MINUTES OF THE AUTUMN TERM MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2018 AT GRAFTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

(10:00 am – 11:30 am)

Present: Ms R K Sahota (Chair)
Ms S Khan
Mr P Wallis (NEU Representative)

Also present: Mrs A Carnelley, Local Authority Representative
Miss J Day, Minute Clerk
Ms C Archard, RE Co-ordinator Grafton Primary School (item 669)

MINUTES – PART 1

664 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Rabbi I Shillor, Mrs J Hoepelman and Ms S Pradhan, Borough Consultant for RE.

665 ELECTION OF CHAIR

The election of the Chair for 2018/19 was deferred until the next meeting due to the low attendance.

Action: Agenda item

666 REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members reviewed the Terms of Reference and Constitution of SACRE and agreed that no changes were required.

667 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2018 were confirmed as a true record.
Arising therefrom the members:

667.1 Membership of SACRE (Minute no. 659.1 refers)

noted that AC would approach local headteacher associations to invite nominations for the primary and secondary headteacher vacancies. It was agreed that the invitations would also be open to Deputy Headteachers, Assistant Headteachers and Curriculum leaders due to the small number of eligible schools in the borough.

JD reported that two new Local Authority Representatives had been appointed to Group D (Councillor Akwaboah and Councillor Saleem) and Councillor Ashraf had resigned.
Members were disappointed by the low attendance at this meeting. It was suggested that a link to the SACRE handbook be sent to members with details of the next meeting. This includes information about the responsibilities of SACRE.

667.2 **Curriculum Monitoring** (Minute no. 660.2 c refers)
were pleased to note that Jo Richardson Community School had been named School of the Year at the Pearson Teaching Awards. RE was found to be embedded in the school’s curriculum.

667.3 **New Syllabus** (Minute no. 661 refers)
were informed that the LA had no funding to purchase a new RE syllabus package, therefore Shareena Pradhan was updating the borough’s Agreed Syllabus.

667.4 **Sikhism Advice for Schools** (Minute no. 662.2 refers)
were informed that Barking Gurdwara was looking for a new person to take over the role for offering advice to schools on Sikhism issues. The Chair will provide contact details when an appointment has been made.

668 **REVIEW OF AGREED SYLLABUS – UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

Members received an update on the progress of the Agreed Syllabus.

The Agreed Syllabus Review took place in the last academic year starting with the Agreed Syllabus Conference. Primary and Secondary working parties had considered the strengths and areas for development in the current Agreed Syllabus.

A strategic outline of topics has been created for all key stages including themed units and units which focus on individual religions. The concept of a “core” curriculum was agreed upon, and the need for additional assessment guidance is being planned for. Assessments should include a skills and content focus.

Schools will be invited to the launch of the new syllabus.

AC suggested drawing up a development plan for SACRE. The draft will be sent to the Chair and it will be circulated to members before the next meeting.

669 **PRESENTATION BY GRAFTON PRIMARY SCHOOL RE CO-ORDINATOR**

Corinne Archard spoke to members about RE provision in Grafton Primary School. The members:

669.1 received a pack with an overview of Religious Education for 2018/19.
669.2 were shown Learning Journals which have been produced for each year group and were impressed by the quality of the children’s work.
669.3 noted the curriculum time allocation guidelines. The school currently provides 1 hour of RE/PSHE per week. Another school is trialling a whole day of RE per term to cover all the learning objectives and this will be considered at Grafton if it is successful.
669.4 were informed that schools would like more contact details for places of worship to visit in the borough. Grafton currently has strong links with the local St Mary’s parish church including clergy assemblies.
noted that there is a shortage of co-ordinator time for updating schemes of work etc. The school tried making time for co-ordinators to observe lessons across the school and this was very useful as it showed how children carry their learning forwards. By Year 6 there were some in depth and respectful debates during lessons. Younger children were very interested in each other’s religions. Members agreed that this demonstrated that although RE is squeezed in the curriculum, the children develop their skills and understanding.  

were informed that book looks showed that there were lots of cross-curricular links, e.g. with English (Macbeth).  

noted that the school is drawing up a database of staff who would be willing to speak to classes about their own faiths.  

were informed that a new school library is being set up and CA has requested an area for RE resources so they can be accessed rather than stored in a cupboard.  

asked where lesson plans had been taken from and were informed that the previous RE Co-ordinator had used the overview from the old Agreed Syllabus to produce lesson plans. These were good but needed to be refreshed. CA will work on this. AC suggested waiting for the guidance which will be in the new Agreed Syllabus.  

noted that celebrations are covered creatively and inclusively, e.g. lots of children wanted to participate in a Diwali lesson, including SEN children who dressed up and joined in dancing.  

would like to see more opportunities for schools to share good practice. They noted that SP was building a network for RE co-ordinators to share their ideas.  

thanked CA for her presentation and expressed their understanding of how difficult it can be to fit everything into the time available.  

Members reviewed the draft Annual Report 2018 which was approved subject to the Chair’s Introduction being updated as necessary.  

Members received details of Religious Education GCSE and A Level results and noted that 948 pupils took GCSE and 85 took A Level exams. They queried Sydney Russell figures which showed that no pupils took any exams in RE. The school also had no information about RE provision on its website when the members undertook curriculum monitoring in the Summer term. members noted that there is a requirement for non-faith academies to teach RE in line with the local Agreed Syllabus. It was therefore suggested that the school be asked about its RE provision.  

It was agreed that AC produce a SACRE development plan for the year ahead. members agreed that they would like to continue meeting in schools to receive presentations from RE co-ordinators. Meetings could also be held in places of worship. PW suggested that the next meeting be held at Sydney Russell School so members
could ask questions about the school’s provision. PW agreed to contact the school to ask if they would be willing to host the Spring Term meeting.

672 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Commission on Religious Education

Members noted that an independent Commission on Religious Education had been established to review the legal, education and policy frameworks for RE. The final report had been published but so far there had been no news from the DfE or Ofsted on future plans for RE.

673 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on Monday 25 February 2019 at 4:00 pm. PW agreed to approach Sydney Russell School to ask if they would agree to host the meeting and provide information about RE provision.