



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AGENDA

7.00 pm	Thursday 9 October 2014	Town Hall Main Road Romford
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Members **25**: 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 (15):**

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
Mr Sansar Narwal, Sikh
Mr Kamal Siddiqui, Sunni Muslim
Reverend Lee Sunderland, Jewish
Mr Kevin Walsh, Roman Catholic
Mrs Jenny Fox, Salvation Army
Mrs Dawn Ladbroke, Evangelical Free Church
Pastor Aloysius Peter, Pentecostal Church
Mr John Smailes, Evangelical Free Church
Mr Nasir Mubashar, Ahmadiyya Muslim
Mr Tariq Mahmood, Muslim
Saddhabhaya, Buddhist

Group B

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

Mrs Sue Freeman
Mrs Stephanie Ellner
Reverend Adrian McConaughie

Group C

**Representing
teachers (2):**

Mr Nick Hills, Teachers (NUT-Secondary)
Ms Linda Munday, Teachers (NUT-Primary)

Group D

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

Councillor Meg Davis
Councillor Gillian Ford
Councillor Alex Donald
Councillor Jason Frost
Councillor Dilip Patel

Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson – Co-optee

For information about the meeting please contact:

Grant Söderberg, Tel: 01708 433091, e-mail: grant.soderberg@onesource.co.uk

Protocol for members of the public wishing to report on meetings of the London Borough of Havering

Members of the public are entitled to report on meetings of Council, Committees and Cabinet, except in circumstances where the public have been excluded as permitted by law.

Reporting means:-

- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of the proceedings of the meeting;
- using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later if the person is not present.

Anyone present at a meeting as it takes place is not permitted to carry out an oral commentary or report. This is to prevent the business of the meeting being disrupted.

Anyone attending a meeting is asked to advise Democratic Services staff on 01708 433076 that they wish to report on the meeting and how they wish to do so. This is to enable employees to guide anyone choosing to report on proceedings to an appropriate place from which to be able to report effectively.

Members of the public are asked to remain seated throughout the meeting as standing up and walking around could distract from the business in hand.

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

AGENDA ITEMS

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 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING (Pages 1 - 12)

To agree as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 11 March and 10 July 2014 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them and to address any matters arising therefrom.

4 UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY

To receive oral and written reports from the Primary and Secondary phase representatives and to comment on them or propose action as necessary.

5 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

To receive oral and written reports and to comment on or propose action as appropriate.

6 UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF THE JOINT R.E. SYLLABUS

To receive an oral update of recent activities and obtain a status report on progress to date and when it is likely that the initial draft of the revised (joint) syllabus will be available for consideration.

7 THE MICHAEL EDWARDS AWARD - THE FUTURE

For members to consider whether the M.E Award should continue, be modified or discontinued and for members to consider whether, if discontinued, SACRE should engage with school children and young people in some other manner.

8 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).

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To set a date for the Spring Term meeting and, if possible, dates for future meetings.

GRANT SÖDERBERG
Clerk to SACRE

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Town Hall Main Road Romford 11 March 2014 (7.10 - 7.40 pm)

<u>Representing other Christian and religious denominations (Group A)</u>	<u>Representing the Church of England (Group B)</u>	<u>Representing the Teaching Profession (Group C)</u>	<u>Representing the Local Authority Councillors (Group D)</u>
Mrs Christine Seymour (Vice Chair)	Mrs Susan Freeman	Mr Nick Hills	Pam Light
Mrs Pamela Coles	Revd. Adrian McConaughie	Ms Linda Munday	Paul Rochford
Mr Kamal Siddiqui			
Mrs Jenny Fox			
Mr Sansar Narwal			
Pastor Aloysius Peter			
Mr John Smailes			
Mr Tariq Mahmood [NEW]			
+Dr B Beheshtri			

Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson (co-optee), and Mrs Judith Payne (HSIS – Primary Advisor) were also present.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman took the Chair.

Members were reminded of the action to be taken in an emergency.

91 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gillian Ford, Dr John Lester (+Dr B Beheshtri substituted), Mr Kevin Walsh, Mrs Anne Masters, Mr Om Dhir, Saddhabhaya, Mrs Dawn Ladbrook, Mrs Stephanie Ellner, Mr Nasir Mubashar and Mr Daniel Hugill (Secondary Advisor)

The Chairman welcomed Mr Tariq Mahmood who was attending his first SACRE as a representative of the Havering Islamic Cultural Centre (Sunni Muslims) in Waterloo Road Romford. There were no visitors or observers present.

92 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman. A minor amendment was requested to clarify Minute 85 (Primary report). There were no further matters arising.

93 **UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY**

Primary:

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

Mrs Payne added that an evaluation form had been devised to ensure that comments and views were captured and fed back in order that the content and provision of future events and guidance could be tailored to need and quality monitored and maintained

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

Secondary:

Mr Hugill had submitted the following written report:

The secondary Havering RE teachers' group had now met twice. The group currently represented Coopers' Coborn, Hall Mead, Sacred Heart, Campion, Frances Bardsley, and Mulberry School (Tower Hamlets). At its most recent meeting it had a representative from Sutton Primary School. The group was aiming to organise a "TeachMeet" style meeting in the autumn term. This would aim to attract teachers from East London boroughs and neighbouring counties. More details would follow before the summer meeting of SACRE. He concluded by saying that he was very excited by these local developments.

94 **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Mr Hugill's written report was that:

1: Teacher Supply & Bursaries

NATRE had been working with other RE organisations (the RE Council and Culham St Gabriel's) to try and get bursaries restated for trainee RE teachers. This had involved press campaigns, lobbying of Ministers at DfE, and working with civil servants. He provided several links to web-pages for Members to pursue.

2: Progress Measure and Best 8

NATRE had put together a paper for use by Secondary Heads of RE to help convince Head teachers to enter the whole cohort for Full Course GCSEs. It focused on the new progress measure in the league tables (Best 8).

NATRE said that:

“At the start of the new calendar year, many schools begin to turn their attention to planning their curriculum for the next academic year. The fact that from 2014 the short course no longer counts towards the performance measures, even though it remains an accredited GCSE qualification for pupils, has put some provision for RS at risk. It is NATRE's position that short course remains a valuable means of accrediting pupils' learning at key stage 4. This article suggests however, that in many schools around the country, full course RS for all might be a serious and viable option which is in the best interests of both the pupils and the school as a whole.”

The paper focused on the new progress measure in the league tables (Best 8). The paper could be found at:

<http://www.natre.org.uk/news.php>

3: All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for RE

The APPG on RE was chaired by Stephen Lloyd MP, Liberal Democrat for Eastbourne. The Group had been running an inquiry focussing on 'the contribution of RE to good community relations'. The Inquiry had been split into three sections which concentrated on schools, communities and society respectively. Following three oral evidence sessions and submissions from across the country, Stephen Lloyd MP would be hosting an event to celebrate the publication and launch of the report. The launch will be at the House of Commons on the 17th March 2014.

4: Exam Reform

The reform of GCSE and A-levels was now under-way following a meeting between RE professionals, exam boards, DfE, Ofqual and other interested parties. There was likely to be a consultation over the summer and members of SACREE were urged to “keep an eye out for this”.

5: NATRE #REChatUK

An online RE chat on Twitter was taking place monthly. Mr Hugill provided the following details for any member who wished to join the “Twitter chat”:

#REchatUK took place on Monday 3 March 2014 8 - 9pm. If you missed it and want to catch up on the discussion on 'Teaching difficult and sensitive issues in RE' you can see it [here](#)

Thanks to those who contributed. Do take a look and please consider taking part next month: Monday 7th April 8 - 9pm.

If you have any suggestions as to what next month's topic should be please send a tweet to [@NATREupdate](#)

Like beekeeping, religious education is best when it's controversial

In conclusion, Mr Hugill's report informed members that: Guardian Education recently interviewed him for an article on Religious Education. In the article he had suggested that RE was best when it was controversial. It also drew parallels with one of his other interests - beekeeping. Members were informed that the article could be found by following the link below:

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/jan/16/teaching-religious-education-beekeeping>

95 UPDATE ON THE JOINT AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE WITH REDBRIDGE

Mrs Payne reported that an initial meeting had taken place in the Town Hall on 12 December last. It had been a good meeting attended by both Academies and Maintained schools. SACRE members from both Havering and Redbridge had been encouraged to attend and the Chairman – Dr Lester – had been present.

Progress had been made in producing an overview of what the new Syllabus ought to address and a launch date of September 2014 had been proposed (so there was a tight time-scale to get all the necessary work done and approved by both SACRE's). The RE Today advisors Fiona Moss and Deborah Weston would be undertaking most of the preparation and drafting of the Syllabus for both SACRE's to review. Their work will be closely guided by the teacher working party.

Humanism would be included within the Syllabus. It was proposed for inclusion in the KS2 programme of study and this would continue into KS3 as part of the "World Views" programme. The exact wording of this proposal was to be considered at the next meeting.

So far, a total of 29 schools had registered their interest and each school would provide six representatives to explore learning from religion with older student mentors while the RE co-ordinators have training from the RE Today tutors.

Members expressed their approval and several asked for notice of the next meeting, which Mrs Payne said that she would pass to the clerk to forward to them. A member also asked whether minutes of these meetings could also be circulated and this was also promised.

96 THE ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

Members were invited to comment on the content of the draft Annual Report before them. Mrs Payne said she could provide some text for the photographs in the report. There were no other comments and the Report was accepted unanimously. Councillor Rochford (Cabinet Member for Children and Learning) would be presenting the Report to Council on 26 March.

97 UPDATE ON THE MICHAEL EDWARDS AWARD

Mrs Coles informed SACRE that because of traffic problems, she had been late in getting to the Sacred Heart of Mary on the day of the presentation. Dr Lester was at the school, but as she had the trophy, it could not be presented in front of the whole school and Assembly had finished by the time she arrived. The Head teacher was, however, delighted to receive the award on behalf of the staff and the Head girl on behalf of pupils.

Mrs Payne informed members that the pro-forma and award application had already been sent to Primary, Special and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) for them to register an interest. The deadline was the end of May – in good time for the summer meeting and she hoped that there would be a good response for members to choose from this year.

98 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Tariq Mahmood introduced himself to those present. He was a pharmacist and Vice-President of the Havering Islamic Cultural Centre which was situated in Waterloo Road in Romford.

99 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk reported that he had been hoping to hear from Mr Hugill about confirmation of a venue for the summer meeting, but that he had not had a response to his e-mail. He added that the dates for the summer meeting had to be between the end of June and early July and asked members to note the 3rd, 8th and 10th July and he would confirm to them as soon as possible the venue and preferred date.

Chairman

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Public Document Pack

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Coopers' Company & Coborn School, Upminster
10 July 2014 (8.30 - 9.35 pm)**

Present:

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

Dr John Lester
Mrs Christine Seymour
Mrs Pamela Coles
Mrs Jenny Fox
Pastor Aloysius Peter
Saddhabhaya
Mr John Smailes
Mr Nasir Mubashar [NEW]

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

Mrs Susan Freeman
Mrs Stephanie Ellner

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

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

Gillian Ford
Jason Frost
Dilip Patel
Alex Donald

Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson (co-optee), Mr Daniel Hugill (Secondary Advisor) and Mrs Judith Payne (HSIS – Primary Advisor) were also present.

SACRE had agreed to hold its 2014 summer external meeting at Coopers' Company & Coborn School at the invitation of the Interfaith Forum and the meeting commenced after the conclusion of an extremely interesting debate between Saddhabhaya (Buddhism), the Revd. Dave Tomlinson of St Luke's, Holloway (Christian), Joel Ilse (Judaism) and Shahnawaz Haque (Muslim), the topic being: 'Should ideas of earthly justice be based on ideas of heavenly justice?' The debate provided SACRE members with a fine example of interfaith interaction involving the different perspectives and philosophies of four of the world's leading Faiths.

At the conclusion of the debate – and after questions had been put and responded to, all present were invited to share in refreshments provided by the school. On returning to the hall, the Chairman thanked Mrs Usher for welcoming SACRE to the school, for allowing it to be part of the audience at the debate and for providing such a pleasant repast.

He then announced that unfortunately, SACRE could not conduct its formal business (such as signing the Minutes) because it was not quorate – there being no representative from the Teacher and Head Teacher Group present. He added that general business could be conducted and said that those elements which could not be dealt with would be addressed at the next meeting. He extended a welcome to those who had attended for the Interfaith Forum and who wished to remain and see what SACRE did.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Kevin Walsh, Mrs Dawn Ladbroke, Mr Kamal Siddiqui, Mr Nick Hills, Ms Linda Munday and Councillor Meg Davis

1 NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Kevin Walsh, Mrs Dawn Ladbroke, Mr Kamal Siddiqui, Mr Nick Hills, Ms Linda Munday and Councillor Meg Davis

The Chairman welcomed Mr Nasir Mubashar who was attending his first SACRE as a representative of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. In addition, he extended a warm welcome to the newly elected councillors who were likewise attending their first SACRE meeting.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2014 could not be signed, but the Chairman asked whether there were any matters arising from them which might need attention. There were none.

3 UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY

Primary:

In the academic year 2013 – 2014 the usual network meetings had been replaced with a full day conference for both pupils and RE co-ordinators led by RE Today consultants, Fiona Moss and Deborah Weston who were also leading on the review of the RE syllabus. Mrs Payne referred members to a flyer about the conference:

Secondary:

Mr Hugill had submitted the following report in which he informed SACRE that interest concerning RE had been received from the following senior schools: Hall Mead, Coopers' Coborn, Gaynes, the Sacred Heart of Mary and Campion. He hoped that this would deepen and that others would be persuaded to join them, but it was early days yet.

This group not only supported the teaching of RE, but provided mutual support and was now planning a conference for teachers from across London.

This process was also involving teachers from Southend, and Tower Hamlets. A grant application had been submitted to Culham St Gabriel's Trust for funding. He added that it was hoped that this day conference would involve work with religious/academic experts and follow-up visits for the teachers visiting each other.

4 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mr Hugill's report was that:

Exam Reform

The DfE had accepted the case for the reform of GCSE and A level examinations in the subject on the same time-scale as EBacc subjects such as History and

Geography, with first teaching from 2016. The RE Council's Qualifications Committee brought together a strong team of stakeholders representing member organisations for advisers, higher education and SACREs and teachers. NATRE had five members of the Executive serving on it and they were supported by a reference group of representatives from organisations and communities of religion and belief.

Ofsted

The 2013 Ofsted RE report, ***Religious Education: Realising the Potential*** continued to inform discussions about future and quality of RE.

The recent Ofsted inspections in Birmingham (connected to what had been termed "Trojan Horse") had highlighted the contribution that high quality RE could make to a broad and balanced curriculum (and had highlighted some places where they saw it as lacking). In the light of these inspections HMCI Michael Wilshaw had emphasized that Ofsted should inspect for a broad balanced curriculum when in schools. This should be an aid to those fighting for RE provision in their schools.

RE Regional Strategy Pilot

This strategy to ensure that there were more robust arrangements for training and supporting teachers of RE was based on Recommendation 4 of the RE Council's Review of Religious Education. The RE Council and NATRE - working in collaboration with Culham St Gabriel's - were implementing a pilot version of the strategy which they hoped would help teachers of RE to develop a regional strategy in their own area, adapted and suited to their own professional development priorities. Culham's St Gabriel's was currently inviting expressions of interest.

RE Expert Advisory Group (EAG)

It had been established as part of the RE Council's Curriculum and Assessment Committee and with the support of the DfE it would work alongside similar sector-led groups for other curriculum subjects.

Secondary Survey

NATRE had launched its fifth annual survey on RE in secondary schools in England and urged all those who taught RE to complete it. Responses would provide invaluable detail to inform ongoing campaigns to secure the place of RE in the curriculum in all types of schools in the face of significant challenges from changes in the curriculum. As a "thank-you" for completing the survey, NATRE was offering a £5 voucher to use on any RE Today publication. The code needed to redeem this voucher was given at the end of the survey. The deadline for completion was 25 July. Members were urged to encourage any secondary teachers they knew, to complete it.

APPG

Had recently published a report on RE and community relations. It would be meeting again later in July to review progress since the publication of its first report, *"The Truth Unmasked"*, in March 2013 on teacher training and supply. This was something NATRE continued to campaign and lobby the DfE about.

Birmingham Commentary of the Religious Education Council's (REC) Review of Religious Education

SACRE's clerk circulated a commentary from Birmingham SACRE on the RE Council's Review of Religious Education. The REC had responded in full to this (along with other member organisations). It was felt that this criticism was:

"from a small and unrepresentative minority (though some have parliamentary connections which tends to exaggerate the significance of their criticism). The Catholic Education Service, the Church of England Board of Education and the Muslim Council of Britain, to mention but a few of our member bodies, remain firmly behind the Review. It is important to remember that the Review was an RE Council project, not funded by government, which could not possibly command the total agreement of all members of our member bodies. It is the outcome of as consultative a process as our funding allowed, and authorised by the RE Council Board. The Review lays the foundation for further work by the RE Council working in partnership with the Department for Education, who have also welcomed the Review, and with member bodies and others. Arguing well into 2014 about something that is now over and complete seems counter-productive and is potentially damaging to RE"

(<http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/about/chairs-blog/2014-02-01/forward-together-united>).

At the conclusion of his report, the Chair proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Hugill for all the work he had put into his support for Secondary education across Havering and the appreciation SACRE had for his input into its meetings.

5 UPDATE ON AGREED (JOINT) SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

Mrs Payne reported that to date two meetings had taken place (and various members of the Havering and Redbridge SACREs had been present at both. She referred to the update provided by Fiona Moss and Stephen Pett and informed SACRE that there was a move to remove levels (of study) from the new syllabus as well as end the Key Stage statements in order to make the syllabus more flexible and fluid.

She raised the matter of copyright and said that this was an area which needed to be looked at to ensure that the Authority retained control over its use. The Syllabus would be the central portal for RE teachers and access to it would be password protected. The Chairman agreed that it was important to protect essential knowledge. In addition, the borough's census was being used to identify what the demographic spread of faiths and religions currently was.

A member asked how many people were involved and was informed by Mr Hugill that there were essentially two principal writers, but in addition there were a further six Primary and five Secondary members of staff involved in the drafting of the syllabus, but that the draft would have to be considered by both SACREs and accepted by them before anything could be published. When asked when it was anticipated that the new syllabus would be published he said that in his opinion it would be spring 2015. Mrs Payne added that provision was being made to ensure that Special Schools and Early Years' representatives were consulted to ensure those areas were incorporated.

6 UPDATE ON THE MICHAEL EDWARDS AWARD

SACRE was informed that there had been a disappointing response to the invitation to Primary Schools to take part in the Award. No applications had been received. The question was posed whether the Michael Edwards Award had ceased to have any significance for schools, teachers or pupils. It was suggested that it might be time to think of something new to engage children and students across the borough's schools – especially in light of the pressures being brought to bear on RE. Whilst it was true that there were centres of excellence where the teaching of RE was strong and vibrant, there was a danger that apathy could grow if there was nothing challenging or stimulating to ensure that all areas were engaged.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman observed that he had not attended the NASACRE Annual General Meeting because he considered that the cost (£95.00) was not justified. Mrs Payne said that there were administrative costs and that such costs would be covered. Asked about a budget, she replied that a budget per-se did not exist, but that “funding would be made available on application”. She took the opportunity to announce that this was her final SACRE as she would have retired by the autumn term but that a successor would be found to continue to support SACRE as Primary Advisor.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks for all her hard work and contribution over the years and wished her well in her retirement.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members were asked to consider a date for the autumn meeting. The preferred dates put forward were either 23rd or 22nd October.

[**NOTE:** Subsequent to the meeting it was discovered that the above dates could not be reserved and so a new date was obtained: Thursday 9th October and members notified]

Chairman

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