

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION (SACRE)  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2019, AT 5.30 P.M.  
ST MARGARET AND ST COLUMBA CHURCH HALL**

<b>Present:</b> Mr Ted Cooke	Member Group B (Chair) -
Mr Mike Stygal	Member Group A
Ms Heather Soar	Member Group C
Ms Ruth Kaufman	Member Group D
Mr David Kilgallon	Member Group D
Ms Darra McFadyen	LBWF, Advisor to SACRE

**1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence**

- 1.1 Mr Cooke welcomed all present to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Sa'id Totti Looch, Adewale Akano, Cllr Sweden, Paul Braham, Tara Khare.
- 1.3 Members noted that due to train delays, the Clerk was on her way but is still on delayed train, it was agreed that she could dial into the meeting to enable her to take minutes over the phone.

**2. Minutes**

- 2.1 Members noted receipt of the minutes of the last meeting via electronic copy only. it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held 2 October 2019 to the next meeting.  
**Action: Agenda item – Minutes**
- 2.2 Matters arising

**3. SACRE Membership**

- 3.1 Mr Cooke advised members that he believed that Mr Dawe may have a contact at Waltham Forest Baptist circuit and he would contact Mr Dawe with a view of seeking a representative.  
**Action: Mr Cooke to contact Mr Dawe**
- 3.2 Ms McFadyen advised the board that she was working with Mr Cooke and Mrs Miller to seek representatives for vacancies; there had been no progress yet on the recruitment of additional teachers.
- 3.3 Ms McFadyen advised members that with regards to the Faith and Belief forum, Lammas have joined and will bring in the other two schools.
- 3.4 Mr Cooke noted his concern regarding the absence of some long-term colleagues at meetings, it was agreed that Mr Cooke follow this up personally and update SACRE at the next meeting.  
**Action: Mr Cooke to contact members absent**

**4. Update on review of Agreed Syllabus (DM)**

- 4.1 Members discussed their considerations and deliberations regarding the two syllabus's presented to the board and working party. Ms McFadyen noted that after much discussion and a good look at both syllabus ASC had reached the decision that RE Today was more useful to teachers in WF. This decision was subject to confirmation, to be sought by Ms McFadyen, that the RE Today syllabus could be

changed to meet Waltham Forest requirements, in particular the preference to cover a wider range of faiths (including non-Abrahamic faiths) at each Key Stage; and to clarification of what materials would be available to schools.

- 4.2 Members discussed the RE Today Syllabus and noted that it covered all key stages, the documents considered were up to date and in line with the vision of SACRE.
  - 4.3 Members held a vote and **unanimously agreed to accept the ASC decision with respect to the Syllabus for Waltham Forest**. Members discussed the launch of the new Syllabus and it was agreed that Mrs Miller be asked to secure the William Morris Gallery for this event.  
**Action: Ms McFadyen to contact Mrs Miller to book WMG**
  - 4.4 Ms Mc Fadyen advised the board that she would consult with a group of teachers on proposed syllabus before it was launched.
  - 4.5 Mr Cooke noted that he remained concerned that there is not enough coverage on Muslims within the draft and Ms McFadyen agreed that she would meet with JDC from RE Today before next meeting and update SACRE.  
**Action: Ms McFadyen to meet with RE Today colleagues**
  - 4.6 Mr Stygal noted that he was concerned that there was work to do in the encouraging and empowering teachers in term of resources, to stretch beyond the minimum.
  - 4.7 Ms Soar noted that she felt it was important for schools to have support and 'lesson plans' and materials to support the syllabus
  - 4.8 Members agreed that there was a need to endorse a syllabus that continues to reflect where Waltham Forest has always been, and not giving a preference because of the demographic of the local community. It was agreed that there were currently good relationship with the Islamic community
  - 4.9 Ms Kaufman raised concerns about labelling the person instead of describing the faith.
  - 4.10 It was discussed and agreed that there was a need to ensure that the proposed syllabus was acceptable to the Muslim representative on SACRE, or some other relevant authority, as there had been no Muslim representative on ASC.
  - 4.11 It was agreed that there was a need to acknowledge that vast amounts of time had been spent on this review and the fact that there is no potential to do it again.
  - 4.12 Having reached a consensus, it was agreed that Ms McFadyen take away the points raised and bring the revisions to the January SACRE meeting. the WMG launch would therefore be planned for Summer Term 2020.
  - 4.13 Members agreed to use email as a communication and voting method when there was a need for decisions to be taken outside of meetings.
- 5. SACRE Determinations Policy and Procedure (September 2019)**
- 5.1 Ms McFadyen reminded members that the policy and procedures had been issued at the last meeting, agreement was to bring it back to the meeting to look at it.
  - 5.2 Members discussed if there was a need to re-issue the guidance to all headteachers, and if the guidance was for maintained schools only. It was agreed that it was important to have a clear and updated procedure in place for all schools, regardless of their school type; noting that academies may refer to the document if they wished.
  - 5.3 It was agreed that Ms McFadyen confirm at the next meeting the dates, documents and letters that were issued to schools
  - 5.4 Mr Cooke advised the board that over Christmas and Easter the SACRE/Council tends to receive FOI requests seeking information on how many determinations, how many nativities etc. have been considered by SACRE – to date over the last four years the number was nil.

- 5.5 Members duly noted that the policy and procedures had been considered by the SACRE at autumn meeting, there was an agreed need to ensure that the group agreed a method for a consultation with headteachers.

**6. Agreement of date for ASC (TC)**

- 6.1 This was to be set for June 2020, based on availability of WMG.

**7. Annual Report 2018/2019 (DM)**

- 7.1 Ms McFadyen advised the board that this had been redrafted but needs further work. There was a need to incorporate the confirmed Exam data now this had been validated by the Council.

**Action: Agenda item – Annual report 2018/2019**

**8. HMD 2020 – Verbal update (DM)**

- 8.1 Ms McFadyen had met with Alex and Claudette from the HMD trust, a letter has gone out to all schools, encouraging them to use HMD resources and to contact Alex. Contacted 4 secondary schools if they are.
- 8.2 Members discussed the fact that the Chingford synagogue would be holding an event on the Sunday which will be an open invitation for the Holocaust Memorial.
- 8.3 The council's annual observation would be held on Monday 27 January 2020 with all members invited to attend.

**9. Any Other Business**

**Safeguarding**

Ms McFadyen advised the board that SACRE needs to complete Safeguarding audit. it was agreed that she would email members of SACRE and ask for a link to complete safeguarding.

**Action: Ms McFadyen to share link**

**Outstanding Questions**

How do we judge RE teaching and learning in schools?

What does it look like in schools?

Ms McFadyen advised that she would like to invite Faith and Belief Forum to a future meeting to present this information to SACRE. it was agreed that the costs involved be identified for consideration.

Q - Can we look at the RE commission report in SACRE?

A – Yes, Ms McFadyen would share this.

**10. Date of next and future meetings, and agenda items:**

Spring 2020			
Wednesday 29 January	5.30pm	WF Town Hall – Room 3	RSE Update
Wednesday 25 March	5.30pm	WF Town Hall – Room 3	RSE Update
Summer 2020			
Wednesday 29 April	5.30pm	WF Town Hall – Room 3	RSE Update

Autumn 2019

<b>Autumn 2020</b>			
Wednesday 16 September	5.30pm	Room TBC	
Wednesday 25 November	5.30pm	Room TBC	
<b>Spring 2021</b>			
Wednesday 27 January	5.30pm	Room TBC	
Wednesday 24 March	5.30pm	Room TBC	
<b>Summer 2021</b>			
Wednesday 21 April	5.30pm	Room TBC	
Wednesday 7 July	5.30pm	Room TBC	

Meeting ended at 18:35PM.  
TC wished everyone a lovely Christmas.