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## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Town Hall Main Road Romford 14 October 2015 (7.00 - 8.15 pm)

### Present:

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

Dr John Lester  
Mrs Jenny Fox  
Mrs Christine Seymour  
Mr Tariq Mahmood  
Mr Kevin Walsh  
Rabbi Lee Sunderland  
Mrs Pamela Coles  
Mr Nasir Mubashar  
Mrs Dawn Ladbrook

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

Mrs Stephanie Ellner

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

Ms Linda Munday

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

Jason Frost  
Dilip Patel  
Joshua Chapman  
June Alexander

The Clerk reminded those present of the action to be taken in an emergency.

### 34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, Gillian Ford and Wendy Brice-Thompson, Saddhabhaya, Mr John Smailes, Mr Om Dhir, Mr Sansar Narwal, the Revd Dorothee Bührma and Ms Kirsty Fanning

### 35 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman announced the election of the new Chairman and the clerk reminded members of the details relating to nominations and that the position was for two years. Nominations were then invited from those present.

Mrs Coles proposed the current Vice Chairman, Mrs Christine Seymour and this was seconded by Mr Kevin Walsh. Mrs Seymour said that she was prepared to accept the nomination and the clerk asked for any further nominations. As there were none and there were no objections, the clerk declared that Mrs Seymour was duly elected as Chairman for the next two year period.

Dr Lester stood down, wishing his successor well in the position and, on assuming the Chair, Mrs Seymour proposed a vote of thanks for the work for and on behalf of SACRE which Dr Lester had contributed not only in his role as Chairman, but for the many years he had been a member.

Mrs Seymour then announced the election of the Vice Chair and Mrs Coles was prevailed upon to consider the role. On her confirming that she was prepared to stand again as Vice Chair and there being no other candidates and no objections, the clerk confirmed that she was duly appointed and Mrs Coles joined Mrs Seymour on the dais.

**36 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising from that meeting.

**37 UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY**

**Primary Update**

Ms Sutton, provided members with a review of the information contained within three tables concerning the provisional GCSE Results and GCSE entries in 2015, a summary of non-contributing accredited Level 2 RE courses and Level 3 examinations (appended to these minutes).

She followed this by providing a summary of Continuous Personal Development (CPD) activity saying that in late June a practitioner network had looked at the role of RE in developing tolerance which had attracted 26 participants and was considered a success..

Ms Sutton mentioned that the joint agreed syllabus launch with Redbridge in September had been a tremendous success with 92 participants all told. The syllabus was now available to all schools via the Havering Education Service portal and schools had been informed of this. Very positive feedback had been received regarding the launch which, considering the input had been most gratifying.

She stated that at the beginning of October, Hsis had held a follow-up network meeting for primary schools to continue planning and to look in greater depth at specific units. This had been attended by 23 people. The next network meeting – which would be led by RE Today - was scheduled for April 2016 and Hsis (the Havering school improvement service) was yet to confirm the focus for this. In addition, Hsis had also booked a session to look at teaching about Islam with Imran Kotwal in May, as a twilight session.

Ms Sutton then said that she had to report something of a failure with another venture which had been planned. Hsis had purchased a place on the 'Energising RE' weekend conference 3-4 October which had been dedicated to looking at exciting and innovative RE teaching. This was to have been attended by a lead practitioner from Engayne Teaching School with a view to the information gained being disseminated along with the ideas and materials to Havering schools in a shorter event.

Unfortunately the person had to drop out and, despite strenuous efforts to find a replacement including promoting it through the bulletin, the Hsis

newsletter, teaching school publicity and to those who had previously attended networks as a personal email – even offering a day's pay and all expenses paid - the Local Authority (LA) was completely unable to interest any other teacher in attending. This was not only very disappointing, but in these days of straitened finances, an expensive loss. A member observed that it was sad, but indicative of the serious increase in work pressures that teachers were expected to cope with.

Ms Sutton concluded her report by informing members that the LA was promoting Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC)/British Values detailed tracking and audits in schools. This included the role of RE within its remit. She added that if any member wanted further information, she was happy to provide it.

### **Secondary Update**

The clerk explained that as Ms Fanning was not present, the Secondary update – and the report concerning national developments – would have to wait until the next meeting. Ms Sutton did remark that in general terms there was not a great-deal happening on the national scene – other than a suggestion that national SACREs could be considered as replacements for the current local SACREs. This was likely to be something for future consideration.

## **38 FINAL UPDATE ON THE LAUNCH OF THE JOINT AGREED SYLLABUS**

Miss Munday informed members that she had attended the launch and had stayed for the whole day. She stated that it had been a success but was sceptical about whether teachers would be in a position to have the whole teaching plan in place for the start in September 2016. To illustrate this she cited – by way of example – a friend of hers (Infant RE lead) had been tasked with overseeing the implementation of the syllabus across the whole primary Phase (up to year 6) and had no experience of teaching to that age group.

Members joined a more general discussion which widened into the application of the new syllabus, why some schools used different syllabi (Mrs Ellner explained that St. Edwards Primary used the Chelmsford Diocese Syllabus and felt that other faith groups would probably tend to use the resources made available by their own faiths).

Members then considered whether it would be possible for schools across the borough to avail themselves of these faith schools as “resources for understanding” by arranging visits and Ms Sutton and those who were experienced in the teaching profession averred that this was already being undertaken, but that it was not really feasible to move large numbers of children between schools as a matter of course and Ms Sutton observed that Hsis was already using every option it had available to it to encourage that sort of thing, though Ms Sutton added that further suggestions could be aired through the Cluster meetings.

Members suggested that there were many resources available on the internet and “You Tube” was referenced as being a site where some excellent teaching hints could be obtained.

An observation that it was a pity that there was no School Inspector to cover the fostering of better understanding between the faiths and the answer from Ms Sutton was that there were no school inspectors in Havering for even the basics of maths and English, let alone other areas. The fact was: there were no resources to do this. Everything was being done on a “need” basis. Members expressed their concerns about this and Ms Munday reiterated that it all returned to the problem of teachers no longer having the support they needed, being over-worked and placed in impossible work/life situations. She stated that she was not surprised some 50,000 left the profession in the last year.

Dr Lester stated that a lot of effort had gone into the production of the Syllabus, and the Chairman said that, unlike previous editions of the Syllabus, the collective knowledge and wisdom of SACRE’s members had not been called on, something she felt had been lacking. She then wondered whether these resources could be made available to Hsis. Ms Sutton was confident that this could be of help and so the clerk was asked to circulate her contact details to members so that those who wished could contact Hsis to offer their services. Dr Lester added that both he and the Chair of the Redbridge SACRE had been present at the outset and had jointly formally “launched” the event.

## **39 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman asked if there was anything members wished to raise as nothing had been notified ahead of the meeting as being urgent. Dr Lester drew members’ attention to the leaflet concerning the Week of Prayer for World Peace and the Havering Inter-Faith Forum but that was all.

The Chairman asked where the hard copy versions of the new Syllabus were which the clerk had intimated would be provided to SACRE members after the launch. The clerk replied that he had originally been under the impression that hard copies were to be available, but having pursued this with Mrs Weston he had been informed that the new syllabus was designed to be web-based and because of the prohibitive cost of printing in colour, this was not an option being considered.

He added that so far he had only been asked to provide two copies (which Ms Sutton said she had produced, just not brought with her), but this increased to five during the course of the discussion and Ms Sutton volunteered to bring the number up to 10 which the clerk could keep to be sent out as requested. The offer was gratefully received.

40     **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman observed that recently the dates for proposed meetings had differed from those agreed. The clerk apologised for this, explain that SACRE had been obliged to move due to the re-scheduling of a Cabinet meeting and, as there had been no other committee rooms large enough to accommodate SACRE, he had been obliged to look for the nearest option.

The clerk then offered members the option of two dates and a preference was expressed for **Tuesday 3 March 2016**. The clerk added that he had provisionally booked the Chamber but even so could not be absolutely certain that SACRE might not be moved. At this, Rabbi Sunderland stated that the Synagogue was free that evening and that SACRE was most welcome to use its facilities. He was thanked for this kind offer and the clerk stated that if it was not possible to hold the meeting at the Town Hall, it would take place at the Synagogue so the date was now definite.

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**Chairman**

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## SACRE report October 2015

## Entries

Level	Type	Entries 2014	Entries 2015
KS4	GCSE	1539	1557
KS5	A	85	82
KS5	AS	16	52

## Provisional GCSE Results and GCSE entries 2015

Sum of KS4 Entry		Res ult	Poi nts											Grand Total		
Title	SchName	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U						A- C
		58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0						
Religious Stud Cash in (Linear)	The Royal Liberty School	3	6	9	20	25	12	8	4	5	102	38	37	%		
Religious Studies	COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL	25	36	54	38	16	7	3			179	15	85	%		
	Emerson Park Academy	8	21	28	38	40	26	7	2	5	185	95	51	%		
	Gaynes School	12	25	38	32	17	17	3	9	2	175	10	61	%		
	REDDEN COURT SCHOOL		3	7	7	4	4				25	7	68	%		
	Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School	27	32	35	17	9	3				123	11	90	%		
	Sanders School			2	2	2	1			1	8	4	50	%		
	The Brittons Academy	9	17	29	40	44	25	4	3	6	197	95	48	%		
	THE CAMPION SCHOOL	8	16	48	38	19	6	8	4	2	149	11	74	%		
	The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls	16	39	52	46	25	20	7	3		208	15	74	%		
	Abbs Cross Academy and Arts College	13	43	47	29	15	8	6	3	2	166	13	80	%		
Religious Studies B	Marshalls Park School		10	5	6	2					23	2	91	%		
Religious Studies B (Phls/Apld Ethc)	ST. EDWARD'S SCHOOL	6	4	4	2	1					17	21	94	%		
Grand Total		127	252	8	5	9	9	6	8	3	1557	52	68	%		

Down 3%pts from 71% in 2014

No 2015 RE results counting in performance tables in following schools:

## Drapers:

We offer AQA RE GCSE at KS4 as part of our Options process. However, for the past 2 years unfortunately there has been no uptake.

**Hall Mead:** One year 10 student enter for GCSE RS in the summer achieved an A\*. No Year 11's were entered for RS last summer. It was offered and is every year. The school has a group this year. It also is taught as non- exam in ks4.

**Albany:**

RE course taught at KS4: WJEC B Religion and human experience, religion and life issues. There were no students entered for the 2015 series

**Chafford:**

With reference to your request below the school is currently following OCR J621 Religious Studies B, Philosophy and Ethics.

In 2015 we did not follow a GCSE course. All students followed a non-examinable RE course

In 2016, 13 students will be sitting the GCSE course

In 2017 the whole cohort (194 students) are currently being prepared for the GCSE.

**Summary of Non-contributing accredited level 2 RE courses.**

Counted N

Count of SchName			Result											Grand Total		
Level	Title	SchName	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	E 3				
EL/B	Religious Studies	Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School										1	1		A-C	
EL/B Total												1	1	0	0%	
GCSE/S C	AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Religious Studies B (S	COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL						1					1	0	0%	
	Religious Studies B (SC	Marshall's Park School			1								1	1	10%	
	Religious Studies B (Short Course)	ST. EDWARD'S SCHOOL	15	7	5	4	1	1					18	14	78%	
		THE CHAFFORD SCHOOL	1	4		4			5	3	3		1	1	10%	
	Religious Studies Short Course	Bower Park Academy	2	6		4							9	9	10%	
GCSE/S C Total			18	7	6	4	1	1					20	16	80%	
Grand Total			18	7	6	4	1	1					20	16	80%	
			18	7	1	8	5	5	5	3	3	1	6	4	%	



Level 3 examinations

L3
Entry (Multiple Items)

Count of KS4		Column Labels												Grand Total
		0	75	90	105	120	135	150	180	210	240	270	300	
Row Labels		U	E	D	C	B	A	E	D	C	B	A	A*	
GCE/A								2	13	25	30	11	1	82
Religious Studies								2	13	21	22	8	1	67
COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL								1	5	7	10	2		25
Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School									2	2	2	3	1	10
ST. EDWARD'S SCHOOL								1	3	3	7	1		15
THE CAMPION SCHOOL									3	9	3	2		17
Religious Studies A Cash-in										4	8	3		15
The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls										4	8	3		15
GCE/ASB		7	6	10	11	13	5							52
Religious Studies		6	6	7	8	12	5							44
COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL		1	1		2	3	1							8
Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School		1		1			1							3
THE CAMPION SCHOOL		4	5	6	6	9	3							33
Religious Studies AS early entry		1		1										2
The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls		1		1										2
Religious Studies/ ETHICS				2	3	1								6
ST. EDWARD'S SCHOOL				2	3	1								6
Grand Total		7	6	10	11	13	5	2	13	25	30	11	1	134

A-E	A-C
100%	82%
100%	78%
100%	76%
100%	80%
100%	73%
100%	82%
100%	100%
100%	100%
87%	56%
86%	57%
88%	75%
67%	33%
88%	55%
50%	0%
50%	0%
100%	67%
100%	67%
95%	72%

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