

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 2019 @ 5.30PM
AT WALTHAM FOREST TOWN HALL**

Present: Mr Ted Cooke (TC) Member Group B (Chair)
 Mr Tarsem Bhogal (TB) Member Group A (from 6pm)
 Mr Keith Pilling (KP) Member Group A
 Ms Heather Soar (HS) Member Group C
 Mr Colin Whitehead (CW) Member Group C
 Ms Ruth Kaufman (RF) Member Group D
 Ms Selina Seesunkur (SS) Member Group D (from 6.15pm)
 Cllr Richard Sweden (RS) Member Group D (from 6.15pm)
 PC Steve McDonald (SM) Co-opted member
 Ms Darra McFadyen (DMc) Observer

Clerk to the Governors: Gill Hand

Summary of agreements and actions:

Minute reference	Formal agreements and/or actions identified	Named person(s) for action(s) identified	Completion date
3.2.1	To ensure that future work plans have budget costings attached to specific areas	DMc	Ongoing
3.2.1	To provide SACRE with update on funding at next meeting following further discussion with LA	DMc/TC	10.07.19
3.2.2	To send suggestions for potential memorial days to be added to SACRE calendar to DMc/DM	All	2 weeks
3.2.2	To develop approval criteria to support inclusion of additional memorial days in SACRE calendar	DMc/DM	10.07.19
3.2.4	To email list of schools and website review template form to HS/CW & RK	DMc	1 week
5.1	To recirculate ASC criteria for information	DMc	03.06.19
6.1	To circulate draft Annual Report to members	DMc	10.07.19
6.1	Draft Annual Report to be agenda item for next meeting	DMc	10.07.19
7.1	To send email to all Group C members inviting them to a pre meeting prior to the next SACRE to discuss Annual Plan development	DM/DMc	ASAP
7.1	To provide update on Group C member discussions at next meeting	HS	10.07.19

Chair's Initials:

7.1	To circulate Annual Plan to members prior to each SACRE meeting	DM	Ongoing
7.1.2	To produce and send to DMc a list of places of worship with contact details	SM	10.07.19
7.1.2	Directory of contacts to be agenda item for next meeting	DM	10.07.19
8.1	RE & PA Update from BACME Team to be agenda item for next meeting	DM	10.07.19
9.1	To set up follow up Safety in Settings meeting and invite SACRE members to attend	TC	ASAP
9.1	To provide Safety in Settings Update at the next meeting	TC	10.07.19
10.2	To contact DMC direct if interested in presenting views/beliefs at Student SACRE meeting	All	Ongoing
10.3	To send out email to members re potential change of meeting day	TC	10.07.19
11.1	Date of next meeting: <u>Agreed Syllabus Conference</u> Monday 3 June 2019 @ 5.30pm at the Town Hall <u>SACRE</u> Wednesday 10 July 2019 at 5.30pm @ the Town Hall	All /GS	Immediate
11.2	<u>Agenda Items:</u> Work Plan Draft Annual Report RE & PA Update from BACME Team Directory of contacts	DM/TC	10.07.19

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 The Chair, Mr Ted Cooke, welcomed all those present to the meeting and general introductions were made.
A one minute silence was observed as an acknowledgement to the Christchurch and Sri Lanka incidents which had happened the previous weekend.
TC advised that a Book of Condolence had been set up in the Town Hall foyer by the LA and members were invited to sign it should they wish to do so.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Rev Paul Braham, Ms Tara Khare, Mr Mike Stygal, Cllr Zia-Ur Rehman and Mrs Jeanette Waller.
- 1.3 TC advised that he continued to hold conversations with Donna Miller (DM) with regards to promoting member's attendance at the SACRE meeting.
- 1.4 The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate as there was one member present from each SACRE group. It was noted that there were nine members in attendance in total.
- 1.5 No notice was of any other business additional business at this point in the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations made pertaining to any of the agenda items for this meeting.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 Minutes of 27 March 2019

Members received the revised minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2019 and, subject to minor amendment, agreed these to be an accurate record of the meeting. The Chair signed a copy of these minutes and they were retained by the clerk for filing.

3.2 Matters arising

It was noted that unless referenced below, the actions from the previous meeting had been completed.

3.2.1 Minute 5.2.4 – SACRE Budget for training

TC and DMc updated that discussions had been held with the LA and assurance had been given that there was a SACRE budget available. Further discussions would be held in due course to identify the budget figure and how this would be best utilised moving forward.

Q – Who is the budget holder?

A – Believed to be David Kilgannon but this would need to be checked via School Forum minutes

Q – Is it possible to look at the budget allocation for previous years to identify how the money was spent and in what areas?

A – Yes and DMc and TC continue to liaise with the LA to identify this

DMc proposed that in future work plans, budget costings would be attached to specific areas to allow more effective understanding and transparency on how the budget was spent. All members present agreed with this proposal.

ACTION: To ensure that future work plans have budget costings attached to specific areas

ACTION: To provide SACRE with update on funding at next meeting following further discussion with LA

3.2.2 Minute 5.2.6 – Additional Memorial Days for inclusion in SACRE calendar

DMc updated that a review of the SACRE calendar was planned for the summer term and at this point the above would be further considered.

DMc advised of the need to identify criteria to agree the inclusion of further days and it was agreed that these should be developed.

ACTION: To send suggestions for potential memorial days to be added to SACRE calendar to DMc/DM

ACTION: To develop approval criteria to support inclusion of additional memorial days in SACRE calendar

3.2.3 Minute 7.9 – SRE Briefing

DMc updated that all schools had been sent Guidance Notes re the proposals for September 2020 by David Kilgannon on 25 April 2019 (Annex A attached).

All members present agreed to the adoption of these Guidance Notes.

3.2.4 Minute 12.1 – School Website RE & Collective Worship Reference Review

It was noted that a number of returns had been received from members following their review of school websites but it would be beneficial for more to take place. DMc informed that the purpose of the review was to:

- identify what information was currently available on websites
- identify schools who may benefit from support to add RE/Collective Worship information to their websites.

HS, RK and CW offered to carry out further reviews to support this area and this was kindly accepted by DMc.

TC thanked all members for their help so far in the review and for the offer of support moving forward.

ACTION: To email list of schools and website review template form to HS/CW & RK

3.2.5 Minute 12.4 – The Hub

Q – Has access to The Hub been established for all SACRE members?

A – Yes and in addition, DM is reviewing the information held on The Hub and updating as necessary

4. SACRE MEMBERSHIP

4.1 TC advised that this was an area that continued to be regularly reviewed by TC/DMc/DM and members were actively being sought as required.

5. AGREEMENT OF AUTUMN AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE (ASC)

5.1 DMc updated members that the ASC had been organised for Monday 3 June 2019 at 5.30pm at Waltham Forest Town Hall Room 2.

It was noted that at the above meeting consideration would be given to the criteria outlined in the ASC checklist especially in regards to the Assessment section.

DMc advised that following on from the above conference, the ASC would be sent out to schools for consultation prior to final approval at SACRE.

ACTION: To recirculate ASC criteria for information

6. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

6.1 DMc advised that the report was currently being drafted and would be sent out to members in advance of the next meeting for information.

ACTION: To circulate draft Annual Report to members

ACTION: DRAFT Annual report to be agenda item for next meeting

7. PRIORITIES FOR 2019/20

7.1 Following discussion, members identified the key priorities listed below for 2019/20:

- Publishing of the KS3/4/5 syllabus
- Review of T&L of RE across the LA
- Development of a directory to support schools to contact places of worship
- Consideration of CPD development for RE teachers

7.1.1 Review of T&L of RE across the LA

Discussions were held as to how the review of T&L could effectively take place and it was agreed that potentially information could be requested from the following sources:

- from schools via a questionnaire on The Hub
- OFSTED reports

- website reviews
- SACRE school based member bespoke discussions.

It was agreed that it would be prudent to ensure that school based SACRE members were actively involved in the development of the Annual Plan. To achieve, this, it was further agreed that:

- Group C members would be contacted outside the SACRE meetings to start communications to inform the Annual Plan development
- HS would provide feedback to the next SACRE on the above to advise of progress

ACTION: To send email to all Group C members inviting them to a pre meeting prior to the next SACRE to discuss Annual Plan development

ACTION: To provide updates on Group C member discussions at next meeting

ACTION: To circulate Annual Plan to members prior to each SACRE meeting

7.1.2 Development of a directory to support schools to contact places of worship

Discussions were held on the need to ensure that any directory developed gave due reference to the need to quality assure the place of worship and the duty that schools held in ensuring this was carried out.

SM advised that he was able to provide contact details for a number of places of worship in the LA who he had worked with and who to date had welcomed community engagement.

Members agreed it would be beneficial for SM to develop a list of contacts as a starting point which could then be added to moving forward.

ACTION: To produce and send to DMc a list of places of worship with contact details

7.1.3 Consideration of CPD development for RE teachers

RS raised concern about the apparent lack of CPD offered to RE teachers in schools and a general discussion was held on this matter. It was noted that it was up to individual schools to organise CPD and there was no current centrally organised training offer.

It was agreed that moving forward it would be informative to monitor the degree of support available for RE teachers and consider the potential of resources being made available via SACRE to support CPD

8. RE & PA UPDATE

8.1 It was agreed that this item would be deferred to the next meeting.

ACTION: RE & PA Update from BACME Team to be agenda item for next meeting

9. RSE UPDATE

9.1 Safety in Settings Update

TC advised that the initial funding for the above project had now been extended. The extended project had two main strands of focus:

1. identifying situations where there were potential safeguarding issues for children when attending settings other than acknowledged places of worship
2. Development of publicity material for parents aimed at supporting parents to understand their responsibility in ensuring settings their children are attending are safe

CW updated that Redbridge has previously produced similar information leaflet which may be informative to consider when any publicity material is being produced.

TC informed that a further safety in Settings meeting was due to be arranged and SACRE members would be invited to attend.

ACTION: To set up follow up Safety in Settings meeting and invite SACRE members to attend

ACTION: To provide Safety in Settings Update at the next meeting

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Newham Partnership Feedback

DMc noted that the above partnership continued to move forward positively and the events noted below had/were planned to take place in the near future.

10.1.1 Peace Conference

Members were informed that the third conference had taken place on 24 April 2019 at George Tomlinson Primary School. Five schools in total had attended and attendees had informed that they had found the overall experience positive.

10.1.2 Student SACRE Mtg

DMc updated that the next meeting was due to take place on 23 May 2019 based at Norlington School.

Q – Do the same young people attend each meeting?

A – For the next meeting yes. There will be young people from Chingford Foundation, Holy Family, Norlington and Eden Girls Schools in attendance. Each meeting will have a different faith focus and presentation.

10.1.3 Newham/LBWF Work Plan

DMc updated that she had developed a work plan with Newham SACRE representatives to support the ongoing development of the partnership and to encourage schools to work together effectively.

10.1.3 National SACRE Mtg - 22 May 219

DMc advised that she would be attending the above meeting to present on how the LA had been working in partnership with Newham, the positives noted from this partnership and the potential issues (including funding) moving forward.

10.2 Conference Events Speakers

It was noted that future Student SACRE meetings are planned and DMc invited members to attend to discuss their beliefs and values with young people.

ACTION: To contact DMC direct if interested in presenting views/beliefs at Student SACRE meeting

10.3 Future Meeting Dates

TC advised that historically SACRE meetings had been held on Wednesdays but moving forward, if required, consideration could be given to meetings being held on an alternative day to support member attendance.

ACTION: To send out email to members re potential change of meeting day

11. DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

11.1 Date of next meetings

Summer 2019			
Monday 3 June	5.30pm	WF Town Hall – Room 2	Agreed Syllabus Conference

Wednesday 10 July	5.30pm	WF Town Hall – Room 3	Draft SACRE Plan for next year Annual report Work plan to include HMD events etc.
Autumn 2019			
Wednesday 2 October	5.30pm	WF Town Hall – Room 3	
Wednesday 27 November	5.30pm	WF Town Hall – Room 3	
Spring 2020			
Wednesday 29 January	5.30pm	WF Town Hall – Room 3	
Wednesday 25 March	5.30pm	WF Town Hall – Room 3	
Summer 2020			
Wednesday 29 April	5.30pm	WF Town Hall – Room 3	

- 12.2 Agenda items:
 Work Plan
 Draft Annual Report
 RE & PA Update from BACME Team
 Directory of contacts

The meeting closed at 7.10

Chair: (print)

..... (Sign)

Date:

Chair's Initials:

Guidance Note for Schools and Governors: Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education in England – proposals for September 2020.

An Introduction.

The Department for Education (DfE) has proposed new guidelines for Relationship, sex and health education across England, with relationships, cyber safety and mental health all set to be included as part of the new curriculum. The guidance is applicable to all schools, including LA maintained schools, academies, free schools and independent schools. All schools will be required to have relationships education/RSE in place and a relationships and sex education policy for September 2020.

Three new subjects have been created –

- **relationships education** from primary school,
- **relationships and sex education** at secondary school, and
- **health education** for all ages in which students will learn, amongst other things, about the importance of getting enough sleep, the dangers of sexting and how to spot anxiety in their friends.

Children in Primary School will be taught about relationships, staying safe online and the link between physical and mental health.

The proposed changes to relationship and sex education (RSE) are the first since 2000, after the government recognised that the current guidance was outdated.

The aim of **Relationships Education** is to put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships of all kinds, starting with family and friends, and moving out to other kinds of relationships, including online. It remains clear that parents are the primary teachers of their children and that this subject should complement what pupils are taught at home, with the active involvement of parents in the subject to ensure it is effective.

Primary Schools.

Primary schools are not required to teach sex education. The Department continues, however, to recommend that primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. Many primary schools already choose to teach some aspects of sex education and will continue to do so. It is for primary schools to determine whether they need to cover any additional content on sex education, which isn't included in the national curriculum for science, to meet the needs of their pupils.

Primary schools that choose to teach sex education must allow parents a right to withdraw their child. All primary schools must comply with a parent's wish to withdraw their child from sex education beyond the content covered in the national curriculum for science. It is clear that headteachers should discuss with parents their request, as they will do in secondary schools. For primary schools, headteachers will not be able to overrule a parent's decision.

Secondary Schools.

Although sex education is mandatory to teach at secondary, it must be grounded in a firm understanding and valuing of positive relationships, and respect for others, from primary age.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from some aspects of sex education. This does not include what is taught as part of the science curriculum. The school should respect the parents' request to withdraw the child. However, before granting a request to withdraw a child, the head teacher should discuss the value and importance of RSE with parents. In addition, a child can request sex education without their parent's consent from three terms before their 16th birthday

According to the new guidelines, secondary school pupils will be taught about issues such as: female genital mutilation (FGM) with a focus on awareness over its illegality and the availability of support networks. Students aged 11 and older should also be taught about other forms of "honour-based" abuse, as well as grooming, forced marriage and domestic abuse.

Concerns Expressed from Some Groups.

Some groups have expressed concerns about the physical, psychological and spiritual implications of teaching children about certain sexual and relational concepts proposed in RSE and believe that they have no place within a mandatory school curriculum.

The debate over whether children should be taught about LGBT rights has been brought into focus recently, where a primary school has been the target of protests from concerned parents.

It prompted an intervention from the head of Ofsted, Amanda Spielman, who backed the teaching of same-sex relationships in primary schools, as well as secondaries.

LA actions.

The LA will work with the Waltham Forest Learning Partnership to discuss and agree ways of supporting schools to deal with the issues that may arise from the implementation of the new curriculum.

The LA already provides advice through a PSHE Curriculum adviser. Further advice and guidance will be circulated to school staff, particularly PSHE leads, as well as school leaders and governors.

Headteachers and school leaders should continue to follow existing policies and protocols in the event of being presented with any examples of homophobic communication/ hate crime activity.