SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education)

Schedule
Tuesday 2 July 2019, 4:00 PM — 6:00 PM BST

Venue
Room 14, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5TQ

Description
To the Chair and Members of SACRE as laid out in the attached document.

Notes for Participants
If you wish to speak at this meeting you can register to speak online via the following link:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

This meeting may be filmed by the Council for live and/or subsequent broadcast online and can be viewed at https://centralbedfordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home. At the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting will be filmed by the Council. Any footage will be on the Council’s website, a copy of it will also be retained in accordance with the Council’s data retention policy. By attending the meeting, you are deemed to have consented to being filmed by the Council. Full details on the use of recordings is provided via the link above.

For further information on this meeting contact committeemeetings@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Hard copies of the papers for this meeting are not routinely made available to those in attendance. Should you require a copy of please download this from the Council website beforehand.

Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership of SACRE</th>
<th>1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SACRE Membership.docx</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1. Apologies for Absence
   
   To receive apologies for absence and notification of substitute Members.

2. Introductions
   
   To receive introductions from the members of SACRE.

3. Election of Chair 2019/2020
   
   To elect the Chair for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

4. Election of Vice Chair 2019/2020
   
   To elect the Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

5. Minutes and Matters Arising
   
   To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of SACRE held on 28 February 2019.
   
   ![Minutes 280219v2.doc]

6. Sikh Celebrations

7. SACRE Updates
   
   To receive local and national updates from RE Today Services.
   
   Presented by Lat Blaylock

8. Review of SACRE Draft Development Plan
   
   To consider the SACRE Draft Development Plan 2019/20.
   
   Presented by Paul Harpin
   
   ![SACRE DRAFT CBC Dev Plan 2019 20 doc..doc]
9. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Comments from Ofsted Reports

To consider the spiritual, moral, social and cultural comments from Ofsted reports from January to March 2019.
Presented by Paul Harpin

[File: SACRE SMSC comments Jan to April 2019 - 020419.docx]

10. Feedback from NASACRE AGM

To receive feedback from the NASACRE AGM.
Presented by Simon Cotton

11. Date of Next Meeting

To agree the date and time of the next three SACRE Meetings.
Membership of SACRE
### Group A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious Group</th>
<th>Leader(s)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roman Catholic Church (2)</td>
<td>Sister Aidan Richards</td>
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<td>Free Church (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>Tulsi Seva Dasi</td>
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<td>Muslim (1)</td>
<td>Tirath Bhavra</td>
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<td>Hindu (1)</td>
<td>Nina Leigh</td>
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<td>Sikh (1)</td>
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<td>Jewish (1)</td>
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<td>Buddhist (1)</td>
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### Group B

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious Group</th>
<th>Leader(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church of England (3)</td>
<td>Ryan Parker</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Father Diego Galanzino</td>
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<td>Carly Woodall</td>
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### Group C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower School Rep</td>
<td>Lucy Chapman, Sutton Lower School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary RE Specialist</td>
<td>Kathleen Eldridge, Redborne Upper School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Rep</td>
<td>Jacquie Binks, Etonbury Academy</td>
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### Group D

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<th>Cllr</th>
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<td>F Firth</td>
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<td>B Saunders</td>
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<td>J Tamara</td>
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<td>M Walsh</td>
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**Named Substitutes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cllr</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>G Mackey</td>
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Current Vacancies
Headteacher Representative
Special School Representative

Officers
Mr L Blaylock, RE Today
Ms M Brooks, Committee Services Officer
Mr S Cotton, Head of School Improvement
Mr P Harpin, School Improvement Consultant.
1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence and notification of substitute Members.
2. Introductions

To receive introductions from the members of SACRE.
3. Election of Chair 2019/2020

To elect the Chair for the Municipal Year 2019/20.
4. Election of Vice Chair 2019/2020

To elect the Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2019/20.
5. Minutes and Matters Arising

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of SACRE held on 28 February 2019.
At a meeting of the SACRE (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION) held at Room 15 - Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford, SG17 5TQ on Thursday, 28 February 2019.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs D B Gurney (Chairman)
Lucy Chapman (Vice-Chairman)

Group A: Tulsi Seva Dasi Hindu Representative
          Tirath Bhavra Sikh Representative

Group B: Ryan Parker Church of England Representative

Group C: Lucy Chapman Lower School Representative,
          Sutton Lower School
          Kathleen Eldridge Secondary RE Specialist,
          Redborne Upper School

Group D: Cllrs Mrs D B Gurney, F Firth, A Ryan and N Warren

Officers in Attendance: Mr Lat Blaylock – RE Today
                                     Miss M Brooks - Committee Services Officer, CBC
                                     Mr Paul Harpin - School Improvement Consultant, CBC
                                     Mr Chris Kieran - Interim Head of School Improvement, CBC

SACRE/18/23. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from:

Group A Sister Aiden Richards
            Nina Leigh

Group B Father Diego Galanzino
            Carly Woodall

Group C Jacqui Binks
          Anita Whitehurst

Group D Cllr Mrs A Barker

SACRE/18/24. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2018 be approved as a correct record.
Matters Arising/ Actions from SACRE

SACRE/18/17 – Evaluation of the Launch of the Agreed Syllabus

It was noted that the Agreed Syllabus is being shared with Central Bedfordshire Schools and that the second session of Teacher network meetings have taken place. Both sessions received very positive feedback.

RESOLVED

1. that the Chairman of SACRE provide an update to the next full Council meeting on the work of SACRE.

SACRE/18/20 – The SACRE Constitution

Members of SACRE were informed that Anita Whitehurst a Lower School Representative from St Swithuns School had resigned as a member of SACRE.

RESOLVED

1. that the Committee Services Officer inform the School Improvement Consultant of the correct process for appointing to the vacant place on the SACRE for the Teacher’s association representatives.

2. that following the correct process SACRE appoint a new Teacher’s association representative to SACRE.

SACRE/18/25. SACRE Updates Spring 2019

The representative from RE Today provided SACRE with updates for spring 2019.

Key issues noted were:

1. The response from the Secretary of State for Education on the Commission on RE’s proposals was disappointing.
2. SACRE welcomed the funding for subject knowledge enhancement courses and the increase in bursary provision for people to train to become RE teachers, but noted that the bursary provision does not yet match that of other shortage subjects.
3. Reference was made to the new BBC programmes for KS3 RE and extensive information for students studying GCSE on BBC bitesize.
4. Nick Gibb reinforced that RE is a compulsory subject to teach and the importance of the DfE reinforcing this with Academies.
5. The OFSTED draft inspection framework was noted particularly as the new framework provides a clear focus on a broad and balanced curriculum and highlights that all pupils in maintained schools are expected to study the national curriculum, religious education and age appropriate sex education.
6. The regional ambassador for Religious Education for South Central is a Central Bedfordshire Teacher and she will be responsible for co-ordinating local RE structures.

Points and comments included:
- That members of SACRE wish to give thanks and highlight the achievement of Sarah Payne who will be the regional ambassador for Religious Education for South Central.

RESOLVED

1. that the SACRE Updates for Spring 2019 from RE Today Services be noted and;

2. that the draft response from Bedford Borough SACRE on the response from the secretary of state for Education on the Commission on RE’s proposal be circulated to all SACRE members.

3. that SACRE collate a response following on from the secretary of state for Education’s response on the Commission on RE’s proposal.

4. that the Chairman of SACRE provide a report to full Council on the work of SACRE over the last academic year.

5. that SACRE provide a consultation response on the OFSTED draft inspection framework.

SACRE/18/26 Review of SACRE Development Plan

The SACRE considered the Development Plan setting out areas for development between April 2018 – March 2019 and noted the following:

1. Engagement with schools in implementing the new Agreed Syllabus is underway with the second network meeting with Primary and Secondary schools already having taken place and third scheduled for July 2019.

2. Professional Study sessions took place in the Autumn term with a further one planned for the summer term.

3. There are currently 12 schools with the RE Quality mark with a further two who have expressed an interest in obtaining this in the future and one school who is looking to enhance its level.

4. The Annual SACRE report will be compiled by the School Improvement Consultant and will include an opening letter from the previous Chairman of SACRE.

5. The NASACRE AGM will be taking place on the 22 May 2019 in Manchester.

Points and comments included:
- Members of SACRE noted that there will be a new Head of School Improvement appointed in March 2019, and they will continue to provide support and attend all future meetings of SACRE.
• The SACRE emphasised the need to continue to offer the Teacher Network meetings and highlighted their importance in providing support to schools within Central Bedfordshire with the implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus.
• A member of the council requested visibility of the SACRE budget with actual and projected spend.
• The SACRE noted that with the possible change in the OFSTED inspection framework more schools may see the value in obtaining the RE quality mark.

**Resolved**

1. that the development plan be noted; and
2. that Officers provide SACRE with ongoing updates on spend from the budget.
3. that the new Head of School Improvement be invited to attend all future meets of SACRE.
4. that the contract with RE Today continue for another year and Teacher Network sessions are arranged for the next academic year.
5. that a representative from SACRE attends the NASACRE AGM in May 2019.

**SACRE/18/27. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Comments from Ofsted Reports**

The SACRE considered Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural comments (SMSC) for September – December 2018 and noted the following:

1. There were five inspections during this period, all of which were short inspections of one day per school.
2. Four of the schools inspected had no specific comments in relation to SMSC and RE.
3. Sundon Lower school’s report highlighted the ‘faith tour’ in Bedford.

Points and comments included:

- The SACRE noted that the overall grade for Moggerhanger Primary school should have been 2 rather than 1.
- The new OFSTED inspection framework may result in more detailed comments in relation to RE being included in the reports.

**Noted**

the report.
SACRE/18/28.RE GCSE and A Level Results 2018

The SACRE reviewed the KS4 and KS5 results for 2018 in Religious Studies and noted the following:

1. In KS4 the number of students studying Religious Studies has dropped significantly with 578 students entered for exams in 2018 compared to 831 in the previous year.
2. Overall the results in KS4 have improved marginally.
3. For KS5 A-Level the number of students entered are small with only 49 students achieving A*-C which has decreased in comparison to the previous year.
4. For AS Level 24 students achieved A*-C.

Points and comments included:
- The SACRE noted that the decrease in those students studying Religious Studies fits the national trend and could be due to the change in curriculum for the subject.
- AS Level is now a two-year course but includes half the content of the A Level and is worth half the ACAS points.
- Some Upper schools have reduced the number of A Levels from four to three which could be attributing the decrease in those students wishing to study Religious Education.
- The interim Head of School Improvement confirmed to the Council that there had been three cases recently of parents refusing to allow their children to attend visits to mosques or temples.
- There have been less incidents of parents exercising their right to withdraw their child from all of part of the RE Syllabus within Central Bedfordshire.
- The SACRE noted that the recruitment of RE teachers is particularly challenging at just over 50% of the target. However, there is hope that the new bursary will attract new entrants.
- The Teacher network meetings are assisting those teachers in Central Bedfordshire who are not specialists in RE use the Agreed Syllabus although there is an expectation that teachers will still need to do some research.
- The SACRE acknowledged that nine complete planned units were written for the launch of the new Agreed Syllabus, but teachers are requesting more.
- An agreement between the three local authorities to complete more planned units in the Agreed Syllabus should be looked at further.
- The council noted that a plan is needed for mixed aged classes which is a particular issue for rural schools within Central Bedfordshire.

RESOLVED

1. that the KS4 and KS5 results for 2018 be noted and;

2. that the School Improvement Consultant provide an update on the feedback received on the Teacher network meetings at the next SACRE meeting.
3. that the three-local authority SACREs look at collectively commissioning the completion of more planned units within the Agreed Syllabus.

4. that more information is obtained on what information is required in the Agreed Syllabus to assist with mixed aged teaching to allow for a supplement to be added to the existing document.

SACRE/18/29. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 2 July 2019, 4:00pm, Priory House, Chicksands.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 4.00 p.m. and concluded at 5.10 p.m.)

Chairman ………………………………………

Dated ………………………………………
6. Sikh Celebrations
7. SACRE Updates

To receive local and national updates from RE Today Services.

Presented by Lat Blaylock
8. Review of SACRE Draft Development Plan

To consider the SACRE Draft Development Plan 2019/20.

Presented by Paul Harpin
## Aims:
- To ensure that high quality RE and Collective Worship opportunities are delivered in Central Bedfordshire schools
- To use the expertise of SACRE Members to support the Agreed Syllabus
- To signpost school RE Subject Leaders to publications and personnel to enhance the RE curriculum within schools

## Areas for development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Frequency/Time Scale</th>
<th>Key Impact Measure(s)/Outcomes</th>
<th>Update</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To follow up the launch of the Agreed Syllabus providing networking opportunities for primary and secondary RE teachers to discuss and evaluate developments.</td>
<td>At each termly meeting for primary and secondary teachers</td>
<td>• To support the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus to ensure that it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of LA schools</td>
<td>Summer Term 2019/ Autumn Term 2019/ Spring Term 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To monitor comments re. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC) in Central Bedfordshire schools through information gleaned from Ofsted reports.</td>
<td>At each termly SACRE Meeting</td>
<td>• SACRE members will have a more informed understanding of the quality of provision currently in place within the inspected schools</td>
<td>Specific school information shared at each termly meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To review final GCSE and A level results in Religious Education from the summer of 2019</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>• To review results, celebrate achievements and consider any implications for the future.</td>
<td>Spring Term 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| To support the Professional Studies Group in RE, especially concentrating on primary planning. | Termly | • RE Subject Leaders will benefit from networking opportunities to share ideas and practice.  
• Subject specialist involvement will raise awareness of good practice in RE teaching. | Autumn Term 2019 and at subsequent meetings |
| To provide opportunities for SACRE Council Members to gain knowledge and experience of different faiths through presentations at meetings. | At least once during the year. | • SACRE Council members will be better informed about a wide spectrum of faiths | At one meeting during the year |
Presentations will reflect different age groups and types of schools.

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<tr>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Key Impact Measure(s)/Outcomes</th>
<th>Update</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To ensure that SACRE meetings are organised efficiently on a termly basis</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2019 – March 2020</td>
<td>• Best value for money will be secured through careful budgeting and administrative support</td>
<td>Dates circulated for 2019 / 20 to fit members’ requests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To arrange for an Annual SACRE report to be compiled and sent out to interested parties, including all Central Bedfordshire schools</td>
<td>• SACRE will have fulfilled its statutory duty to publish an account of its work</td>
<td>Spring Term 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Term 2020</td>
<td>• Schools in Central Bedfordshire will be well informed about the work of SACRE</td>
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<tr>
<td>To ensure a representative attends the NASACRE AGM</td>
<td>• Through good quality feedback from representatives SACRE members will understand key points on the national agenda and be made aware of good practice emerging from other SACREs across the country</td>
<td>Feedback from representative of SACRE June 2020</td>
</tr>
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To support the 2019 Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) Event | Spring Term 2020 | • The lessons of holocaust experiences will be a valuable one for both students and other adults | Spring Term 2020

In the 2020 Summer Term Meetings there will be time to evaluate the impact of the latest development plan and use this information to inform subsequent developments.
9. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Comments from Ofsted Reports

To consider the spiritual, moral, social and cultural comments from Ofsted reports from January to March 2019.

Presented by Paul Harpin
Ofsted Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) comments  January – March 2019

(Grade 1= Outstanding       Grade 2 = Good       Grade 3 = Requires Improvement    4= Serious Weaknesses / Special Measures)

Primary Schools by date order

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Inspection date</th>
<th>Overall grade</th>
<th>Spiritual, moral, social and cultural comments</th>
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</table>
| Tithe Farm Primary Houghton Regis  | 16/01/19        | 2             | **Effectiveness of leadership and management**  
Pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding is developing well. The school’s caring and inclusive ethos ensures that pupils learn respect for one another. Assemblies explore differences, while upholding the uniqueness of every individual. Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain, and the school responds to their interests. For example, teachers developed a package of lessons around pupils’ emerging interest in Britain’s role in the European Union. |
| Watling Lower School Dunstable     | 21/2/19         | 2             | Leaders have established a culture where pupils are accepting of difference and show respect and tolerance towards others. This contributes strongly to the school’s welcoming feel and supportive atmosphere. As one parent correctly stated: ‘The children learn about and embrace different cultures and are taught strong values which will help them not just academically but in their everyday life and learning about the world around them.’ |

Upper/Secondary Schools by date order

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Inspection date</th>
<th>Overall grade</th>
<th>Spiritual, moral, social and cultural comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Houghton Regis Academy     | 24/01/19        | 4             | **Effectiveness of leadership and management**  
Pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness is mostly developed successfully. Pupils learn about fundamental British values in timetabled lessons. This is supplemented by frequent discussions in tutor groups where they talk about politics, democracy and the importance of respect and tolerance. |
10. Feedback from NASACRE AGM

To receive feedback from the NASACRE AGM.

Presented by Simon Cotton
11. Date of Next Meeting

To agree the date and time of the next three SACRE Meetings.