



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

AGENDA

6.00 pm	Thursday 16 May 2019	Wykeham Room, St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch
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Members **29**: Quorum **9** **BUT** a minimum of **one** representative must attend from each group

Representative Groups (current membership)

Group A

Representing
Christian denominations and
other religious
denominations and beliefs (17):

Dr John Lester, Baha'i faith
Mr Om Dhir, Hindu
Mr Sansar Narwal, Sikh
Mr Kamal Siddiqui, Sunni Muslim
Mr Tariq Mahmood, Sunni Muslim
Rabbi Lee Sunderland, Jewish
Saddhabhaya, Buddhist
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 Luthaneal Adams, Pagan Federation
Barry Smith, United Reformed Church
Marlene Wylie

Group B

Representing the
Church of England (3):

Mrs Sue Freeman
Mrs Stephanie Ellner (Chairman)
Mike Dean
Ruth Everett, Anglican

Group C

Representing
teachers (4):

Ms Linda Munday, (NUT-Primary)
Kirsty Fanning, ATL
Louise Linton
Clare Beech

Group D

Representing the

Councillor Gillian Ford

Local Authority (5):

Councillor Stephanie Nunn
Councillor Philippa Crowder
Councillor Judith Holt
Councillor Tele Lawal

**For information about the meeting please contact:
Maureen Smith 01708 433665
SACRE@haverling.gov.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 MEETING HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2018 (Pages 1 - 8)

To agree as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2018 (attached) and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING (Pages 9 - 14)

To agree as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2019 (attached) and to authorise the Chairman to sign them and to address any matters arising therefrom.

5 LOCAL UPDATES

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

6 AGREED SYLLABUS

To discuss.

7 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Pages 15 - 16)

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

8 YEAR OF BELIEFS

Members to agree arrangements for celebrating the Year of Beliefs.

9 TEACHER TRAINING

To discuss the level of RE training provided to teachers.

10 ANNUAL REPORT

To consider and agree the 2019 Annual Report.

11 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).

12 DATES OF MEETINGS IN THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

To agree the dates of the meetings for the 2019-20 academic year.

MAUREEN SMITH
Clerk to SACRE

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

25 September 2018 (6.00pm – 8.00pm)

Present:

Representing Christian denominations and other religious dominations and beliefs (Group A):

Dr John Lester, Bah'i faith – Vice Chair
Mrs Christine Seymour, Humanist
Mr Kamal Siddiqui, Sunni Muslim
Mr Tariq Mahmood*
Saddhabhaya, Buddhist
Mr Kevin Walsh, Roman Catholic
Mrs Jenny Fox, Salvation Army*
Mrs Dawn Ladbrook, Evangelical Free Church
Mr John Smailes, Evangelical Free Church
Mr Barry Smith, United Reformed Church

Representing the Church of England (Group B):

No representative in attendance

Representing teachers (Group C):

Clare Beech
Mrs Kirsty Fanning, ATL

Representing the Local Authority (Group D):

Councillor Gillian Ford
Councillor Stephanie Nunn
Councillor Tele Lawal*

Co-opted
Wendy Brice-Thompson

Professional advisers:

Julia Diamond-Conway
Deborah Weston

Observer:

Karen Van Coevorden

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*for part of the meeting

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

John Lester, Vice Chair welcomed all to the meeting. In the absence of the Chair, Stephanie Ellner, John agreed to Chair the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Judith Holt and Stephanie Ellner.

The following members had not sent apologies however were absent from the meeting: Mr Om Dhir, Mr Sansar Narwal, Rabbi Lee Sunderland, Pastor Aloysius Peter, Mr Nasir Mubashar, Mr Luthaneal Adams, Mrs Sue Freeman, Ms Linda Munday, Louise Linton and Councillor Philippa Crowder.

It was noted that the meeting was inquorate as there was no representative from Group B, Church of England, in attendance. Members agreed to hold the meeting however that any decisions would need to be ratified at the next meeting. The clerk was advised that the new representative for the Church of England would be Ruth Everitt.

Kevin Walsh gave his apologies that he would need to leave the meeting at 7.15pm.

2. NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that Wendy Brice-Thompson had been co-opted as a Member of SACRE.

Karen Van Coevorden was introduced as an advisor on Holocaust Education and was welcomed to the meeting as an observer.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the previous meeting held on 12 July 2018 subject to amending 'John Vickers' (item 5 Local Updates) to 'Stephen Vickers.' It was noted however that due to fact that the meeting was inquorate, the formal approval of the minutes would be deferred to the next meeting.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The Vice Chair gave further clarification as to the difference between Sunni and Shiite Muslims acknowledging that the difference was more than just 'cultural' but based on the passing of Mohammed and the line of descendants followed.

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4. THE YEAR OF BELIEFS

Members referred back to the discussion held at the previous meeting. For the benefit of those not in attendance in July, Julia Diamond-Conway explained that SACRE Members were keen to hold a grand celebration of Religious Education in Havering to tie in with the BBC's 'Year of Beliefs' in 2019. The suggestion was to have some plans in place so that ideas could be discussed further with Subject Leaders the following week. It was noted that Luthaneal Adams had agreed to look at potential venues however was not in attendance in order to provide feedback.

Jenny Fox arrived at 6.15pm.

Various potential venues were discussed however it was agreed to contact Queens Theatre with the view to holding an exhibition of school work over a two week period and to hire the Green for a day and to invite believers to have a stall. Members agreed that following the exhibition, it would be beneficial to extend the celebration by moving the work to display in Romford Library. Cllr Ford gave reassurance that the Queens Theatre had the appropriate insurance to hold such an event.

Cllr Ford declared her interest as a Trustee of the Queens Theatre and agreed to contact the venue to seek further information regarding availability and charges. Members agreed that the date of the event would need to fit around availability of the exhibition space at Queens.

Kevin Walsh explained that, with adequate notice, a scene from the Hornchurch Passion Play could be part of the celebration. Other belief representatives agreed to also run stalls and it was agreed to invite the Inter Faith Forum to support the event. It was agreed that the idea of having a 'What does Faith taste like' element to the day would be welcomed.

A Member questioned whether schools would be set a certain theme to base their work around and it was suggested that SACRE could use the categories within the Spirited Arts competition as schools could then enter on a national and local level. It was noted that along with the art work, pupils had to provide written explanations of their work which could also be exhibited. Members were invited to look at the Spirited Arts website for further information on the competition. It was agreed that it would be preferable if the judges could come from within SACRE.

Members discussed the most suitable day of the week for hosting the stalls so as to suit all beliefs. It was agreed that Monday to Thursday would be the most suitable. Julia Diamond-Conway agreed to ask the Religious Education Subject Leaders the following week for their

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feedback and ascertain some idea of the level of school participation for such an event so as to aid the planning and scheduling of pupils visiting the exhibition.

Action: Julia Diamond-Conway
Councillor Tele Lawal arrived at 6.40pm.

It was suggested that alongside the event and exhibition, places of worship could also be opened up and schools invited in to visit. This was welcomed by all Members and Julia Diamond-Conway agreed to advertise this with the Subject Leaders once any details had been provided.

5. NATRE SEF SUMMARY

Members were referred to the SACRE Self-Evaluation Form that had been completed in the spring term and worked in groups to review the key areas of focus in order to ascertain the 3 main priorities.

Tariq Mahmood arrived at 6.55pm.

Particular areas reviewed by the groups were as follows:

Section 1: Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education –
The issue regarding the recruitment of skilled teachers in Religious Education was highlighted. Deborah Weston advised that the national recruitment target of such teachers was missed last year and reached just 64%; this year it had reduced down to 53% of the target. Members noted that more training bursaries for other subjects had impacted on the popularity of Religious Education teachers.

Section 2: The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus – Members noted that the 5 year review of the syllabus was due in 2020 however that SACRE would start reviewing in 2019 to allow appropriate time to consider it robustly. Members questioned how the group would seek feedback from schools regarding the syllabus and were advised that a survey would be sent out. It was acknowledged that stakeholder feedback was very important prior to making any changes.

Section 3: Collective worship – Members discussed the challenge of ensuring that pupils received their entitlement of collective worship, especially with regards to academies as the number was increasing.

Section 4: Management of the SACRE and partnership with the Local Authority and other key stakeholders – Members felt that there had been a significant improvement to the effectiveness of the SACRE meetings and that discussions held were now purposeful. Members questioned however the level of financial support received from the Local Authority. Julia Diamond-Conway advised that there was no specific budget as funding was drawn from the CSSB (Central Schools Services Block)

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which supported a number of services for schools however that the Local Authority paid for professional advisors and had always provided funding for training/conferences when requested.

Members agreed however that SACRE was relatively unknown and discussed how the group could be promoted more to raise its profile. Cllr Tele Lawal advised that there was a Community Cohesion Strategy going to Cabinet and that, as Equality and Diversity Champion was happy to take any ideas forward to Scott Vernall, the Corporate Diversity Officer.

Action: Cllr Tele Lawal

Other medias such as Twitter, Living Magazine and Time FM were also discussed. Members agreed that the 'Year of Beliefs' was also an ideal opportunity to highlight the work of SACRE amongst schools and the wider community.

Kevin Walsh left the meeting at 7.15pm.

Section 5: Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community – Members felt that it was challenging to increase understanding of the local area as statistics and census figures were out of date.

Following discussion, Members agreed that the key priorities were:

- Community Cohesion
- Raising the profile of SACRE by improving links with stakeholders (including academies)
- Collective worship

It was agreed that at the next meeting, Members would discuss how to move forward with the key priorities and make a plan for any actions required.

Members agreed to take agenda items 6 (Update on school activity) and 7 (National Developments in Religious Education) together.

6. UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY

Members were invited to ask any questions with regards to the SACRE update report provided.

It was noted that the final report from the Commission on RE had been published and that there had been 11 recommendations made which included changing the name of Religious Education to Religion and World Views and a further review on the right of withdrawal as some schools were misusing this to extend teaching time within other subjects. The Commission also made the recommendation for a programme of

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study into the entitlement of children to have highly trained teachers of Religious Education and what support was required during teacher training in order to achieve this. Members noted that there had been some discussion around changing the work and make up of SACREs moving forward however as yet no further details had been published.

7. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Please see agenda item 6.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1. John Smailes asked Members for their feedback regarding the increasing barriers within schools to allowing Gideons to gift bibles to pupils and asked whether any of beliefs represented within SACRE would find offence in the content of the Bible (New Testament and Psalms) and would thus object its distribution. Members suggested that schools may appear reluctant to invite in the Gideons as there was a concern that this would show bias and therefore members of all beliefs would then also need to be invited into school. It was suggested that beliefs could contact schools about coming in to visit pupils as part of a specific theme being covered as part of the Religious Education Curriculum therefore, at some stage; the majority of beliefs would have the opportunity to do so.

8.2. The Vice Chair agreed to email out a copy of the Zionatriism Zoroastrians' pamphlet.

Action: Vice Chair

8.3. Karen Van Coevorden was introduced, a former Secondary Religious Education teacher now working for the Holocaust Educational Trust in a freelance capacity. Karen explained that the Holocaust Educational Trust was established in 1988 with the aim to educate young people about holocaust within schools, universities and the general community. One of the most significant achievements of the Trust had been to secure the teaching of the Holocaust as part of the national History Curriculum in 1991. Key programmes offered included government funded lessons from the Auschwitz Project and visits to Birkenau in Poland. Survivors would also go into schools to share their personal testimonies and pupils were able to experience a whole range of workshops some of which were based on religious issues. All of the Trusts' programmes were

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free of charge including half day teaching training and lesson planning. There was also an annual trip to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Israel and intense study trips to Berlin, Hungary and Lithuania. Members were invited to look for further information by visiting the website: www.het.org.uk

In response to a question raised, Karen gave reassurance that the Holocaust teaching within schools was age appropriate and that within primary the main focus was on pre Holocaust and the diversity of Jewish life pre-war. Concentration Camps were only introduced as part of the secondary level curriculum.

- 8.4. Members worked in groups to undertake the annual check of school websites to ensure that the appropriate Religious Education Curriculum was being taught in schools across Havering. Members were asked to complete feedback forms for each school reviewed; the results would be collated and when necessary, schools contacted to question the arrangements they currently did, or did not have in place or to provide positive feedback on the quality of the provision offered.

9. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates were agreed for future meetings:

Thursday 28 February 2019: Town Hall

Thursday 16 May 2019: Venue tbc.

All meetings to start at 6pm.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

28 February, 2019 (6.00pm – 8.00pm)

Present:

Representing Christian denominations and other religious dominations and beliefs (Group A):

Dr John Lester, Baha'i faith
Om Dhir – Hindu
Sansar Narwal - Sikh
Mr Kamal Siddiqui, Sunni Muslim
Saddhabhaya, Buddhist
Mr John Smailes, Evangelical Free Church
Mr Barry Smith, United Reformed Church

Representing the Church of England (Group B):

Stephanie Ellner (Chair)

Representing teachers (Group C):

No representative in attendance

Representing the Local Authority (Group D):

Councillor Stephanie Nunn

Professional advisers:

Julia Diamond-Conway
Deborah Weston

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair, Stephanie Ellner welcomed everyone.

Apologies for absence were received from Jenny Fox, Dawn Ladbrook, Luthaneal Adams, Clare Beech and Councillor Judith Holt.

The following members had not sent apologies however were absent from the meeting: Tariq Mahmood, Rabbi Lee Sunderland, Pastor Aloysius Peter, Nasir Mubashar, Sue Freeman, Linda Munday, Kirsty Fanning, Louise Linton and Councillors Gillian Ford, Philippa Crowder and Tele Lawal.

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It was noted that the meeting was inquorate as there was no representative from Group C, Teacher Representatives, in attendance and that this was the second meeting in succession which had been inquorate. Members agreed to hold the meeting but recognised that any decisions would need to be ratified at the next meeting.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE

Concern was expressed at the level of attendance at SACRE meetings and it was noted that some members had not attended for more than a year. It was suggested that with such a length of absence perhaps there was a need to change the venue, day and time of the meeting to enable more people to attend. It was agreed that an email should be sent to all members of SACRE to seek their views on the meeting arrangements to determine whether it was possible to make it easier for more people to attend. It was also agreed that members needed to be reminded about the expectation that they send apologies in advance if they do not intend to attend the meeting.

ACTION: Clerk / Chair

It was highlighted that individuals could be encouraged to send a substitute representative, subject to the terms of the Constitution. It was suggested that if the Constitution doesn't allow substitutes perhaps a named reserve would be acceptable. It was agreed that the Constitution would be reviewed and members advised accordingly.

ACTION: Clerk / Chair

It was noted that a replacement for Mike Dean had not yet been appointed. It was agreed that Marlene Wylie would be a suitable person to approach as a potential member of SACRE. DW undertook to make an initial approach and advise the Clerk who would then contact the Diocese regarding the nomination.

ACTION: DW / Clerk

Following Kevin Walsh's resignation, there was also a vacancy for a Catholic Church representative. It was agreed that the Diocese should be approached for a nomination and the Clerk undertook to contact Robert Simpson, Director of Education.

ACTION: Clerk

The Chair advised that she had received, via the Clerk, an email from Luthaneal Adams, Pagan Federation representative, advising that he would be travelling abroad for 18 months but would very much like to remain a member of SACRE and requesting that his membership be

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retained and his apologies accepted for the duration of his absence. Members agreed to the request but suggested that a substitute be nominated to attend in his absence. It was agreed that the Clerk would advise Mr Adams of this decision and seek the details of an identified person to attend the meetings in his absence.

ACTION: Clerk

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes were noted as an accurate record of the previous meeting held on 25 September, 2018 subject to amending the spelling of Ruth Everett's name. It was acknowledged that due to fact that the meeting and the previous meeting were inquorate, the formal approval of the minutes of both the meeting held in September and on 12 July, 2018 could not be formally agreed and would need to be considered at the next meeting.

Mr Siddiqui wished to record that he did not consider the comment on page 2 of the minutes of the meeting held on 25 September, 2018 regarding the difference between Sunni and Shiite Muslims to be accurate. Members noted this concern but agreed that the minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the last meeting even though it was not possible for them to be signed.

4. LOCAL UPDATES

The written paper circulated with the agenda was received and noted.

JDC advised that local primary RE teachers were interested in the proposed art competition to celebrate the Year of Beliefs but needed to know where to send artwork and whether the size of the artwork was to be capped. It was agreed that the maximum size of an individual piece of work should be no larger than A3 (including 3D items). John Smailes suggested that the work could be displayed at the Evangelical Free Church.

It was agreed that the closing date for the receipt of work would be 31 July, 2019 and it would be the responsibility of each school to seek parental permission for the display of their child's work.

After some discussion and consideration of options, it was decided that members of SACRE would judge the art work at the September meeting.

It was noted that the Locally Agreed Syllabus runs until 2020 and therefore the syllabus needs to be reviewed. A teacher survey will run until 31 March, 2019. So far, 5 responses have been received. Four

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responses were that the current syllabus is either very or sufficiently useful. The fifth response was from a governor and therefore from a different perspective. The responses had highlighted, that teachers are very positive about the units in the syllabus which focus on particular beliefs. Teachers would like more information on assessment. It is hoped that there would be more responses to share by the next meeting.

It was acknowledged that the syllabus was devised in collaboration with Redbridge. The view was expressed that if parties are generally happy with the current syllabus then there may not be any necessity to make any changes. It was noted that it might be helpful to ask questions of schools regarding budget provision for RE.

5. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The written paper circulated with the agenda was received and noted.

NATRE's view was that the proposed new Ofsted framework and handbook will result in schools being held to account in RE. The framework is still out for consultation and SACRE members were encouraged to respond. DW agreed to provide details for the Clerk to circulate of the appropriate link for members to access the consultation.

ACTION: DW / Clerk

There was a discussion about the level of RE training given to trainee teachers which was considered to be minimal. It was agreed that teacher training should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

SN advised that he would be happy to arrange visits to the Sikh temple for groups of teachers.

JDC advised that Claire Clinton, the RE adviser in Newham, was the London Ambassador for the National Infrastructure Project. Subject leaders meetings in each LA would be reviewed. It was noted that there was a need to consider how useful meetings could be held for secondary colleagues.

JDC advised SACRE members of the Primary 1000 national project to help primary schools who recognise the need to improve their RE provision. Any primary school which hasn't engaged with NATRE for three years will be offered two year membership for £50. Membership will enable the school to receive 6 books for teachers, access to online RE resources and access to training. JDC undertook to contact NATRE for a list of schools in Havering which would be eligible for the reduced

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membership offer so that the schools could be advised of the offer available to them.

ACTION: JDC

6. THE YEAR OF BELIEFS

There was a discussion about the allocation of tasks for the proposed activities to celebrate the Year of Beliefs. It was acknowledged that the paid advisers didn't have the time or capacity to lead and it was for the membership to take ownership of any event.

BS advised that the United Reformed Church was willing to run a stall.

It was highlighted that a Humanist UK representative was needed and JL undertook to seek a nomination from the Humanist Inter Faith Group.

ACTION: JL

Om Dhir left the meeting

The offer of JL and JS to explore the necessary arrangements for an event to be held at the Queen's Theatre was gratefully accepted. It was suggested that Tuesday 25 or Wednesday 26 September or the Tuesday or Wednesday the following week would be suitable dates.

ACTION: JL and JS

Councillor Nunn offered to support JL and JS in discussions at the Queen's Theatre. It was also suggested that Councillor Ford may be able to assist with arrangements.

7. EXAM DATA

Members were advised that schools with above national average data in relation to RE examination results had received a letter of congratulations from the Chair of SACRE.

Those schools which had performed particularly poorly would be offered support.

JDC and DW would review the context of individual schools and follow up where there are gaps in provision.

ACTION: JDC / DW

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

John Lester advised that it was the 200th anniversary of the Bab, the Herald of the Baha'i Faith.

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9. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following date was noted for the next meeting:

Thursday 16 May 2019 at 6.00 pm: Venue tbc.

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SACRE National Update in Religious Education Summer 2019

New2RE

Now in its sixth year, the New2RE programme is currently supporting over 70 new teachers as they begin their careers. New2RE is designed to support RE teachers in the first three years of their teaching careers and help them develop subject knowledge and confidence as a teacher of RE. The programme is tailored to the needs of each individual and is designed to complement and enhance the provision offered by participants' schools. The programme is free to the RE teachers, subject to a contribution from their school, and permission from the head teacher/principal to attend the residential course. There are 25 places available nationally.

How can Havering SACRE make the most of this initiative?

Annual NASACRE Conference and AGM

This year's conference and AGM will be held in Manchester on Wednesday 22nd May. The theme is Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships; RE near and far (local, national, global).

Havering SACRE are not sending a delegate this year. Judging from last year, papers and materials from the conference will go onto the website. How will SACRE make the most of these?

Inter Faith Network

The Inter Faith Network works to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK. It works locally, nationally and globally. Many schools in Havering are aware of Interfaith Week and this is led each year by the Inter Faith Network. Some SACREs have found it useful to contact the Inter Faith Network to help them appoint new members.

Are Havering SACRE in need of the Inter Faith Network's help?

Letter From the DfE

Paul Smalley, chair of NASACRE has received a letter from Neil Lawson from the DfE's Curriculum Unit. Neil sets out the DfE's expectations with regards to schools' compliance with the duty to teach RE. The full letter can be seen here:

<http://nasacre.org.uk/file/nasacre/1-97-item-2.pdf>

What are the implications of this for Havering SACRE?

Havering Subject Leaders' Meeting

This term's meeting was held at Ardleigh Green Junior School on 2nd May. Many thanks to RE Subject Leader Kathryn Everitt and the team at Ardleigh Green Junior School for hosting. Kathryn kindly shared pictures of an excellent Hinduism workshop which the children at her school take part in and photos of Year 4s visiting South West Essex Reform and Settlement Synagogue. This prompted discussion of a range of quality visits and visitors that schools had used and the teachers will hopefully be sharing this information with others online. Transport is a consideration for trips with good tube links, for example, sometimes helping teachers to decide upon venues.

Upcoming events in Havering were discussed including the Year of Beliefs event. Teachers will be sending competition entries to Romford Evangelical Free Church by July 31st. A teacher from a fairly large school will have 600 entries so it was decided that schools in this position may either choose to send in their top entries or indicate to SACRE which are the top in order to aid ease of judging.

Teachers had each brought some examples of work from the syllabus' systematic units and this was an opportunity to share and discuss good practice including: helping pupils to access religious texts, helping pupils make the most of a visit to a place of worship, discussing how to record work effectively and creatively, giving pupils the opportunity to ask and research answers to their own questions, how to look at religion globally such as studying Easter around the world.

The next meeting will focus on two units from the syllabus which are fairly hard to teach. Teachers will bring examples of how they have approached these units and the adviser will bring teaching ideas. It was decided to wait until the surveys had all been completed to finalise these units as some teachers have mentioned units in the feedback. Many teachers felt that unit 2.14 is incredibly hard and would like more input here.

Year of Beliefs

The Queens Theatre will be unable to accommodate the exhibition around SACRE's planned dates John Lester has kindly contacted a number of locations about where an exhibition can be held. The main event is looking likely to be held at Frances Bardsley in the Autumn term. Schools will be able to visit this event to see the exhibition and visit stalls. The exhibition itself is then likely to move to libraries within the borough.

The RE and art competition has been advertised at Subject Leaders' meetings and via the portal. The deadline is 31st July and entries will be sent to Romford Evangelical Free Church. Many thanks to John Smailes for offering the church as a venue to send entries.

Agreed Syllabus

The survey on the syllabus has been advertised in multiple places. Schools have replied and the results will be shared at the SACRE meeting on 16th May. At the RE Subject Leaders' meeting, the importance of answering this survey was impressed upon attendees.