

**CUMBRIAN STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)  
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 13 MARCH 2024  
RICHARD ROSE MORTON ACADEMY AND ALSO VIA TEAMS**

	<b>Committee A: Other Faiths/ Denominations</b>	<b>Committee B: Church of England (CE)</b>	<b>Committee C: Teacher Associations</b>	<b>Committee D: Local Authority</b>	<b>Co-opted: Rebekah Ackroyd Georgia Prescott Carolyn Reade <b>Clerk to SACRE</b> Sue McGaw</b>
<b>Present:</b>	Sheila Gewolb Karen O'Donoghue (Chair) Wendy Ridley Rashmi Manemi Jane Yates Rev David Milner	Sarah Harrison Laura Watson	James Douglas Katherine France Bernadette Little Irene Roberts- Green	Elaine Lynch (Cumberland) Sue Sanderson (W&F)	<b>LA Support Officer</b> Rachel Laverack (Cumberland)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Michael Watmough	Richard Cox	Brian Eaton	Neil Hughes (W&F) Chris Southward (Cumberland)	Vicky Bunter  David Hodgkiss (W&F)
<b>Vacancies:</b>	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. KO'D welcomed everyone and members introduced themselves. This was the first meeting for Sarah Harrison new CofE Rep from Morland Area CofE school. With it being a 19 day fast for the Bahai community, Lent and Ramadan, KO'D asked the group to say what fasting means to them, when they introduced themselves.  
Rachael Ryan from Morton Academy introduced herself, the meeting was being hosted in the school.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 2 October 2023**

The minutes were agreed.

**3. Matters arising not covered in the agenda**

SACRE Constitution this is ongoing, ask David Hodgkiss, to see where we are.

DH

**4. SACRE Development Plan**

The working group have met 3 times since October, looking at the Self Evaluation Plan and then in more detail at the Development Plan. JY has the draft with 5 new aims. Some points still to be approved. The plan will be finalised at a further working group meeting, to be arranged on-line. The working group, especially Jane and Wendy were thanked for their work on this.  
SACRE members have benefited from attending various NASACRE training events.

Working  
group

**5. Feedback from Rachel Laverack – How may SACREs effectively monitor schools?  
NASACRE event**

RL attended the on-line event, with SACRE members from different authorities who talked about how they monitor their schools:

Working  
group

- RL handed out a form from Lewisham that their SACRE members use to monitor the situation in schools. This will be trialled by our working group.
- Hampshire monitor schools Ofsted reports. RL has looked at the comments from inspections in Cumberland, since September. It was agreed these painted a positive picture in schools. It was suggested that we could send congratulations letters to Headteachers after a report has been published. Ask DH to look at the reports from this academic year in Westmorland and Furness.
- Another way of monitoring would be to look at which schools are attending training.
- Look at arranging visits to schools to get a better understanding.  
SMc to email copy of the forms.

DH

SMc

RE/CW comments on reports were collated by SACRE in the past, this was stopped when no relevant comments were appearing on the reports. Laura Watson has been looking at SIAMs reports which are also positive. RL will continue to collate this information.

**6. Cumbrian SACRE/RE Conference 2024**

This is taking place on Tuesday 4 June at the North Lakes Hotel in Penrith. JY shared the conference programme on the screen. The main speaker is Julia Diamond-Conway from RE Today. The RE Syllabus was launched at last years conference, with a year of implementation. Free training on the syllabus has been run for schools. Normally SACRE can fund 10 of its members to attend. Councillors can attend without charge but unfortunately the day clashes with another meeting. Invite Daniel Dyer part of Virtual Voices in RE (VVRE).

JY

**7. Survey to secondary schools**

This was sent to schools and after some chasing 18 have responded. Two main questions asked on the number of specialist teachers and non-specialist teachers. JY ran through the slides. SMC to send a copy to members. Where the survey has a high percentage of n/a it was presumed there was no sixth form or exam entry.

SMc

- There is a lack of RE specialists.
- Specialist teachers retiring but only a small number are available to replace, this is also an issue in faith schools and is running into other subjects.
- Non specialist teachers who teach RE can't access training in RE as they already get training for their specialist subject.
- How can we as a SACRE respond to this?  
 lobby MPs  
 SG to talk to other SACREs at the next NW SACRE meeting  
 push for RE to be added to the EBacc

SG

JY to turn results into a report. Feedback results to schools.

JY

**Students from the school attended the next session to talk about the Jewish Living Exhibition which had been held in school over a week. All students had been extremely interested in what they learned and said it had impacted on them.**

**8. North West RE Hubs**

North West SACRE termly meetings held in Preston - set up to share good practice. Larger SACREs now attend. SG attends these, she is trying to get Jewish Reps onto SACREs that don't have them, there is an issue though when meeting attendance is only face-to-face.

RE Hubs, JY is the North West RE hubs lead, the hubs are there to promote good communication. JY is involved in the AREIAC project, Young Ambassadors for RE building on the RE Council initiative. Two Cumbrian schools involved The Queen Katherine School and Grayrigg CofE, students are invited to Westminster. JY will send video clip to members.

JY

**9. Local and National Updates / NASACRE and RE Council**

SG is on the RE Council, their conference is on 2 May 2024. They are launching a new religion and worldviews handbook.

JY's update was emailed to members before the meeting to read. First question – Are Cumbrian SACRE members being contacted through the RE Hub website? SG and KO'D reported increased requests from schools.

**10. SACRE Newsletter**

JY has adapted this into a new shorter version. KF wanted to thank JY for all her work on behalf of the RE teachers that benefit from it.

**11. Arrangements for future meetings – summer meeting**

A date for the summer meeting has already been set – Tuesday 18 June – SMC to enquire about a room at the Council Offices in Kendal.

SMc

Meetings for Autumn 2024 Spring and Summer 2025 – add to summer meeting agenda.

**12. AOB**

SG – with the current conflict in Israel/Gaza, The Board of Deputies of British Jews – have made a free video for school with various modulars. SG to send to SMC to pass on to members.

SG

KO'D wished everyone a happy Naw Ruz (Baha'i New Year) for 20 March.

There we no further updates.