

CUMBRIAN STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) MINUTES OF MEETING ON 9 OCTOBER 2024 VOREDA HOUSE, PENRITH AND ALSO VIA TEAMS

Committee A: Other Faiths/Denominations

Present: Mohammed Dhalec, Sheila Gewolb, Karen O'Donoghue (Chair), Wendy Riley, Jane Yates, Rev David Milner

Apologies: Rashmi Manemi, Michael Watmough

Committee B: Church of England (CE)

Present: Richard Cox, Sarah Harrison, Laura Watson

Committee C: Teachers Associations

Present: Bernadette Little

Apologies: James Dougals, Brian Eaton, Katherine France

Committee D: Local Authority

Present: Neil Hughes (Westmorland and Furness), Chris Southward (Cumberland)

Apologies: Elaine Lynch (Cumberland), Sue Sanderson (Westmorland and Furness)

Co-opted

Rebekah Ackroyd, Vicky Bunter, Georgia Prescott, Carolyn Reade

Vacancies

- Baptist
- Orthodox
- Pentecostal
- Salvation Army
- Unitarian
- United Reformed

Clerk to SACRE

Sue McGaw

LA Support Officer

Present: Rachel Laverack (Cumberland), David Hodgkiss (Westmorland and Furness)

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. KO'D thanked RA for letting SACRE hold the meeting at the University. Two colleagues from UoC were also present, Lisa MacGregor (working with primary RE students) and Sally Elton-Chalcraft (works with primary PGCE generalist student teachers not secondary) (Email after from Sally)

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 18 June 2024 – the minutes were agreed

3. Matters arising not covered in the agenda

Monitoring of school websites. As mentioned at the last meeting, a proforma has been trialled by several members of the working group, with the idea that SACRE members could use this as a way of monitoring in the future. However, schools are only required to publish their RE curriculum on their school website and some of the other information was not available meaning that, as a monitoring tool, it is not as useful as originally hoped. CR has agreed to carry on looking at this. **(CR)**

4. Feedback from working group

- SACRE/RE Conference 2025, taking place on 17 June 2025. The main speaker is Ian Nicholson from RE Today. Possible themes include Collective Worship, Community Cohesion, Universal Rights, Empathy and Oracy. **(JY)**
- JY and LW are running Collective Worship training from next week for teachers and governors, using the NASACRE toolkit. **(JW/LW)**
- Interfaith week 11-15 November. JY is running a session for schools with Cumbrian SACRE faith members. **(JY)**
- Working Group reviewing the Development Plan, one of the aims is creating more links with other organisations. **(Working group)**

5. SACRE website

There are separate websites for each authority. The Cumberland website is available. There are still issues with the Westmorland and Furness site. DH involved. SMc has a meeting with the Cumberland Website team on 10 November. The website people are keen to limit the amount of content on the site. **(DH, SMc)**

6. Summer far-right violence and unrest – impact on Muslim and ethnically diverse communities – MD

KO'D and MD had both attended a Community Cohesion meeting on 8 October.

MD spoke about his experience and the challenges over the last 25 years, since moving to Carlisle and pointed out that the racial abuse and lack of knowledge of Islam and other religions has been there from the start. He was liaising with police and other mosques when the unrest in the summer was happening. This didn't escalate in Carlisle as it had in other cities, but it still led to a lot of fear and anxiety for some communities and the fear of leaving their homes was very real. It is a necessity that mosques have CCTV and security.

Questions and points arising: Some schools may need to be reminded of their responsibilities in relation to PREVENT. Are all incidents being reported? Could more be done? Are there enough consistent messages on inclusivity? Are senior leaders in schools challenging and responding to racist incidents?

Training is given to schools on Prevent. There was a view that some of the Prevent materials are seen as inappropriate by some schools and not used for that reason.

Other organisations like Step Up and Beat Hate (SUBH) are offering talks in schools. Several secondary schools in Carlisle were involved in sessions delivered by SUBH in summer term 2024. Could SACRE provide a guidance document?

BL said Teacher Associations can be made aware of this to get the message to more people. She will feedback to her NASUWT group.

Link added by Jane.

[Philosophy could help pupils discuss hard topics such as Gaza war, says NEU | Education policy | The Guardian](#)

7. RE in Higher Education and Teaching RE and Worldviews book

Lisa and Sally from the University of Cumbria gave an overview of what happens with their RE students.

Sally also talked about the book she has just edited 'Teaching Religious and Worldview Education Creatively'. JY, RA and GP have written chapters. It was suggested that members ask their local library for a copy. Email Sally at the university with any feedback. SMC has her email address. **(ALL)**

8. SACRE links with other organisations

This is part of the development plan and was discussed at the working group.

KO'D had been raising awareness of Cumbrian SACRE and her role at the recent Community Cohesion meeting.

Added by KO'D

- AWAZ Cumbria and Westmorland and Furness Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership (WFDEIP) present talks on interfaith by KO'D. She will speak about the teaching of religion and world views in local schools. Wednesday 13th November 10.30am – 1pm Quaker Friends Meeting House, Kendal.
- KO'D leading a workshop in the Mayors Parlour (with the Mayor attending) for World Interfaith Harmony Week in February, as a Baha'i and member of South Lakes Interfaith Forum but SACRE will certainly be brought into it.

9. North West RE Hubs

JY is the NW RE Lead which takes up 2 days of her time a month. The website has a list of school speakers, including members of our own SACRE. There is also a list of places of interest. There is a piece in the Newsletter. If members have any links to organisations, can they send them on through SMC. **(ALL)**

10. Local and National Updates – JY

The group were asked if they had any comments on JY's update.

Send copy to Sally and Lisa from UoC along with New Toolkit from NASACRE. **(SMC)**

Online event in December led by Edgehill University with Y10 pupils from the North West, Grayrigg CofE and The Queen Katherine School involved from our area.

WR pointed out the questions Jane asks in the update, including How can SACRE learn about CW from the analysis of annual reports from NASACRE?

Jane was thanked for all her work producing this.

11. SACRE Newsletter

Members to send anything for the Newsletter by 24/25 October through SMC, so it can be sent to schools after half term. The new format of only 2 pages has been welcomed. **(ALL)**

12. Arrangements for future meetings – Spring and Summer 2025

The dates were set:

- Spring meeting Tuesday 11 March 2025 – in Westmorland & Furness, DH to look at possible venues in Penrith. **(DH)**
- Summer meeting Wednesday 4 June 2025 – in Cumberland, look for a suitable school **(JY)**

13. Members updates

RC – CofE Conference 10 June 2025

Advisers have attended Prevent training and are looking at how to use it in schools.

Annual Report for SIAMS now out.

14. AOB – none

Some members visited the Carlisle mosque after the meeting which JY had arranged with MD. MD gave a talk about the local mosques and answered questions from the group. If anyone has any further questions please email them through to SMC to pass on to him.

