



**STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
AGENDA**

7.00 pm

**Thursday
9 May 2013**

**Town Hall
Main Road
Romford**

Members **21**: Quorum **6** (a minimum of **one** representative must attend from each group)

Representative Groups (current membership)

Group A

**Representing Christian denominations
and other religions denominations (9):**

Dr John Lester, Baha'i faith
Mr Om Dhir, Hindu Community
Mr Sansar Narwal, Sikh Community
Mrs Pamela Coles, Methodist
Mr Mohammad Saleem, Muslim Community
Mrs Christine Seymour, Havering and District
Humanist Society
Mr Kamal Siddiqui, Muslim Community
Reverend Lee Sutherland, Jewish Community
Mr Kevin Walsh, Roman Catholic

Group B

Representing the Church of England (2):

Mrs Alison Seaman, Church of England
Mrs Sue Freeman, Church of England

Group C

Representing teachers (5):

Mr Nick Hills, Teachers (NUT-Secondary)
Mrs Anne Masters, Teachers (ATL)
Miss Catherine Doyle, Teachers (NASUWT)
Ms Linda Munday, Teachers (NUT-Primary)
Mr Keith Shurlock, Teachers (ASCL)

Group D

Representing the Local Authority (5):

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

Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson – Co-Optee

For information about the meeting please contact:

Grant Soderberg (01708) 433091

e-mail: grant.soderberg@haverling.gov.uk

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

To agree as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on **7 November 2012** and to authorise the Chairman to sign them and to address any matters arising therefrom.

4 A TALK BY ME ALAN BRINE, OFSTED HMI

Concerning current developments in OfSTED and Religious Education, Agreed Syllabuses and Academies,

5 UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY

To receive an oral report from the Primary phase representative and to comment on it or propose action as necessary. There is no report on Secondary phase developments for this meeting.

6 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

To receive an oral report and to comment on or propose action as appropriate.

7 INITIAL DRAFT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 5 - 12)

To receive, consider and if appropriate approve the initial draft of the 2012 report.

8 UPDATE ON THE MICHAEL EDWARDS AWARD

To receive an oral report on the present situation

9 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).

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Thursday 6 June** and this will be held in the **Church Hall (1st floor) Nelmes United Reformed Church, Nelmes Road, Hornchurch RM11 3JA** commencing at **6.30pm**.

To decide a date for the Autumn Term meeting and (if possible) set a date for the 2014 Spring Term meeting as well.

GRANT SÖDERBERG
Clerk to SACRE

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
Town Hall, Romford
Wednesday 7 November 2012 (7.00pm – 8.20pm)**

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

Mrs Pamela Coles
Om Dhir
Dr John Lester
Sansar Narwal
Christine Seymour
Kevin Walsh

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

Mrs Susan Freeman

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

Mrs Anne Masters
Ms Linda Munday
Mr Keith Shurlock
Mr Nick Hills

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

Gillian Ford
Damian White

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

57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS:

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Alison Seaman, Mr Daniel Hugill (Secondary Advisor) and Councillors Paul Rochford and Pam Light. There were no substitutions. The clerk said that as there were some members who had not attended for some time and had not sent apologies, he would make enquiries to see whether there were communication problems or about their continued membership.

58. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Dr Lester reminded members that the Revd Laut had asked for as many faiths as possible to be represented at the “Light up a Life” celebration which was to take place on the Green at Havering-atte-Bower in December and said that it would be good for members to support it if possible.

59. UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY:

Primary:

Mrs Payne opened her report by saying that training for RE co-ordinators that term had been very well received with 30 schools represented. Fiona Moss, a member of the RE Today Services Advisory Team, explored Islam and Judaism with reference to the Havering Schemes of work. She addressed practical ways of learning about and from Islam and Judaism, improving teachers’ and co-ordinators’ subject knowledge and providing a variety of engaging and effective strategies for learning about and from these religions. Resources and ideas were shared which supported creative,

visual, active and enquiry-based learning.

Training for RE co-ordinators continued with the next session planned for Wednesday 23 January 1.30pm at CEME. Stephen Moss, a member of the RE Today Services Advisory Team, will explore Hinduism and Christianity with reference to the Havering Schemes of work. She encouraged members to attend and contribute.

Freedom of Information Requests (Fol)

Mrs Payne said that she had responded to a Fol request from The Mail on Sunday newspaper in July relating to:-

- Requests to change religions status of schools
- Enquiries about worship

In October she responded to a further Fol request about any applications to change religious nature and, in particular, any requests to change to Islam or secular. A nil return was submitted.

She reported that SACRE's budget for 2013 had been confirmed and, with the addition of unspent funds now amounted to £2,203.00. She felt this this would be ample to provide for courses and some limited expenses as well as paying for some resources and the Michael Edwards' trophy. With regards resources, she asked for permission to pay £115.00 subscription to RE Today as it was a very useful tool and the subscription would permit on-line access.

Secondary:

Due to his presence at an RE Council Extraordinary General Meeting, Mr Hugill's report on the Secondary sector would be given at the next meeting.

60. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN R.E.:

Although Mr Hugill was at an RE Council Extraordinary General Meeting concerning the RE Council Review of RE, he had submitted a written report concerning:

1. NATRE Survey in the effect of the EBacc
2. RE Council Review of RE
3. Ofsted Subject Report

1. NATRE Survey on the EBacc (2012)

The NATRE survey 2012 into the effects of the EBacc had been published. The survey received coverage in the Telegraph, TES, Church Times, Methodist Recorder and other publications. It had also led to questions being raised in the House of Lords.

The key findings were:

- 33% of schools reported that legal requirements* were not being met in key stage 4 (an increase of 5% on 2011)
- 24% of schools reported a reduction in the number of specialist staff employed to teach RE for 2012/2013 and 82% of these reported that the

introduction of the EBacc was the main reason for this change (a 27% reduction in specialist staff was reported for 2011/2012)

- 54% of schools reported that they would have no entries for GCSE Short Course in 2014; a rise of 12% over two years
- 63% of schools that reported a drop in Full Course entries cited the EBacc as the main reason (55% in 2011)
- 20% of schools reported that they were trying to deliver the GCSE RS in less than the recommended teaching time. There was a growing body of evidence, from Ofsted subject surveys that this practice was detrimental to students' RE
- 71% of schools reported that they had received no subject specific training in school in the 2011/12 academic year; 44% reported that they had received no subject specific training outside of school. Just over 10% reported that they had attended two days or more of training outside of school.

There was clearly a good deal for SACRE to consider as it considers its role in supporting RE in the borough's schools. Mr Hugill invited SACRE to consider what measures could be taken to slow these trends in Havering.

2. RE Council Review of Religious Education

The Expert Panel would be publishing its Phase 1 report on 7th November. There would be one month for consultation and that consultation would affect the way that Phase 2 would be organised. The report was to be published on the REC website: www.religiouseducationcouncil.org

Mr Hugill invited members of SACRE to consider submitting individual responses as well as a collective one. He stated that he would e-mail members after the publication of the report to seek their views and see whether SACRE wished to make its own submission.

3. Ofsted

The Ofsted report into RE (published every three years) was due for publication before the end of the year.

Local News

Mr Hugill stated that he had received an e-mail from Nigel Franceschi, Deputy Head at Abbs Cross Academy and Arts College concerning the Agreed Syllabus. He directed him to Mrs Payne in order to obtain a copy of the AS and he asked Mr Franceschi to pass his details to his RE staff. Mr Hugill concluded his report by saying that he would be following up this contact later in the Autumn term.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks for the work both Mr Hugill and Mrs Payne were doing on behalf of promoting RE not only across the borough but nationally as well. Members present fully supported the sentiment.

61. THE MICHAEL EDWARDS' AWARD:

The Chairman reported that the Presentation of the award to Ravenscourt School had finally taken place on 26 October. It had been a very busy day for the school as it coincided with the Harvest Festival celebration and a visit to the school by Andrew Rosindell, MP for Romford.

The Chairman added that she would be writing to the academies to inform them that they were still eligible to contend for the Michael Edwards' Award and invite them to do so. She would also promote the Agreed Syllabus as a successful and highly regarded teaching resource.

Members asked whether Mr Hugill could provide them with a report about the prospect of SACRE having any prospect of making a positive contribution to RE within the academies.

A member asked whether the ME Award ought not to be extended to the borough's independent / faith schools (such as Immanuel in North Romford) as the change in status of the borough's senior schools from maintained to academy appeared to make the original restrictions redundant. The Chairman agreed that it would be perverse to ignore them and asked for contact details to be provided so that she could write to them as well.

It was suggested that the approach should be to the heads of RE and copied to the head teachers as that was more likely to reach a more receptive audience.

62. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Dr Lester reminded members that Langton's was putting on a presentation for Interfaith Week.

There was a suggestion that perhaps SACRE should have a presentation from an OfSTED inspector at the next meeting. Mr Hugill should be contacted and asked if he knew anyone who would be willing to attend.

Mr Walsh took the opportunity to remind members of his one man show "Voices for Christmas" which would be taking place on Wednesday and Thursday 12 and 13 December at St. Luke's Church, Front Lane, Cranham.

63. FUTURE DATES:

Members decided that the next meeting (to be held in the Town Hall commencing at 7.00pm) should be scheduled for **Thursday 14 March 2013** and that the external visit should be booked for **6 June 2013** and that Mrs Seymour would make arrangements for the Humanists to provide a venue and an insight into their world view.



**HAVING
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

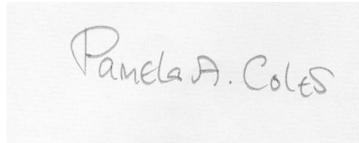
ANNUAL REPORT 2012 / 13



Chair's Foreword

To be received

I commend this report.

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Pamela A. Coles".

(Chair of SACRE)

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 2012 GCSE courses:

GCSE full course

The proportion of Havering students achieving an A*- C and A*- G grade in the full GCSE recovered slightly in 2012 (see table below), taking the LA's figure to above the national average for A*- C and A*- G once again.

GCSE short course

In the short course GCSE, the proportion of Havering students achieving an A*- C dropped significantly in 2012, and at A*- G grade the proportion also dropped slightly. At A*- C Havering is now slightly below the national average and the gap at A*- G has narrowed (see table below).

Cohort numbers

Both locally and nationally, the trend of increasing numbers of students taking the full course, with fewer taking the short course, has continued. In Havering, the number taking the short course has declined from 1,372 to 1,015 from 2009 to 2012, whilst the full course numbers have increased from 938 to 1,413 over the same period.

		Full Course		Short Course	
		A*-C %	A*-G %	A*-C %	A*-G %
LA	2012	73.8%	99.0%	49.0%	95.9%
	2011	70.3%	98.7%	61.3%	97.4%
	2010	80.0%	99.5%	62.3%	97.9%
	Diff (11-12)	+3.5%	+0.3%	-12.3%	-1.5%
National	2012	72.5%	98.5%	50.3%	94.7%
	2011	72.1%	98.4%	50.6%	94.9%
	2010	72.1%	98.7%	52.3%	96.1%
	Diff (11-12)	+0.4 %	+0.1%	-0.3%	-0.2%
LA vs. NA	2012	+1.3%	+0.5%	-1.3%	+1.2%
	2011	-1.8%	+0.3%	+10.7%	+2.5%
	2010	+7.9%	+0.8%	+10.0%	+1.8%

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.

1.3. Teacher Training

Advice is provided to Primary schools through the Havering School Improvement Service (HSIS) and there are regular, well-attended meetings for Primary RE co-ordinators. In 2011/2012 this consisted of:

- An experienced trainer from The Scripture Union and members of his team, explored the teaching of Christianity with specific reference to the Havering Schemes of work.
- Daniel Hugill, secondary adviser to SACRE, shared recommendations and advice on good practice in the Primary phase using practical examples from the Annual NATRE conference.
- 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.

Attendance at the RE Co-ordinators conferences remains high, varying between 25 and 30 schools represented. 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 2012.

2. Collective Worship

2.1. Monitoring

To be added

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.

4. SACRE arrangements

4.1. Meetings

SACRE holds regular meetings during the year. The meetings are well attended with good representation from the faith groups and the local Humanist Association. There is usually one meeting each term. SACRE sets its own agenda and commissions reports and updates from the Local Authority Advisers. SACRE has met three times during 2012/2013. In the spring and autumn terms the meeting was held at the Town Hall. The Summer Term meeting was held at Engayne Primary and National teaching school where SACRE members had a presentation from Robin Field, the RE leader on how Engayne Primary approaches teaching and learning in RE with practical examples of the use of technology, artefacts and the pupils' work. Mr. Field generously gave permission for materials to be shared with all Primary schools.

SACRE has received 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. (Is this correct now?)

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 Ingrebourne Special School where pupils experienced a range of different cultures and faiths through a themed art and RE week. Pupils enjoyed dance and movement and developed PSHE and social skills during assemblies. The ME Award now includes 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.

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	Pre 2004	
Mr Sansar Narwal	A	Sikh Community	Pre 2004	
<i>Miss Joan Watson</i>	A	<i>Religious Society of Friends</i>	26/11/2009	27/03/13
Mr Kamal Siddiqui	A	Muslim Community	05/03/2008	
Mr M Saleem	A	Muslim Community	21/10/2010	
Mr Om Dhir	A	Hindu Community	06/06/2007	
Dr John Lester	A	Baha'i Faith	10/11/2004	
Mrs Christine Seymour	A	Havering and District Humanist Society	26/11/2009	
Mrs Susan Freeman	B	Church of England	05/03/2009	
Mrs Alison Seaman	B	Church of England	07/11/2007	
Mrs Anne Masters	C	ATL	28/01/2009	
Mr Nick Hills	C	NUT - Seniors	26/11/2009	
Ms Linda Munday	C	NUT - Primary	11/01/2010	
Mr Chris Pearson	C	NASUWT	30/06/2004	
Mr Keith Shurlock	C	ASCL	05/03/2009	
Cllr Paul Rochford	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Paul McGeary	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Linda Trew	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Damian White	D	Local Authority	09/06/2010	
Cllr Gillian Ford	D	Local Authority	11/07/2004	
Cllr Wendy Brice-Thompson		Co-opted	07/06/2010	

Advisors:

Judith Payne, Primary and Daniel Hugill, Secondary

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