



# STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## AGENDA

6.00 pm	Thursday 19 October 2017	Computer Suite LT1, Coopers Company and Coborn School, St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex, RM14 3HS
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Members **26**: Quorum **8** **BUT** a minimum of **one** representative must attend from each group

### Representative Groups (current membership)

#### Group A

Representing  
Christian denominations and  
other religions and beliefs (16):

Dr John Lester, Baha'i faith  
Mrs Christine Seymour (Chairman), Humanist  
Mrs Pamela Coles (Vice Chairman), Methodist  
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

#### Group B

Representing the  
Church of England (3):

Mrs Sue Freeman  
Mrs Stephanie Ellner  
Mike Dean

#### Group C

Representing  
teachers (2):

Ms Linda Munday, Teachers (NUT-Primary)  
Kirsty Fanning, ATL

#### Group D

Representing the  
Local Authority (5):

Councillor Gillian Ford  
Councillor Jason Frost

Councillor Dilip Patel  
Councillor Joshua Chapman  
Councillor Stephanie Nunn

Copted Member:

Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson

**For information about the meeting please contact:  
Anthony Clements, Tel: 01708 433065  
Anthony.clements@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**

Apologies have been received from Pamela Coles, Sasshabhaya and Councillor Joshua Chapman

### **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 19 July 2017 (attached) and to authorise the Chairman to sign them and to address any matters arising therefrom.

### **4 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

To elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair of Havering SACRE.

### **5 LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Pages 5 - 10)**

Update from professional advisers attached.

### **6 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

To receive oral and written reports and to comment on or propose action as appropriate. See professional advisers' report attached at agenda item 5.

To include discussion of:

The Commission on RE interim report  
State of the nation report

### **7 MONITORING AND EVALUATION: SCHOOL WEBSITES**

To monitor and evaluate information on Religious Education available on Havering school websites.

### **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 note that the next meeting will be held on 13 March 2018 at 6 pm, venue to be confirmed.

**ANTHONY CLEMENTS**  
**Clerk to SACRE**



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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
ST EDWARD'S CHUECH. ROMFORD MARKETPLACE, RM1 3AB  
19 July 2017 (6.00 - 7.30 pm)**

**Present:**

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

Mrs Christine Seymour (Chairman)  
Mrs Pamela Coles (Vice-Chairman)  
Dr John Lester  
Mr Om Dhir  
Mr Sansar Narwal  
Rabbi Lee Sunderland  
Saddhabaya  
Mr Kevin Walsh  
Mr John Smailes  
Mr Nasir Mubashar  
Mr Barry Smith

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

Mrs Stephanie Ellner  
Mrs Sue Freeman

**Representing teachers (Group C)**

Ms Linda Munday

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

Councillor Gillian Ford  
Councillor Stephanie Nunn

**Also present:**

Julia Diamond-Conway, SACRE professional advisor  
Deborah Weston, SACRE professional advisor  
Anthony Clements, Clerk to SACRE  
Barbara Stanley-Hunt, observer

**1 WELCOME TO AND TOUR OF THE CHURCH**

It was noted that the current Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be standing down at the next meeting of SACRE. Members were asked to consider who wished to stand for these positions.

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

Apologies were received from Councillors Wendy Brice-Thompson, Joshua Chapman and Dilip Patel. Apologies were also received from Jenny Fox, Salvation Army and Dawn Ladbrook, Evangelical Free Church.

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

The minutes of the meeting of SACRE held on 23 March 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

It was noted that the revised terms of reference had been sent to the Council for consideration.

**4 UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY**

A planning network meeting had been held this term which included discussion of an activity for infant school children to tell a religious story. Form teachers had brought along school books to show best practice and the meeting had been held in a supportive atmosphere.

The Quality Mark cost £395 for larger schools to apply for and this was considered to be too expensive for many schools, unless a reduced rate could be obtained. The reduced rate was however only available to smaller schools and those with lower OFSTED ratings for RE. The Quality Mark required a half day assessment and the completing of questionnaires with children covering what they had studied in RE etc. The only Havering school currently holding a Quality Mark for RE was Hall Mead and it was noted that a school in Redbridge had obtained a Quality Mark using the same syllabus as that used in Havering.

A primary teacher had given good feedback following their recent attendance at a free humanism conference and it was noted that the British Humanist Association was now called Humanism UK.

**5 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The Commission on Religious Education was continuing to gather evidence and representatives had spoken at RE teacher conferences etc. Commissioners were also happy to be invited to visit schools in the borough.

A recent survey on racial and religious discrimination had shown that discrimination had increased. Work did take place with children in RE lessons that should mitigate against this. It was agreed that a link to the



survey would be forwarded via the portal to secondary schools. The full outcomes of the survey could be brought to a future meeting of SACRE.

RE had not been included in the English Baccalaureate syllabus. A response from the Government on this issue had just been released and said that RE must be taught to all pupils to the end of Key Stage 5. It had also been recommended that schools should offer a GCSE in RE. There were however 30,000 fewer entrants for GCSE religious studies nationally this year.

## **6 ANNUAL REPORT**

The annual report of SACRE was agreed and it was also agreed that the clerk should forward the annual report to the National Association of SACREs.

## **7 EXAM DATA**

The group considered data on the number of RE teaching hours offered by schools in each group although it was noted that this data had to be input correctly.

Positive schools in this regard were Coopers and Frances Bardsley whilst questions could be asked of schools including Emerson Park, Redden Court, Royal Liberty and Albany. Specific issues noted from the data included that Drapers appeared to stop teaching the subject at year 9 and that Royal Liberty had a lot of entrants at GCSE but poor results.

It was agreed that SACRE should write to those schools with a full cohort and good results for RE congratulating them on this.

## **8 MONITORING AND REPORTING**

The SACRE professional advisors had met with representatives of the Council's Children's Services directorate in summer 2016. For two years out of every three, SACRE used the monitoring work carried out by Havering's School Improvement Service. SACRE could however do its own monitoring in the third year of the cycle.

Examples of monitoring questionnaires were circulated and it was noted that the Newham questionnaire included methods for a school to judge how effective its RE teaching was.

Monitoring could be undertaken informally by SACRE members visiting schools and information available on school websites could also be monitored, perhaps at a future meeting of SACRE. A monitoring form for Havering could be developed by SACRE, along similar lines and a covering letter from Children's Services could perhaps also be obtained. It was suggested that some questions in the circulated forms could be combined and that schools could be asked about external groups visiting them. Survey

Monkey or similar websites could be used to host the questionnaire for Havering.

It was agreed that the professional advisers would distribute a pilot form for comment and this would be reported back at the spring term meeting of SACRE.

## **9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was noted that there were training resources on the NASACRE website and that this could be used to update the Havering SACRE handbook.

It was suggested that a Jewish-Christian joint event could be arranged in the form of an exhibition on different religions. This could be expanded to looking at different festivals for a number of religions and beliefs, perhaps in summer 2018. The professional advisors would investigate applying for reward funding for the project. The exhibition could be booked to be shown in different schools and also displayed in e.g. the Queen's Theatre foyer.

Thanks were recorded to Father Mike Power and Stephanie Ellner for their hospitality in allowing SACRE to use the church for the meeting.

## **10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be on Thursday 19 October at 6 pm preferably at a venue with a computer suite to facilitate monitoring of RE work shown on school websites.

Future SACRE meeting dates would be:

Tuesday 13 March 2018, 6 pm  
Thursday 12 July 2018, 6 pm

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**Chairman**

## **Adviser Report to Havering SACRE**

**19<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

### **Havering Primary Network Meetings**

This term's network meeting took place at the end of September and was kindly hosted by Drapers Brookside Infant School. There were a number of subject leaders in attendance who have been to meetings in the past, but there were several new faces too.

The meeting opened with a focus on raising the profile of RE within schools and ways of doing this were introduced. Subject Leaders tried out a task that can be used at inset sessions prompting members of their staff teams to discuss the importance of RE and were provided with resources to carry this out in their own schools. Attendees shared their own ideas about how they have raised the profile of RE in schools and could continue to do so in the future.

This was followed by local and national updates including NATRE's national conference 'Strictly RE', Inter Faith Week, the interim report of the Commission on RE and #REchatUK. Contact details were given out for Havering Inter Faith Forum so that schools can make links for Inter Faith Week and beyond.

The meeting finished with a focus on twelve new films that have been developed for RE by BBC Teach. The group looked particularly at the two films based around Autumn term festivals as these are likely to be used in schools this term. Teachers were provided with notes on how to use each of the two films in class.

The next meeting is on 30<sup>th</sup> January and is likely to be held at Upminster Junior School. It is looking at the good use of visitors and a brand new resource for primary schools focusing on places of worship.

## **National Updates**

### **A Level Entries**

23 856 Religious Studies A level entries were recorded in 2017. This is a decrease of 4% on 2016, but much of this reduction is explained by a decrease in 1.7% of 18-year-olds in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

There were 16 308 AS level entries, which is a decrease of 54% on 2016 and reflects the decline in AS level entries across all subjects.

The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that RS A level provides suitable preparation for University generally. Both Oxford and Cambridge Universities include RS in the top level list of generally suitable A levels. Almost 21% of students admitted to Oxford University to study English and 13.5% admitted to study History in 2015 had an RS A level.

### **GCSE Entries**

The number of pupils in England and Wales taking GCSE Religious Studies full course has fallen for the first time in more than a decade, down 4.6% against 2016 to 269,839.

In addition, the number of pupils in England and Wales taking the short course GCSE in Religious Studies has fallen even more sharply, down 24.6% from last year to 53,071.

The decline is driven by a fall in entries in England where the number of entries for GCSE Religious Studies full course has fallen by 5.2% to 256,729. In contrast, the equivalent figures for Wales are up by 8.5% to 13,110, a record high, so the results in England may be in part as a result of the EBacc.

## New Films for Teaching RE

BBC Teach have produced a 'Religions of the World' series, which consists of twelve new, animated short films for primary level (ten films for four to seven year olds and two films for three to five year olds). The topics of the films can be seen on the table below:

Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism	Islam	Judaism	Sikhism
1. Two Buddhist stories: Siddhartha and the Swan, The Monkey King	1. Two Christian stories: The Good Samaritan and The Lost Sheep * 2. The First Christmas * 3. Easter	1. Rama and Sita	1. The Five Pillars of Islam 2. Two Muslim stories: The Prophet and the Ants, The Crying Camel	1. The Story of Moses 2. The Story of Hanukkah	1. Two Sikh stories: The Milk and the Jasmine Flower, Duni Chand and the Silver Needle

\*=a simpler version of this film has been produced for three to five year olds.

To see the films, please go to:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/1pYRg2f202rqWHrp3ywhTyX/religions-of-the-world>

For KS3, there are 26 new films in the 'A-Z of Religions and Beliefs' series. These start with A is for Atheism and end with Z is for Zoroastrianism and cover diverse subjects along the way including religious clothing, distribution of wealth and philosophical themes. They have had input from faith leaders and teachers to ensure they will be of maximum benefit in the classroom and meet the different curriculum requirements of RE teaching.

You can find the films here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3IKZp31jBVJ2v3C2h1V03kz/a-to-z-of-religion-and-beliefs>

## **Time Given to RE in Schools**

News reports in September showed that after an analysis of figures including data from the School Workforce Census, GCSE figures and survey responses for 790 secondary schools 25% of schools are not making a weekly RE lesson available to their students. In Academies and Free Schools, the number rises to 34% for students aged eleven to thirteen and 44% for those aged fourteen to sixteen.

Although the statistics show that the majority of schools are delivering an adequate amount of RE, they also highlight the serious lack of compliance in the delivery of Religious Education across many schools.

## **Commission on Religious Education**

The Commission on Religious Education has produced its interim report entitled Religious Education for All and it will be helpful if SACRE members comment, giving their views about it. The commission has made initial recommendations in four main areas:

**1 A National Entitlement to RE** for all pupils in state-funded schools and maybe independent schools too. This would set out the aims and purposes of RE and what pupils should experience during their study of this subject.

**2 Holding Schools to Account for the Provision and Quality of RE** which would include a requirement to publish details of how they meet the National Entitlement on their websites and inspection frameworks being revised so that inspectors can monitor whether schools do so. Also, a form of accreditation for studying RE at KS4 for those pupils not taking the GCSE is being suggested.

**3 A National Plan to improve teaching and learning in RE.** This will seek to improve teachers' subject knowledge and confidence.

**4 A renewed and expanded role for SACREs** Please see below for the statement on SACREs from pages 6-7 of the report:

The evidence we have received suggests that SACREs can have an important role in promoting and supporting RE and in promoting good community relations more broadly, but that their capacity to deliver this role fully has been diminishing in many local authorities. The Commission's suggested recommendations, which are consultative at this stage, call for consideration to be given to adding the promotion of improved community relations to the remit of SACREs and make proposals for the securing of resources for their work. There are also recommendations that seek consideration of the composition of SACREs with a call to ensure that they are fully representative, with representatives of non-religious worldviews as full members.

The full report can be found at:

<http://www.commissiononre.org.uk/religious-education-for-all-commission-interim-report/>

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