MINUTES OF THE AUTUMN TERM MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2014 AT EASTBURY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

(10.00 am – 11.00 am)

Present: Reverend R Gayler (Chair) Alderman F Jones
Mr P Fing Ms S Khan

Also present: Ms J Dyson, Director’s Representative
Ms S Pradhan, Head of RE, Eastbury Comprehensive School (Borough Adviser for RE)
Miss J Day, (Minute Clerk)

MINUTES – PART 1

544 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted as follows:

- Mr D Dickson
- Reverend L Hillier
- Mrs J Hoepelmann
- Mr M Nicholson
- Ms R Sahota
- Mr J Sowerby

The following members were absent and apologies had not been received:

- Councillor S Ashraf
- Dr B Beheshti
- Reverend S Myers
- Councillor J White

Members noted the small attendance at this meeting. A member asked if more recruitment was needed. The Chair advised that vacancies had been filled but the members had other commitments. It was suggested that the next meeting be held in the afternoon which might be more convenient for school staff. It was agreed that a covering note be sent with the unconfirmed minutes to let members know that they had been missed and it was hoped that they could attend if the next meeting was held later in the day.

Action: J Day, send draft letter to Chair

545 MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE

The members:

545.1 noted that Councillor A S Jamu had resigned from his position as a Local
Authority Representative. The LA would be asked to fill this vacancy.

545.2 were informed that Janet Dyson was attending as Director’s Representative because the Local Authority had not yet appointed a replacement for Anne Pepper.

545.3 were pleased to learn that Sikh representative had been recruited. Ms R Sahota, a teacher at Northbury Primary School, was appointed but was unable to attend this meeting.

545.4 were sorry to learn of the recent death of Miss Vera Reynolds who was previously a long standing member of SACRE.

545.5 also noted the recent closure of the Becontree Synagogue, which will reduce the number of local places of worship for schools to visit.

546 **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2014 were confirmed and signed.

Arising from the minutes the members:

546.1 were informed that Reverend Yousouf Gooljary, Chaplain at Dagenham Park Church of England School, had been nominated to succeed Reverend Gayler as a Church of England Representative. This was subject to confirmation by the Diocesan Director of Education.

546.2 were informed that the establishment of a Junior SACRE was included in the Action Plan for RE which would be presented later in the meeting.

546.3 noted that further information on the RE Quality Mark was included in the Action Plan.

547 **BARKING AND DAGENHAM ACTION PLAN FOR RE**

Shareena Pradhan presented the draft development plan for comments. The members:

547.1 noted the summary of the role of SACRE.

547.2 noted that Janet and Shareena were compiling information including data on RE GCSE and A Level results for inclusion in the SACRE Annual Report.

547.3 were informed that Primary and Secondary RE networking groups were being established to support the implementation of the Barking and Dagenham Agreed Syllabus. Training is to be provided for the successful delivery of the Agreed Syllabus.

547.4 were informed that schools will be supported in applying for the RE Quality Mark. The REQM criteria can be used as a self-evaluation tool. A training session was planned on the REQM application process and the criteria for the different levels of award – bronze, silver and gold. The Chair suggested that the number of schools achieving levels of the REQM would be a good measure for SACRE to use in its monitoring role.
noted that the target date for establishing a Junior SACRE was Spring Term 2015, with the first feedback to SACRE by the Summer Term 2015.

received the Eastbury Comprehensive School Spiritual Calendar as an example of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural provision. Members agreed that the calendar was excellent, covering many faiths and spiritual themes. Each school could adapt the calendar to reflect their local community. Alderman Jones asked if he could share this with Sydney Russell School, where he is a governor, because he would like to see more SMSC provision there. He also thought that the REQM might encourage some schools to offer more.

noted that Shareena will produce a booklet for schools on preparing for visits and visitors. This will include lists of venues and speakers. The Chair asked Mr Fing to request that the Faith Forum invite Shareena to meet them and discuss names and places for the lists.

asked if schools close for religious festivals. They were informed that schools do not close but pupils are allowed one authorised day off per year for religious observance. In the interests of fairness, if more than one day is taken it is counted as unauthorised absence.

noted that Eastbury Comprehensive School achieves good RE results although it is taught for only one hour per week. They would like more schools to run the GCSE course.

affirmed the action plan and thanked Shareena for her work. They could see potential for the significant development of RE in the borough.

recorded their thanks to Mr Dickson, Head of Eastbury School, for his support in allowing Shareena to undertake the RE advisory role.

were informed that the plan will be circulated to schools and will be discussed with Heads of RE.

SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

The members were informed that the draft report was being prepared and would be circulated for their comments before being finalised at the January meeting. The final report will be circulated to all schools and to NASACRE.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no urgent matters to discuss.

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members agree to hold future meetings as follows:
Spring Term 2015  Tuesday 20 January 2015, 1:30 pm, at Eastbury School; Junior SACRE members to be invited

**Action:** Ms Pradhan to invite Junior SACRE

Summer Term 2015  Tuesday 2 June 2015, am or pm and venue to be confirmed. Mr Fing to make enquiries about the availability of the Hindu temple at Stratford.

**Action:** Mr Fing