

**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 TUESDAY 18th OCTOBER 2016 AT 5.15PM**

Present: Ted Cooke	Chair/Member
Peter Dawe	Member
Femi Cole-Njie	Member
Mike Stygal	Member
Keith Pilling	Member
Tara Khare	Member
Hilda Jackson	Member
Cllr. Shammeen Highfield	Member
Ruith Kaufman	Member

Connie Grant Clerk

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. No apologies were received.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on the 7th July 2016

- 2.1. A number of amendments were made to the minutes and agreed: a new set of minutes was submitted to members incorporating those amendments.

3. Youth Ambassadors

3.1. the Chair reported that he had been away most of September and not had a chance to progress issues relating to Youth Ambassadors and has not had any discussion with Rosalind about this. This issue needs to be placed on hold until the new Senior Education Officer. The Chair said he had some reservations as SACRE had previously applied for a grant for Youth Ambassadors where it was agreed but then it had to be handed back.

Action: The Chair will progress the finance issues around this issue.

4. Annual Work Plan

4.1. The Chair reported that he has not had time to draft the work plan and no one has provided him with any comments. He said over the next three meetings SACRE should undertake preparatory work for the new syllabus conference. SACRE can only make recommendations and it was the Local Authority that commissioned the work. KS3/4/5 document requires discussion and will take up a major part of the work over the next coming meetings.

5. Review of KS3 + Syllabus

5.1. The Chair reported that he was pleased that KS1 and 2 agreed syllabus, which contains statutory guidance has been published on the website. It was agreed that the non-statutory guidance for the old syllabus will stand aside the statutory content. There needs to be more thought and review about the approach to KS3 to KS5 syllabus. At present 2 year KS3 and 3 year KS4 was operating. A number of schools in the Local Authority now had 6th forms. The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility for all children who attends school including KS5 and 6th form. One school has decided to include Ethics and Education in their curriculum which complies with Religious Education ethos.

Action: SACRE agreed that at the next meeting one of the secondary school partners work with secondary schools to advise SACRE of the most appropriate way to structure KS3/4/5 syllabus. This will allow SACRE to give more schools flexibility in order to undertake more creative work.

6. Leave of Absence Policy for Schools

6.1. It was reported that this proposed policy related to schools allowing absences for religious holidays and SACRE supported this. This issue had been discussed in the past.

6.2. Discussion took place around the consultation document school holiday dates for the next two years. There is a need to find out who is responsible for setting school holiday dates and that the Local Authority was part of steering when holiday dates should be, which is positive. A number of schools had been undertaking in service training and accumulating extra holiday dates. The document needs to be reviewed and make appropriate recommendations on which days staff should be allowed leave to facilitate their faith. This issue needs to be discussed with the new Senior Education Officer. The needs of some of the faith staff and pupils need to be balanced, for example during Jewish holidays, and taking into account that most maths teachers were Muslims. The Local Authority normally provided advice to schools around this issue and although it was noted that there are a number of academy schools, many of these schools still sought Local Authority advice. There is a need for best practice to be considered to reflect the main faiths in Waltham Forest. It was mentioned that the main groups were Muslim, Hindu and Seikhs, although it

was recognised that there are other faith groups. SACRE's stance was authorised absence should be allowed for that faith groups.

6.3. It was noted that Ruth Kaufman had requested for this item to be on the agenda. She wanted to know what falls within the remit of SACRE. The Chair stated that he received the draft when he was on holiday and more documentation was required before taking this issue any further.

7. Any Other Business

7.1. The Chair recommended the Inter-Faith storytelling event which he thought will be an interesting evening and will be taking place week at the Inter-Faith week commencing the 14th November. Mike has had dialogue with the Chair of Inter-Faith week.

7.2. Review of membership needs to be looked at and placed on the agenda for next meeting.

Action: Governor Services to action.

7.2. SACRE noted regret that the Humanist and Pagan were excluded from the Town Centre Summer Fete. It was hoped that this activity would unite faiths.

7.3. SACRE relayed best wishes to Donna Miller who has gone on maternity leave. Donna has served the authority well and SACRE looks forward to her replacement.

7.4. The Chair reported that the meal with Denise was a great success and an enjoyable event. He suggested another meal be arranged for people who did not make it. The consensus was in agreement and the Chair will speak to Denise about arranging another event.

8. Dates of Future Meetings and Agenda Items

8.1.

	Time	Venue
Autumn 2016		
Thursday 17 th November 2016	5.15pm	WF Town Hall
Spring 2017		
Thursday 26 th January 2017	5.15pm	WF Town Hall
Thursday 23 rd March 2017	5.15pm	WF Town Hall

8.3. An error was identified on the future dates of meetings. It read Autumn 2015/Spring 2016 and should read **Autumn 2016/Spring 2017**.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm