

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
HELD ON 23 MARCH 2017 AT 6 PM
AT WALTHAM FOREST TOWN HALL**

Present: Ted Cooke Chair Member Group B
 Rev. Femi Cole-Njie Member Group A
 Ms Tara Khare Member Group A
 Keith Pilling Member Group A
 Mike Stygal Member Group A
 Fr Neil Walsh Member Group B
 Peter Dawe Member Group C
 Hilda Jackson Member Group C
 Cllr Paul Braham Member Group D
 Cllr Shameem Highfield Member Group D
 Cllr Richard Sweden Member Group D
 David Kilgallon LBWF Head of School
 Improvement Group D
 Darra McFadyen LBWF School Effectiveness
 Advisor Group D
 PC Steven MacDonald (till 6.30 pm) Met. Police, Co-opted
 Member

Also present: PC James Bengel (till 6.30 pm) Met. Police
 Said Looch Observer
 Lynne Troughton (till 7.00pm), Senior Governor Services
 Officer, Observer

Clerk to the SACRE: David Rees

Summary of agreements and actions:

Minute reference	Formal agreements and/or actions identified	Named person(s) for action(s)	Completion date
3.1.1	Board of Jewish Deputies, Diocese of Brentwood to be written to requesting Group A representatives.	Chair	immediate
3.1.2	Diocese of Chelmsford to be written to or otherwise approached requesting Group B representatives.	Chair	immediate
3.1.3	Discuss, and contact possible new Group C representatives.	Chair, D McF, M Sygal	immediate
4.4	Agreed action re minutes of 26/01/17	Chair	For next meeting
4.5.3	Write letter to Board of Dep.s of Brit. Jews.	Chair	immediate
5.1.2	Inter-Faith Statement to be circulated to members	Governor Services	For next meeting
5.2.1	Provide details of all planned public events to Met. Police	Every member	immediate

6.4	Circulate W/P dates and Ofsted Evaluation document to W/P members	Darra McF/Governor Services	immediate
6.5	Provide home addresses to Governor Services	Every member	immediate
7	Progress Annual Report	Chair, D McF	ongoing
8.1	Effects of pornography & mental health on Agenda	Chair, Governor Services	For next meeting
8.3	Finalise SACRE leaflet and send to schools	Governor Services	immediate
8.4	Establish contact with Newham SACRE	M Stygal	immediate
9.3	KS Syllabus Conference on Agenda	Chair, Governor Services	For next meeting

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 The chair welcomed all those present to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Tarsem Bhogal, Ruksana Yaqoob, Ruth Kaufman, Shameem Highfield (arrived after start of meeting), Tara Khare (arrived after start of meeting), Irfan Akhtar.
- 1.3 No apologies for absence were received from Douglas Williams, Bhavane Manogarran, Ali Qreshi and Kastriot Berberi.
- 1.4 The meeting was quorate, there being a member from each of the four representative groups present.
- 1.5 The Chair gave notice of reports to be given following the terrorist action of 22 March

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 There were no declarations made pertaining to any of the agenda items.

3. GOVERNING BODY

3.1 SACRE membership

There were the following vacancies;

3.1.1 Group A Religious denominations other than C of E

- 1 RC
- 1 Gr Orth.
- 2 Muslim
- 1 Jewish
- 1 Evang. Free

5 Vacancies in Group A

3.1.2 Group B C of E

2 Vacancies in Group B

3.1.3 Group C Teacher's Associations

7 Vacancies in Group C

3.1.4 Group D Local Authority

No Vacancies in Group D. Thanks were offered to David Kilgallon for his efforts.

4. MINUTES

- 4.1 Governors received the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 January 2017.
- 4.2 The following amendments were agreed;
Item 8 was in the wrong place within the document.

7.1 Group B Action to read

“The Chair will try to identify 2 other Church representatives with education experience to become SACRE members.”

4.3 With the amendments at 4.2 the minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.

4.4 The chair signed the minutes, which were retained by the SACRE.

4.5 Matters arising

4.5.1 The Chair is in process of working on the minutes; see amended hard-copy.

4.5.2 There were no page numbers; pages will in future be numbered.

4.5.3 Item 7 Membership

The Chair will write of the Board of Deputies stating that Cllr P. Braham wishes to be a member representing the Jewish Board, rather than a LBWF representative.

5. WESTMINSTER ACT OF TERROR 22 MARCH 2017

5.1 Mike Stygal read out a statement from the Co-Chairs of the Inter-Faith Network, condemning all acts of terrorism, praying for those affected by the acts of 22nd March, identifying the disruptive motive behind such acts, calling for unity in response and asking all to watch out for the well-being of any group targeted as being perceived as responsible for such acts.

5.1.2 A copy of the full statement will be circulated by Governor Services.

5.1.3. The statement received the endorsement of the meeting.

5.2 Report by PC Steve MacDonald, assisted by PC Bengel, on policing activity following the event, the major points of which were:

- Special arrangements reported at the meeting are likely to last 1 – 2 weeks.
- Police were working two 12-hour shifts, instead of three 8-hour shifts per 24 hours, so freeing the third shift for deployment elsewhere according to need; leave is cancelled.
- Patrolling was being carried out in pairs only, not singly, with high vis. jackets worn.
- Great efforts were being made to visit mosques.
- Many phone contacts had been made, because the alleged killer is probably Muslim. Tomorrow being Friday, great effort will be made to contact Muslim groups after prayers.
- Transport hubs will have an increased police presence.
- Important to be aware that other faith groups may be targeted by extremists following the attack. Report any event of perceived hate crime on 999. Leaflets have been printed encouraging people to do this (“to be eyes and ears”); copies were available at the meeting. Police are able to give information, assistance and presentations on aspects of security and safety in face of terrorism threats to groups; groups should contact the police to request such help.
- As of time of reporting, no details are available other than what has been publicly announced on media. There is no likely local connection with today's act; an individual named in media today is not a suspect – such reports are inaccurate.

5.2.1 Police would like to be made aware of all public events in reaction to this event planned in the next 14 days.

5.2.2 The Chair thanked the Metropolitan Police for their efforts for the people of the Borough, pointed out that extremes of any faith were capable of such terrible acts, though some would blame all terror acts on individuals of Muslim faith, and said that the work of SACRE contributed to combating fear of those of different faiths.

5.3 Peter Dawe and others referred to Walk-Witnesses scheduled by Highams Park Council of Churches. Chair said that there were many such events.

6. REPORT BY SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS ADVISOR

6.1 Work of BRENT SACRE

Using a slide presentation Darra McFadyen opened by stressing the importance of teaching R.E. well, and that religious services held in school can help in this. The major points were:

- Brent in the 1990s was very multi-cultural, in the forefront of these matters at that time.
- Guidance on worship took up a lot of Brent SACRE's time; finally 80% of schools accepted that Christian services were not the only basis for worship.
- Achievements
 - A broad base of representation, including all major religions present in the Borough.
 - The first agreed syllabus, just 6 pages long, was well received.
- Challenges
 - R.E. leadership in schools.
 - Primary leadership was more difficult than secondary leadership, because of the importance of a senior team member taking responsibility for R.E. leadership.
 - Assessing R.E. teaching and learning quality and evaluating outcomes at various key-stages.
- Summing up, D. McF said that "learning about and learning from" were and still are, key to success.

6.2 Proposal for action by Waltham Forest SACRE

That the SACRE adopt the Ofsted Model of self-evaluation and work to key dates and milestones.

6.3 Discussion ensued. Members said; that evaluation had already been done; that SACRE's problem was that it was well-attended but not always quorate; that there were concerns about access to schools and to data including examination results. D. McF responded that evaluation should be done regularly so the Group can show it is increasing in effectiveness; that comments regarding access to schools indicate that examination of SACRE's relationship with the Local Authority is important; that there are ways of establishing working relations with schools, including discussion of the current squeeze on primary syllabus, and the value of philosophy as a component of the R.E. syllabus.

6.4 It was agreed that a working party be set up and the following SACRE members volunteered to participate; Peter Dawe, Keith Pilling, Said Looch, Femi Cole-Njie, Mike Stygal, Ted Cooke, Darra McFadyen. The venue to be Waltham Forest Town Hall, a small room on ground floor. The date to be a convenient date in early May, D McF to circulate possible dates. The Ofsted Model for Self-evaluation to be circulated to all SACRE members.

6.5 SACRE members to provide their home addresses to governor services to receive hard copy of the Ofsted document.

7. ANNUAL REPORT

Progressing; assistance is available; there are cost implications of assistance; school results can be accessed. Chair and D McF to work together to progress.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Femi Cole-Njie asked what SACRE could do about the effects on children of pornography, and children's mental health. D. MacF said work had been done on this by schools in the past. The Chair agreed to discuss this at a future meeting.

8.2 D. MacF called attention to publicity produced by Lynne Troughton of Governor Services explaining SACRE and its role. It was agreed to be an excellent document.

8.3 It was agreed that, after some minor revisions of text, the leaflet be sent out to all schools.

- 8.4 M.Stygal reported he was now a member of Newham SACRE and therefore work with that SACRE was possible; M.S. to approach the Chair of Newham SACRE to initiate co-working.
- 8.5 Paul Braham reported that Richard House Hospice no longer had a funded chaplain; and requested the SACRE's consent to M. Stygal's details being passed to Richard House. This was agreed.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

- 9.1 17 May 2017 6.00 pm at Waltham Forest Town Hall.
28 June 2017 at venue to be decided; if other than at WF TH, the start time will be 7.00pm due to parking restrictions.
- 9.2 Keith Pilling gave apologies for not attending the 17 May 2017
- 9.3 Setting up the Agreed Syllabus Conference for KS3, KS4 and KS5. This subject will be placed on the agenda of the 17th May meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm

Chair: (print)

..... (sign)

Date:

Chair's Initials:
