to think about their worries and concerns, how they are feeling and their hopes for the future. These are the statements I received back – their words give us an insight into their world at this challenging time.

“My biggest worry is my GCSEs next year, and if I have properly learnt the material on my own.”

“As young people, the future was already uncertain regarding issues with climate change and how politics and society are changing, and COVID-19 has made everything more uncertain.”

“One of my biggest worries at the moment would be like when we return back to school if I'm going to be behind in the work or not understand the work we are doing.”

“The thing i miss most about school is friend interaction and Teacher interaction mainly. I like to make sure that I've understood the work and since there is less interaction I feel less confident”

“I have struggled with establishing a divide between work and other things, and trying to not end up working all day or on weekends.”

“I have actually missed Interesting lessons and teachers and my friends. I cannot believe how long its been since I've played football too. When I come in now and see the empty field it makes me depressed.”

“Working from home has changed my view of school immensely. At school you get that interaction whereas at home you have only yourself which made me realise that teachers had a big impact in my school life too.”

“Working from home has made me value teachers even more (as I think everyone has). I used to think of school as a stressful cycle, but now that I can't go to school I can see how the structure keeps me sane, and keeps everything in place. At home it is as stressful as school, but in arguably worse ways”

I asked students what they were looking forward to and I want to leave you with this final comment from a year 10 student: “I'm not really looking forward to anything because I can't return to school yet, and prospects for September are uncertain.”