

From: Katherine Delamora <katherine.delamora@westsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 11:28 AM
To: Jackie Russell <Jackie.Russell@westsussex.gov.uk>
Cc: Jack Bacon <Jack.Bacon@westsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: SACRE

Thanks Jackie – yes quite possible that is the outcome but will let you know if they do decide to pursue it 😊

Kat

Katherine De La Mora
Senior Advisor – Democratic Services
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From: Jackie Russell <Jackie.Russell@westsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 June 2023 11:19
To: Katherine Delamora <katherine.delamora@westsussex.gov.uk>
Cc: Jack Bacon <Jack.Bacon@westsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: SACRE

Thanks for this Kat,

Presumably as its been 4 months since our request to them for the required information they have decided not to pursue the matter further.

Kind regards

Jacqui

From: Katherine Delamora <katherine.delamora@westsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 June 2023 11:15
To: Jackie Russell <Jackie.Russell@westsussex.gov.uk>
Cc: Jack Bacon <Jack.Bacon@westsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: SACRE

Many thanks Jacqui – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In terms of your query re: Church of Scientology, yes, we were approached by a member from Saint Hill Manor requesting to join SACRE. Consideration of their membership would be under Committee A, where it has been acknowledged that views of religious and non-religious belief systems should be considered equally (where they have a recognised presence in the community). As the request came from an individual, we have written to the Church of Scientology to ask them to submit a formal request to join SACRE, outlining their reasoning for seeking membership, as well as their governance structure and where authority sits for how the church should be represented on other organisations and also detail on the place and role of the church in West Sussex and its role in regards to education and young people.

Once a response is received, it would be considered against the criteria for SACRE appointments (see below for background), and then your decision as lead Cabinet Member on whether to add them to SACRE. We requested the information back in February and have yet to hear, but will keep you updated on if we receive any info.

Many thanks

Kat

The text below provides some guidance on how the requests are considered, taken from a previous report on appointments:

All appointments to SACRE should be dependent on the local authority's opinion as to whether such a representative would help ensure that the relevant traditions in the local authority's area are appropriately reflected in Committee A. As set out below this should not be confined to organised faith-based groups but other recognised belief systems with an identifiable level of adherence or membership within the local community such as to make the group relevant for the work of SACRE.

It is not the practice to consult SACRE members on the nominations by other bodies seeking representation as the responsibility for such appointments falls to the County Council but officer advice will be sought to assist in providing context for the request in terms of the role and responsibilities of SACRE. An Ofsted report recently produced on the teaching of RE includes a consistent referral to both religious and non-religious views and traditions. For example, 'Ideally, pupils will build 'personal knowledge' through rich substantive content that links the 'life world' of religious and non-religious traditions to the developing 'life world' of pupils' or, when discussing the importance of the three types of knowledge pupils need in RE, 'first, 'substantive' knowledge: knowledge about various religious and non-religious traditions; second, 'ways of knowing': pupils learn 'how to know' about religion and non-religion; third, 'personal knowledge': pupils build an awareness of their own presuppositions and values about the religious and non-religious traditions they study'.

In relation to the wider legal considerations which the County Council will take into account, in discharging its educational functions the Council owes parents and pupils, a positive duty to respect their religious and philosophical convictions having regard among other things to local conditions and, in particular, the preponderance in its area of particular religious views, and their place in the tradition of the country. It may legitimately give priority to the imparting of knowledge of one religion above others, where that religion is practised or adhered to by a majority in society but it also has a duty to take care that information or knowledge included in the curriculum is conveyed in a pluralistic manner and must accord equal respect to different religious convictions, and to non-

religious beliefs and must avoid discrimination between religions and beliefs, discharging its duties from a standpoint of neutrality and impartiality.

Human Rights legislation and the provisions which it incorporates do not distinguish between faith-based and other recognised belief systems in terms of the rights afforded and the duty to uphold and protect them. Article 9 ECHR states that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes the freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance. Associated case law confirms that non-religious and religious belief systems should be treated the same.

Katherine De La Mora

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From: Jacquie Russell <Jacquie.Russell@westsussex.gov.uk>

Sent: 08 June 2023 08:31

To: Katherine Delamora <katherine.delamora@westsussex.gov.uk>

Cc: Jack Bacon <Jack.Bacon@westsussex.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: SACRE

Hi Kat,



Kind regards

Jacquie

From: Katherine Delamora <katherine.delamora@westsussex.gov.uk>

Sent: 07 June 2023 14:48

To: Jacquie Russell <Jacquie.Russell@westsussex.gov.uk>

Cc: Jack Bacon <Jack.Bacon@westsussex.gov.uk>

Subject: SACRE

Hi Jacquie

I just wanted to touch base with you regarding SACRE as conscious that now falls within your remit.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

It might be useful to note that we recently had the acceptance of adding a humanist representative to SACRE, and have also had an approach from scientologists to join the Committee, for which we are awaiting their proposal so it can be considered. [REDACTED]

Let me know if you have any questions or queries on it and more than happy to help

Many thanks

Kat

Katherine De La Mora

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