

**OXFORDSHIRE
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Minutes of the Oxfordshire SACRE Meeting
Held online, Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 5:15 pm**

Present: [SD = standing deputy]

Committee A: World Faiths, Christian Denominations

Giles Beck (SD)
Nicholas Wood

Committee B: Church of England

Christine Price-Smith
Carol Worthington

Committee C: Teacher representatives

Committee D: Local Authority

Cllr Charles Mathew – item 1 only

Co-opted Members

Shahin Bekhradnia
Nigel Fancourt - Vice Chair, acting as Chair
Margaret Godden
Arzhia Habibi

In attendance:

Helen Batten (Clerk)
Bill Moore (Advisor to SACRE)
Jane Ratcliffe (Local Authority)

Apologies:

Cllr Jamila Azad (D)
Steve Beegoo (A)
Ruth Cohen (C)
Cllr Bob Johnston (D)
Sarah Montagu (A)
Fraser Nelson (A)
Helen Norman (B)
Sheikh Ramzy (A)

1 Meeting quorum

Due to lack of representation from committees D and C the meeting was not quorate, and it was clarified that minutes will be subject to ratification in due course.

2 Minutes of 10th November 2021 & matters arising

Minutes were approved without amendment.

CM raised the following points as matters arising:

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Following the closure of the Christ Church education department, CM has discussed the situation with the Sub-Dean and registered SACRE's concern.

Succession planning has been added to the agenda because CM will not be standing again in the local elections in May, and will therefore not necessarily be continuing as a SACRE member. CM thanked SACRE members for their commitment and support

during his term as Chair. Members thanked CM for his service as Chair and his championship of SACRE within OCC.

3 Working with OCC

JR provided updates on several aspects:

There are ongoing challenges in budgets and finances. However, it would be useful for SACRE to prepare a business case for more funding. This would involve clearly setting out the value SACRE adds to the quality of RE in Oxfordshire through its knowledge of the current effectiveness of provision, alongside a clear view of what best practice will look like and how this might be achieved. It was agreed that this will be an essential piece of work to enable SACRE to move forward, and a working group of members who will be able to contribute actively will be established.

Action: BM will email details of a proposed working group, and liaise with JR as required.

Communication with schools has been difficult due to the pandemic, although Schools News, the principal regular means of communication, is currently being distributed every week to 3,000 email addresses.

The Primary Heads group has been re-convened and will be providing a representative to sit on SACRE.

There has been no feedback yet from the recent NASACRE survey.

4 SACRE constitution

It was agreed to defer this item to the June meeting.

RC had notified her resignation due to pressure of other work commitments and SACRE thanked her for her enthusiastic and committed membership over a number of years.

It will be necessary to formalise teacher representation and membership will be considered alongside the constitution.

5 Monitoring schools

BM emphasised the responsibility of SACRE to monitor RE provision in schools. The website survey provides a way of achieving this, which is possible within the current restrictions and without creating work for schools. The survey will provide important evidence for the business case working group and will also inform preparation of the

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new syllabus. BM thanked members who had returned completed surveys, and reminded others to do so as soon as possible.

Action: BM will recirculate website survey information.

Action: SACRE members will complete the survey task for their allocated schools and return to BM.

6 Future Chair of SACRE

It was agreed that NF will chair the June meeting, which will consider future chairing arrangements.

7 AOB

BM introduced the M Chater blog which had been circulated for information, which includes some interesting material which SACRE needs to be aware of.

8 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 8th June, 4:00 pm.

NF thanked everyone for their attendance and input and closed the meeting at 5:40 pm.