

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM
FOREST STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

**HELD AT WALTHAM FOREST TOWN HALL
ON THURSDAY 28TH JANUARY 2016 AT 5.00PM**

Present:	Ted Cooke	Chair/Member
	Peter Dawe	Member
	Ruth Kaufman	Member
	Tara Khare	Member
	Keith Piling	Member
	Mike Stygal	Member
	Hilda Jackson	Member
	Mari Chivers	Member
	Mohamed Elhossainy	Member
	Richard Sweden	Member
	Paul Braham	Member
	Kastriot Bereri	Member
	Father Neil Walsh	Member
	Ann Bard	Member
	Donna Miller	Head of Governor Services
	Connie Grant	Clerk

Observers:

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**
 - 1.1. All members present were welcomed to the meeting and the Chair thanked them for attending.
 - 1.2. We noted that the meeting was quorate.
 - 1.3. Apologies were received from Cllr. Shameen Highfield, Tarsem Bhogal, Ms. Femi Cole-Njie.
 - 1.5. Father Neil Walsh was welcomed and the Group were informed that he had been appointed as the new Church of England Representative by the Diocesan Board to the Sacre Group. Father Neil was very experienced and we noted that he had been a teacher and had been a member of other SACREs.
 - 1.6. Mari Chivers was welcomed to the meeting and a proposal was put to members for agreement for Ms. Chivers become a member of the SACRE Group as co-opted member. This was agreed.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting held on the 19th November 2016**
 - 2.1. The minutes were agreed with the following amendments;

- Tara Khan had sent apologies at this meeting but it was omitted from the minutes.
- Page 2 (4.1.) - last para should read "Members noted the next stages would be for **KS3** Syllabus and that these would be considered at the meeting scheduled for April **2016**."

2.2. **Matters Arising**

The Chair advised that discussion had taken place on whether the Humanist representative should be a full member of SACRE and not a co-opted member as she was currently. He informed members that Haringey SACRE had a Humanist member on their Group. It was explained that Humanism faith centred around philosophy of life and living morals. The Chair added that Femi had been quite vocal in saying she did not think it was appropriate for a Humanist to be included in the Group A list. He said a discussion had taken place with Rosalind Turner around which group to place a Humanist representative.

2.3. The agreed draft constitution was circulated at the meeting. The Chair highlighted that the SACRE Group should be looking to fill the school vacancy roles.

2.4. Following a vote it was **agreed** that the Humanist representative become a member of SACRE and not a co-opted member. The Humanist representative thanked the Group for their co-operation in making her a member.

3. **Prevent Agenda and how this is managed in Waltham Forest Schools**

3.1. This item was deferred to the next meeting due to non-attendance of the person scheduled to present the item.

4. **Items to include Preparation of the Annual Report 2014/15**

4.1. The Group were informed that the Annual report should include exam data which was published and verified for religious education. The Chair also drew everyone's attention to the opening comments in the foreword of the Annual Report, which he and Rosalind Turner had prepared. He said KS1 Syllabus would also be mentioned.

KS1 Syllabus, religious and other events that took place should be included in the Annual Report. We noted some of the following events that should be included;

- Holocaust memorial event was a positive evening.
- Chanukah event was a success.
- Asaki and Diwali celebrations (Sikh and Hindu)
- End of Eid celebrations and prophet's birthday.
- Mayors carol concert should also be included.
- SACRE members should be invited to all these events to ensure cohesiveness.

- Faith Fair and Faith Friendship walk should be included.
- Teachers had been consulted and event was moved to the calendar year.
- SACRE meeting on the 19th November 2015 was a success.
- Ramadan advice that went out to schools and positive responses.

4.2. We noted that 'floor targets' were set and if schools hit this target then input from Ofsted would be triggered.

Action: Governor Services to re-send Ramadan advice information to schools as a reminder highlighting how stressful it was for 15 and 16 year olds sitting exams whilst fasting.

5. **Any Other Business**

5.1. Q. What are the plans for the remainder of the municipal year?

A. There was a need to visit KS 3, 4 and 5. A number of schools now had 6th forms including Chingford, Highams Park, Holy Family, Norlington, Lammas and Walthamstow Academy. There was also a possibility of the Lion Trust having a 6th form. Some schools were only doing two years of KS3 and not 3 years. The issue around children undertaking GCSEs in Years 9 and 10 was been addressed. Schools were judged on the number of children through exam results. KS3 & 4 should be monitored carefully to ensure the correct stage is reached in relation to performance measures.

Action: In relation to KS1 & 2 and Early Years, disassemble the old syllabus and statutory guidance should be separated from non-statutory guidance. Agree to carry out a review of the statutory component.

5.2. It was agreed that KS 3,4 & 5 should be approached in the same way as KS1 & 2 of the agreed Syllabus Conference.

Action: Governor Services to forward the updated syllabus to SACRE Group once completed, however it was noted that this would not be in the form of a glossy brochure but either on a memory stick or CD due to cost restrictions.

5.3. The Chair informed members that discussion had taken place with Rosalind Turner and School Effectiveness Advisers on whether SACRE Group meetings should take place in schools, and if SACRE members had any issues they wished to raise with the School Effectiveness Advisers concerning RE and Social Inclusion. The Chair urged SACRE members to discuss what information they required from schools, particularly around the curriculum. It was noted that different schools used different systems in pulling information together. As an example the Chingford Church of England School used links for the agreed syllabus, however this was for personal use and direct links were taken out due the vulnerability of information.

It was suggested that there was a need to agree what information was contained in the agenda before visiting schools and seek a way forward to gather further information first.

The Chair informed members that School Effectiveness Advisers were normally provided with a closed script that they had to report back on. There may be a way to extract the required information and it was suggested that the Red/Amber/Green systems that schools used would be the best option. There was a need to establish whether schools intended to look at RE, and perhaps this could be raised in the summer term visit.

- 5.4. Nassacre Conference – efforts had been made in trying to encourage teachers to attend.

Action: Governor Services to progress on potential conference dates and circulate to SACRE Group.

- 5.5. It was highlighted that it would be useful if there was a list of places of worship where schools could visit that were within walking distance and made available to SACRE members. The list should also contain names of potential speakers. Ruth Kaufman volunteered herself as a speaker.

Action: Governor Services to create a list of places of worship with relevant contact details of people at these establishments. The list should also include names of potential speakers. Once completed the list should be circulated to SACRE Group members who could add information on the above to the list.

6. Dates of Future Meetings and Agenda Items

- 6.1. We note the date of future meetings below to be held at Waltham Forest Town Hall.

Spring Term 2016		
	Time	Venue
Tuesday 22 nd March 2016	5.00pm	Waltham Forest Town Hall Room 2
Summer Term 2016		
Wednesday 27 th April 2016	5.00pm	TBC
Wednesday 13 th July 2016	5.00pm	TBC

- 6.2. We agree that the following proposed agenda items be presented at 22nd March meeting;

Proposed Agenda items – 22nd March 2016

- Prevent and how this is managed in Waltham Forest Schools (deferred from this meeting)
- Review of Ramadan Guidance
- KS3, 4 & 5 Syllabus
- Draft Annual Report (2014/15)

The meeting closed at 18:41pm.