

**STANDING ADVISORY  
COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
AGENDA**

<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Tuesday 11 March 2014</b>	<b>Town Hall Main Road, Romford</b>
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Members **24**: Quorum **8** (a minimum of **one** representative must attend from each group)

**Representative Groups (current membership)**

**Group A**

**Representing  
Christian  
denominations and  
other religious  
denominations (13):**

**Dr John Lester (Chairman)**, Baha'i faith  
**Mrs Christine Seymour (Vice Chairman)**, Havering and District  
Humanist Society  
Mrs Pamela Coles, Methodist  
Mr Om Dhir, Hindu Community  
Mr Sansar Narwal, Sikh Community  
Reverend Lee Sunderland, Jewish Community  
Mr Kevin Walsh, Roman Catholic  
Mr Kamal Siddiqui, Muslim Community  
Mr Nasir Mubashar, Muslim Community **[NEW]**  
Mrs Jenny Fox, Salvation Army  
Pastor Aloysius Peter, Pentecostal Church  
Saddhabhaya (David Weston), Buddhist  
{Mr John Smailes, Evangelical Free Church (shared membership)  
{Mrs Dawn Ladbrook, Evangelical Free Church **[NEW]**

**Group B**

**Representing the  
Church of England  
(3):**

Mrs Sue Freeman  
Mrs Stephanie Ellner **[NEW]**  
Reverend Adrian McConnaughie **[NEW]**

**Group C**

**Representing  
teachers (3):**

Mr Nick Hills, Teachers (NUT-Secondary)  
Mrs Anne Masters, Teachers (ATL)  
Ms Linda Munday, Teachers (NUT-Primary)

**Group D**

**Representing the  
Local Authority (5):**

Councillor Gillian Ford  
Councillor Pam Light  
Councillor Paul McGeary  
Councillor Paul Rochford  
Councillor Damian White

Co-optee: Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson

**For information about the meeting please contact:**

**Grant Soderberg (tel: 01708 433091**

**e-mail: [grant.soderberg@haverling.gov.uk](mailto:grant.soderberg@haverling.gov.uk)**

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## AGENDA ITEMS

Announcement of the arrangements in case of fire or other events which might require the evacuation of the meeting-room or building.

**Please turn off or mute any mobile phone**

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - IF ANY, TO RECEIVE**

**2 NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

To note any substitute members present at the meeting and welcome any new members.

**3 WELCOME TO VISITORS**

To welcome guests and visitors to the meeting.

**4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING (Pages 1 - 6)**

To agree as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2013 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them and to address any matters arising therefrom.

**5 UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY (Pages 7 - 8)**

Written update on primary developments attached and secondary phase (to follow if available or tabled at the meeting)

**6 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Written update (to follow or be tabled at the meeting)

**7 UPDATE ON THE JOINT AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE WITH REDBRIDGE (Pages 9 - 10)**

Report on a recent joint Conference meeting

**8 THE ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14 (Pages 11 - 20)**

To approve the draft Annual Report.

**9 UPDATE ON THE MICHAEL EDWARDS AWARD**

To receive an oral report on the current position

**10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Any member may raise issues previously notified to either the Chairman or the Clerk (unless the issue relates to a matter arising from the meeting itself or is of an urgent nature, when the Chairman will determine whether to allow it or not).

**11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To confirm a date (and venue) for the Summer Term meeting and, if possible, set dates for future meetings.

**GRANT SÖDERBERG**  
**Clerk to SACRE**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)  
Town Hall, Romford  
Tuesday 24 September 2013 (7.00pm – 8.35pm)**

**Representing other  
Christian and religious  
denominations  
(Group A)**

Mrs Pamela Coles  
Dr John Lester  
Mrs Christine Seymour  
Mr Kevin Walsh  
Mr Sansar Narwal  
Mr Om Dhir  
Pastor Aloysius Peter  
Mrs Jenny Fox  
Mr Mark Adams

**Representing the  
Church of England  
(Group B)**

Mrs Susan Freeman  
Mrs Alison Seaman

**Representing the  
Teaching Profession  
(Group C)**

Mrs Anne Masters  
Ms Linda Munday

**Representing the  
Local Authority  
Councillors  
(Group D)**

Paul Rochford  
Damian White  
Gillian Ford

Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson (co-optee), Mr Daniel Hugill (Secondary Advisor) and Mrs Judith Payne (HSIS – Primary Advisor) were also present. In addition, Ms N Kehr of the Havering & District Humanist Society and Mr J Smailes from the Evangelical Free Church were present as observers.

**81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul McGeary and Pam Light. Reverend Lee Sunderland, Mr David Weston (Saddhabhaya) also sent apologies. There were no substitutions.

Mrs Coles (in the Chair at the start of the meeting) welcomed the new representatives of the Pentecostal (Pastor Peter) and Quakers (Mr Mark Adams) on their first attendance. She also welcomed Mr John Smailes and Ms Natalie Kehr as observers of the proceedings. (Mrs Jenny Fox – representing the Salvation Army – arrived after the start of the meeting).

**82. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:**

Mrs Coles reminded SACRE that the first matter for SACRE to address was the election of a new Chair and Vice Chair. The clerk invited members to decide whether they would prefer the elections to be conducted by show of hands or ballot as this was the first time elections were being held under the new Terms of Reference. Members decided that a show of hands would suffice and would be quicker than a paper ballot.

The Chairman invited nominations. Mr Walsh asked whether the Vice Chairman was eligible for election as Chairman and was informed that he was correct. Mr Walsh thereupon proposed Dr John Lester as Chairman and this was seconded by Councillor

Gillian Ford. There being no other candidate proposed, no objections raised and Dr Lester content for his name to be considered for the post, he was deemed duly elected and assumed the Chair,

Mrs Coles congratulated Dr Lester on his appointment and thanked SACRE for all its support during the years she had served as Vice Chair and Chair and a formal vote of thanks was proposed and endorsed by all present for everything Mrs Coles had done for promoting the work and activities of SACRE over a good many years.

**83. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN:**

Dr Lester then invited nominations for the position of Vice Chairman and Mr Kevin Walsh proposed Mrs Christine Seymour. This was seconded by Councillor Gillian Ford. There being no other candidate proposed, no objections raised and Mrs Seymour content for her name to be considered for the post, she was deemed duly elected to the position of Vice Chairman.

**84. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING:**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising, but Mrs Coles asked that it be noted that subsequent to the date of the next meeting being set (Minute 80), it was subsequently amended because an additional Council meeting had been deemed necessary.

**85. UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY:**

**Primary:**

SACRE was informed that at its meeting held on 20 June, Primary representatives were given the Key messages from Alan Brine the HM Inspector who had earlier addressed SACRE and had undertaken an audit of spiritual development and provision.

**Secondary:**

Daniel reported that he was now in touch with three secondary RE teachers from three local secondary academies. A meeting had been arranged for December. He promised to keep SACRE informed about whether he was making any progress in this area at each meeting. It was hoped that the Agreed Syllabus Review would provide a focus for re-engaging the secondary schools in Havering.

**86. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RE:**

SACRE was informed that the results of the third NATRE Secondary survey were in the process of being published [NOTE: This can be found on <http://www.natre.org.uk/news.php>]. Because of the recent changes in the accountability

measures, it had been seen that there had been a significant reduction in the number of pupils taking RE short courses at GCSE. The full impact would not be known until summer 2014.

Further changes meant that pupils could no longer take GCSE modular exams in year 10. There were also concerns that many schools were opting for a two year Key Stage Three (instead of three year), this means that the GCSE exam course would be taught in Years 9, 10 and 11. These GCSE courses had been designed for 14+ year olds (years 10 & 11) partly due to their content and there were concerns about younger students tackling these issues e.g. medical ethics. This move also had a knock-on effect on the range of religions that could be studied in Key Stage Three.

Daniel informed SACRE that the shocking reality for those wanting to see RE being strengthened in schools revealed in a recent NATRE Primary Sector survey, was that teachers were receiving (on average) only four hours training before being expected to provide authoritative teaching on the subject.

The recent RE Ofsted report also stated that less than 40% of RE taught in schools was either good or outstanding – which meant that some 60% was below an acceptable standard. RE bodies had arranged to meet with the Minister of State for Education to discuss this (among other concerns). Daniel concluded by informing SACRE that the RE Review was due to be published around the end of October and would be launched in the Houses of Parliament on 5 November. This would be circulated to SACRE on publication. In short, the reports had been “gloomy”, but on the positive side, much was happening around the country to try and redress the overall picture.

Members expressed their concerns and speculated about whether a local conference for RE teachers could be organised. Daniel thought that it might be worth-while if training could be integrated into it. Members were also worried about the potential for RE to simply become some sort of ethics course, devoid of any deeper significance and considered that it was important for SACREs across the country to remain vigilant and challenge unwarranted changes.

## **87. DISCUSSION ABOUT THE PROPOSED JOINT AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE WITH REDBRIDGE:**

SACRE was invited to consider a proposal to work with the London Borough of Redbridge (LBR) to jointly review and write a joint Agreed Syllabus.

The proposal in outline was:

- To make a financial commitment of £5,000 to be added to £10,000 that LBR had already committed to the project.
- To combine expertise in a joint Teacher Working Party to work on the review and writing. This working party would be open to all SACRE members as observers.
- To work with RE Today Service to review and write the new joint Agreed Syllabus. Havering RE teachers and advisers had a very good relationship with RE Today Services and have found their support invaluable.

- To form an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) made up of the whole of the Havering SACRE which will receive reports from the Teacher Working Party. The ASC would be consulted and reported to, and would ultimately sign-off the new Agreed Syllabus.

Daniel shared a number of papers with SACRE including:

1. An outline of the review on the Redbridge Agreed Syllabus – a similar review would be done with the Havering Agreed Syllabus.
2. A draft timeline for the review and writing process.
3. Pen portraits of the RE Today team.
4. Minutes from the first meeting of the Redbridge Teacher Working Party (with whom Havering would join).

SACRE agreed this in principle and further agreed that because of the time-scales involved it would, at the conclusion of the meeting, inaugurate the Agreed Syllabus Conference in order to authorise the funding for the Conference and to agree the initial sequence of meetings in order for a report of progress to come to the next SACRE meeting in the New Year.

#### **88. THE MICHAEL EDWARDS' AWARD:**

Mrs Coles informed SACRE that she had approached the Sacred Heart of Mary with the news that they had been successful and the school had been delighted. She was now working on agreeing a date which would be acceptable not only to the school but to Mrs Edwards as well.

#### **89. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Members were informed that David Weston had recently been ordained in the Buddhist Faith and was now known as Saddhabhaya. Members voted that the Chair should write to him with their congratulations and best wishes. Dr Lester informed members that the latest copy of the Havering Interfaith Forum was available along with a booklet promoting the Week of Prayer for World Peace – 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2013 - (an eight day interfaith prayer guide). The clerk stated that the Annual Report was to be presented to Council at its meeting on 9 October.

#### **90. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Members were asked to provide a range of dates within the Spring Term from which the clerk could choose a date when accommodation was available. They were also reminded that this meeting would be followed by a session of the AS Conference. SACRE decided that the Spring Term meeting should be held between 12 and 20 March 2014.

**NOTE:-**

After the formal conclusion of its meeting, SACRE initiated an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). The ASC agreed the proposal put to SACRE in respect of making £5,000 available for the process and that a joint ASC with LBR be formally entered into.

Daniel Hugill and Judith Payne were authorised to act on behalf of Havering SACRE and Havering ASC in all matters concerning the negotiations with LBR and in all matters connected with the joint working arrangements.

**Next steps:**

1. Judith Payne to sign the contract and arrange funding for the project with LB Havering.
2. Daniel Hugill to distribute a survey on the current AS to all schools in Havering as well as SACRE members.
3. Daniel Hugill and Judith Payne to contact potential members of the Teacher Working Party.
4. Daniel Hugill to liaise with Redbridge and RE Today Services to arrange meetings of the Teacher Working Party. **[These have subsequently been arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014].**

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Primary report - March 2014

## **Primary schools**

Seven Primary school to school partnerships have been established since September 2013 funded by the schools' own de- delegated budgets and quality assured by Local Authority officers. These partnerships are based on a coaching cycle for improving the quality of teaching by the sharing of good practice. As the coaching is based on generic good practice, it is anticipated that this work has an impact on improving the teaching of RE in Primary schools.

## **Evaluation form for teacher and coach**

Name of teacher:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of visit:

\_\_\_\_\_

Pre team teaching, coaching or lesson observation discussion

What have you gained from the session?

What will you incorporate into your practice as a result of the session?

In 2013-2014, the usual termly network meetings with Primary RE Co-ordinators have been replaced with workshops in support of the agreed syllabus review and a day's conference for students and RE Co-ordinators across Primary and Secondary Phases.

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# Agenda Item 7

Redbridge and Havering Agreed Syllabus Working Group: Meeting: Thursday Dec 12th 2013

In attendance:

Fiona Moss RE Today, Julia Diamond-Conway' Ian Morris Free Church, Jane Murray Ravensbourne, Amanda Harris, Gurmeet Dhanjal Newbury Park, Mac Leonard CofE rep Chris Cornwell Humanist rep, Andy Lewis Sacred Heart, Chris Speller Elm Park, Kirsty – Hallmead, Judith Payne School Improvement, Deborah Weston Redbridge Adviser Graham Edwards Oaks Park School, Barbara Usher Coopers Coborn, John Lester from 5.45pm

## 1. Welcome and introductions

## 2. Overview of the Agreed Syllabus Project

- FM set out the timeline leading to a proposed launch in the autumn term of 2014. BU asked why Easter and Christmas progression grids are included in the list of contents. Following discussion it was agreed that progression grids would illustrate other religious celebrations too, perhaps Diwali

## 3. Developing and agreeing the core purpose of RE

- The group read the 'purpose of RE' statement from the NCFRE and it was suggested that this be included in the AS and also a 'core purpose' statement which would be brief enough to be remembered by teachers as an overarching description of RE in Redbridge and Havering.
- The following points were made:
- A paragraph needs to be written to explain why RE is important - particularly with view to explaining it to parents. This paragraph should clearly state what it is useful for in the world of work etc.
- Several people liked the reference to varied responses including their own. Others suggested the ending: "accept the existence of different religions including their own" but it was felt that this didn't have the depth of what is in the current purpose.
- There was approval for the academic rigour of the statement
- What sort of challenging questions were meant? Challenging questions would be those that are difficult to answer/ are academically and personally challenging and also questions that are those that make you think deeply and personally
- Some were concerned about the phrase 'challenging questions' The following was suggested, "the exploring and responding to ultimate questions and sources of wisdom offered by religions and world views "
- The following was agreed: ".... is to engage pupils in exploring and responding to challenging questions"

## 4. Religions and beliefs specified for study

- The group approved of the FS, KS1, KS2 and KS4. There was a difference of opinion over KS3. Some people would have preferred students to explore all 6

religious traditions in KS3 but focus on two of their choice in addition to Christianity in depth.

#### 5. Programme of study

- Aims
- Suggested questions
- Planning outlines
- Unit plans
- KS3-4 detail of specification

The humanist representative wanted FM to look at the titling of some of the questions to ensure they were inclusive of worldviews. Despite the explanation that world views were going to be looked at in the thematic units and the question in KS2 that looks at humanist and Christian values the Humanist rep wanted a systematic unit on humanism. Whether or not this goes ahead will need to be decided by Daniel and Deborah.

It was decided that no non statutory questions would be given for KS3, instead a paragraph of guidance with some hints would be given eg the importance of Judaism in today's world. There was still no agreement on number of religions at KS3 as many schools are doing a 2 yr KS3. DH and DW to decide and inform FM and SP.

The KS1 planning outline was agreed as the model to follow for KS1 and 2. FM and SP to work on these ASAP. We will then agree which units SP and FM are writing and which ones the schools will write. DW will be in charge of guiding and editing the schools writing. A proforma will need to be agreed between DW, FM, SP and DH.

One representative explained that it was important to include the info on religion and beliefs as in the Havering syllabus.

Julia DC wanted samples of how the questions could be organised across a key stage.



**HAVERING  
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2013**



## Chair's Foreword

My first foreword to Havering SACRE's Annual Report could only begin with a vote of thanks to Mrs Pamela Coles who, since the retirement of the Revd. Terry Brown in 2009, has faithfully and diligently discharged the role of Chairman. Since those days of long occupation of the chair by the same person, SACRE has adopted a new constitution which means that chairs and vice-chairs change bi-annually. Pamela has been a member of SACRE for many years and has been active in many projects both within it and outside in the wider community. She is an exemplar to us all and her energy and commitment have been – and continue to be – truly inspiring. She has set the bar high indeed and I look forward to the opportunity of aspiring to her achievements.

Six years ago we were, I feel, justly proud of the Pathways Approved Syllabus that we produced after much discussion and consideration. It was launched at a suitable official function attended by the Mayor at Romford Central Library and the inclusive nature of its Essential Information section at the end was indicated by the presence there of all the nine main religions in the UK recognised by the Government together with one or two others. It has, I think, served schools well over these years and feedback received during this time has been positive. Meetings are now under way in partnership with Redbridge to produce its successor, which we hope will serve the schools of both boroughs just as successfully.

One secular organisation appearing in the Essential Information section is the Humanists, who hosted SACRE's 2013 summer meeting at Nelmes United Reformed Church in Hornchurch. It was good to find out more about Humanism and they were excellent hosts and keen supporters of SACRE.

This year's winner of the Michael Edwards award was the Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School in Upminster and both myself and Mrs Coles (as the current and previous chairs) were present to present the award to the Head Girl in the presence of the Deputy-Head, the Head of RE and the School Chaplain. A tour of the Old Chapel - for so long derelict and in disrepair but now acquired by the school and renovated - followed, much to our delight.

In her foreword to the 2013 Annual Report Mrs Coles spoke of concerns regarding the decline in RE teaching across the country and commented that: *'SACRE continues to believe that sound RE teaching is invaluable in setting both moral and spiritual parameters for today's children to equip them to be our citizens of tomorrow.'* How important that statement was can be illustrated by the atrocity at Woolwich which indicated clearly the vital importance not only of acquiring an accurate and respectful understanding of other religions, but also an accurate understanding of one's own.

At an interfaith meeting in London, the Bishop of Woolwich spoke of how well the community had pulled together after that event but that when he made a friendly visit to the Imam at the mosque he found the media camped outside, seemingly disappointed that he had come as a dove of peace and not as a hawk of conflict.

Some of our citizens of tomorrow will be our reporters, hopefully equipped in the way my predecessor looked for.

A more recent document issued by the Department of Education contains a foreword by the Minister revealing that Religious Education was an unintended victim of previous pronouncements and giving assurances that its future was secure. That sounds more heartening than at this stage last year and we can but hope that the good work going on in the borough (summarised within) can now continue unabated and unthreatened.

My thanks to all those who labour so diligently in this crucial field.

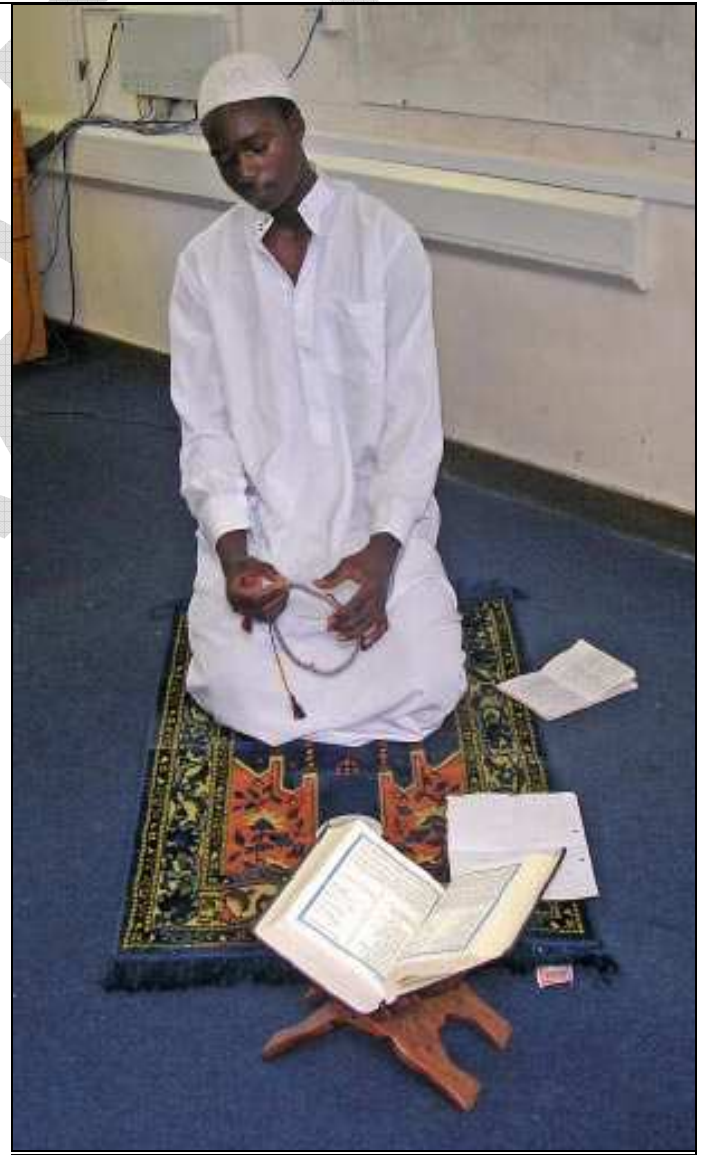
I am pleased to commend this report.

John Lester

(Chair of SACRE)



*Preparation for a Hindu Arti festival*



*Muslim boy in traditional robes at prayer at Redden Court School*

## **Observations from the Secondary RE Advisor**

The work of SACRE this year has been conducted against the backdrop of continuing national educational reforms. These reforms continue to affect Religious Education locally in a variety of ways. In the face of these challenges the national Religious Education community has been galvanized to try to ensure that every child, in every school, experiences excellent Religious Education. We have seen the Religious Education Council work on, and publish, a review of Religious Education. This outlines the issues we face, previous weaknesses within the subject, and provides recommendations on how the subject should move forward. Most importantly it includes a non-statutory framework for the subject that will go on to inform curriculum design nationally. We have also seen the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for RE report on teacher supply, the training of teachers, and on-going Continuous Professional Development.

At a local level, Havering SACRE has been working hard to consider how best to face up to the challenges that RE faces in our schools. The joint working with Redbridge SACRE on our new Agreed Syllabus will ensure that we make the best use of the financial and professional resources available to us. I am very pleased to report that this work is being led and directed by a core group of teachers of Religious Education from both boroughs, from across the various phases of schooling and from a range of different types of schools.

This Agreed Syllabus Review offers us an opportunity to produce a syllabus for local schools that is lively, honest and rigorous. We also want to ensure that it reflects contemporary research in Religious Studies. The Review group is also doing a great deal of thinking about how we can renew our approach to assessment so that it fits our subject more appropriately and serves children better. The conversations and work done so far have all been tremendously exciting and all the teachers involved are committed to working together to ensure the best possible outcome for all Havering and Redbridge students.

The collaborative working between our local teachers of Religious Education extends beyond the work of the Agreed Syllabus Review though. We are looking forward to hosting a *Respect for All Conference* in July that will involve Year 5 and Year 8 students from across a great number of Havering schools. This will include meeting teenage representatives from various religious and belief communities who serve as 'Ambassadors of Faith and Belief'. These teenage representatives come from a range of secondary schools from across Havering, Redbridge, and Thurrock.

Alongside the pupil conference, a group of primary and secondary teachers from Havering and Redbridge are also planning a conference for teachers of Religious Education. This will take place in the autumn term of 2014 and will involve teacher led TeachMeet sessions, visits to places of worship, some keynote presentations and provide an opportunity for networking.

It has been a busy year for Religious Education in Havering and next year looks even busier! It is certainly an exciting time to be involved in Religious Education here in Havering.

Daniel Hugill  
Secondary Adviser to SACRE  
Teacher of Religious Education at the Coopers' Company and Coborn School



**REPORT ON RE IN EDUCATION FOR THE YEAR 2013:****1. Religious Education (RE)****1.1. Standards in Religious Education**

Examination results at GCSE are monitored as part of the Borough's overall monitoring of standards.

The results for 2013 GCSE courses:

		Full Course		Short Course	
		A*-C %	A*-G %	A*-C %	A*-G %
LA	2013	70.6%	98.6%	51.2%	96.9%
	2012	74.1%	99.0%	49.1%	95.9%
	Diff	-3.5%	-0.4%	2.1%	1.0%
National	2013	72.2%	98.4%	51.1%	94.7%
	2012	72.6%	98.5%	50.4%	94.7%
	Diff	-0.4%	-0.1%	0.7%	0.0%
LA vs. NA	2013	-1.6%	0.2%	0.1%	2.2%
	2012	1.5%	0.5%	-1.3%	1.2%

**1.2. Agreed Syllabus**

Schools implemented the Havering Agreed Syllabus 'Pathways', (published in November 2007) in September 2008. The vast majority of Primary schools are using the new schemes of work as the basis for delivering the Agreed Syllabus. These were updated and shared with schools in September 2010. Most Secondary schools have developed their own schemes of work.

A review of syllabus is being undertaken in 2013-2014 supported by national RE advisers from RE Today Services which includes workshops with representative RE leaders from all phases of education and a conference for representative students.

### **1.3. Teacher Training**

Advice is provided to Primary schools through the Havering School Improvement Service (HSIS) and there are regular meetings for Primary RE co-ordinators. In 2013 this consisted of:

- An experienced national trainer from RE Today Services Team, explored the teaching of Islam and Judaism with reference to the Havering Schemes of Work. Recommended activities were creative, visual, active and involved enquiry based learning;
- An update on the HMI national review of the teaching of RE and recommendations for improvement;
- A workshop to hear representative RE leaders to contribute to the review of the Havering syllabus led by RE Today advisers.

Attendance at the RE Co-ordinators conferences remains high, varying between 25 and 30 schools represented. Attendance at the termly network meetings is not as strong and varies between eight and twelve representatives. Where RE co-ordinators are unable to attend, all materials are electronically forwarded to those schools along with explanatory letters. This includes Independent and Special schools.

### **1.4. Complaints concerning RE**

No formal complaints were made about religious education under the local statutory complaints procedure during 2013.

## **2. Collective Worship**

### **2.1. Monitoring**

Monitoring from Hsis during the academic year has taken the form of spiritual, moral, social and cultural health checks which include formal written reports to Primary school head-teachers and Chairs of Governors. This is a traded service and therefore is only offered to those schools who buy into the service.

### **2.2. Training**

There has been no training on collective worship during the year.

### **2.3. Determinations**

There were no applications for determinations (to alter the character of collective worship for all or some pupils in a particular school) during 2012. There were a number of Freedom of Information requests throughout the year which were a nil return on applications to change the character of schools in Havering.

### **2.4. Complaints concerning collective worship**

No formal complaints were made about collective worship under the local statutory complaints procedure during 2012.

### **3. Links with other agencies**

#### **3.1. National**

Havering SACRE belongs to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Members attend conferences and other events and report to full SACRE meetings.

#### **3.2. Local**

SACRE has links with a range of faith and secular groups in the borough. The practice of holding some SACRE meetings in schools and different places of worship continues. SACRE were delighted to have the HMI who completed the national review of the teaching of RE address members at the Summer term meeting.

### **4. SACRE arrangements**

#### **4.1. Meetings**

SACRE holds regular meetings during the year. The meetings are usually well attended with good representation from the faith groups and the local Humanist Association. There tends to be one meeting each term. SACRE sets its own agenda and commissions reports and updates from the Local Authority Advisers. Since the last Annual Report, SACRE has met three times during 2013.

The first of these took place in May – rather later than the planned March date, but this was to accommodate the hectic schedule of Mr Alan Brine, a senior Inspector for OfSTED who was the key-note speaker. His assessment of the position of RE within the curriculum was sobering and while his overall message suggested there were grounds for optimism (in that there were pockets of excellence and enthusiasm driven by RE teachers and responded to by groups of pupils), there was a good deal of caution as well due in part by the changes in direction in government policies in the Secondary phase.

SACRE met again in June, this time at Nelmes Church Hall which provided the external venue for a fascinating presentation by Mrs Christine Seymour on behalf of the Humanist Society and in particular, how Humanism had a valid perspective alongside faith groups and religions. It was at this meeting that Mr Hugill suggested that the forthcoming Agreed Syllabus Conference could be jointly conducted with Redbridge's SACRE as Redbridge had the support of some eminent educationalists and whilst Havering's current syllabus – "Pathways" – had been acknowledged as an excellent work, the cultural and educational landscape had changed significantly since its launch and Havering's demography was changing. Redbridge already had experience in multiculturalism and that expertise could translate into a joint venture which would support and enhance the teaching of RE throughout the schools of both boroughs for the foreseeable future.

In September, SACRE met to elect its first Chair and Vice-Chair under the terms of reference adopted in 2012. Mrs Pamela Coles was succeeded by Dr John Lester and SACRE elected Mrs Christine Seymour to the position of Vice-Chair, the first time Havering's SACRE had appointed a Humanist to office. During the meeting, Mr Hugill informed SACRE that Redbridge had welcomed the idea of holding a combined ASC and Mrs Payne announced that Havering would be contributing £5,000 towards the Conference (Redbridge's contribution was £10,000), Members were invited to agree to the ASC being a combined one and this was unanimously agreed. At the conclusion of the meeting, several members along with Mr Hugill and Mrs Payne, remained behind for the inaugural meeting of the Havering arm of the Joint Agreed Syllabus Conference. This meeting was to plan the next combined meetings and set the process in motion.

SACRE continues to receive regular reports on local and national developments in RE. Topics discussed include: the National Curriculum Review currently underway, the relationship between autonomous academies and the Local Agreed Syllabus, and the effect of the English Baccalaureate on the teaching of Religious Education in secondary schools.

#### **4.2. Budget**

SACRE has a small annual budget to cover the cost of its work which is administered by the Education Service.

#### **4.3. Professional and administrative support**

SACRE has the services of a Committee Officer from Committee Administration at each of its meetings, both to minute the meeting and to give procedural advice. The Secondary and Primary Advisers attend SACRE meetings to report on work with schools, to offer advice and to assist SACRE in carrying out its role.

#### **4.4. Monitoring**

SACRE continues to monitor standards and quality in RE, the quality of provision for collective worship and for pupils' spiritual development from any information included in the most recent OfSTED reports for primary, secondary and special schools. In addition, examination results at GCSE and A/S and A level are monitored as part of the Borough's overall monitoring and evaluation of standards.

### **5. The Michael Edwards Award**

This annual award is presented in commemoration of the life and work of Michael Edwards, Adviser/Inspector for Religious Education in Havering, who died in 2004.

The award is made to schools which demonstrate good practice in multi-faith RE. The award alternates between primary and secondary schools and this year was open to Primary, Special and PRU schools. The successful school

was Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School. The ME Award has been opened to other schools such as the borough's pupil referral units and other Faith Schools to broaden its scope and be more inclusive – the way Michael Edwards would have wanted it. .



Mrs Pamela Coles accompanied by Dr John Lester presenting the Michael Edwards Award 2013 to Mrs Bernadette Williams, Head Teacher Sacred Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Secondary School on behalf of Elizabeth Oliver, the school's Head Girl.

**MEMBERS OF SACRE**

The following is a list of SACRE members and officers in attendance for the period covered by this report.

Name	Group	Representing	Joined	Left
Mr Kevin Walsh	A	Roman Catholic	22/02/2007	
Revd. Lee Sunderland	A	Jewish Community	05/03/2009	
Mrs Pamela Coles	A	Methodist	30/06/2004	
Mr Sansar Narwal	A	Sikh Community	Pre 2004	
<b>Pastor Aloysius Peter</b>	A	Pentecostal Churches	<b>24/09/2013</b>	
<b>Mr Mark Adams</b>	A	Religious Society of Friends	<b>24/09/2013</b>	<b>14/01/2014</b>
Mr Kamal Siddiqui	A	Muslim Community	05/03/2008	
<b>Mr Nasir Mubashar [NEW]</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Ahmadiyya Muslim Community</b>	<b>14/01/2014</b>	
Mr Om Dhir	A	Hindu Community	06/06/2007	
<b>Mrs Jenny Fox</b>	A	Salvation Army	<b>24/09/2013</b>	
Dr John Lester	A	Baha'i Faith	10/11/2004	
Mrs Christine Seymour	A	Havering and District Humanist Society	26/11/2009	
Saddhabhaya (Dr David Weston)	A	Buddhist	09/05/2013	
<b>Mr John Smailes</b>	A	Evangelical Free Church (shared)	<b>01/12/2013</b>	
<b>Mrs Dawn Ladbrook</b>	A	Evangelical Free Church (shared)	<b>01/12/2013</b>	
Cllr Wendy Brice-Thompson	A	Local Authority	11/10/2011	
<b>Mrs Stephanie Ellner</b>	B	Church of England	<b>01/12/2013</b>	
Mrs Susan Freeman	B	Church of England	05/03/2009	
<b>Mrs Alison Seaman</b>	B	Church of England	07/11/2007	<b>20/12/2013</b>
<b>Revd Adrian McConnaughie</b>	B	Church of England	<b>01/12/2013</b>	
Mrs Anne Masters	C	ATL	28/01/2009	
Mr Nick Hills	C	NUT - Secondary	26/11/2009	
Ms Linda Munday	C	NUT - Primary	11/03/2010	
Cllr Paul Rochford	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Gillian Ford	D	Local Authority	11/07/2004	
Cllr Paul McGeary	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Pam Light	D	Local Authority	25/05/2011	
Cllr Damian White	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	

*Advisors:*

*Judith Payne, Primary and Daniel Hugill, Secondary*