MINUTES OF THE AUTUMN TERM MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) HELD ON
6 OCTOBER 2015 AT DAGENHAM PARK CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
( 10:00 am – 11:10 am)

Present:  Reverend Y Gooljarjy (Chair)  
Ms R K Sahota (Vice-chair)  
Reverend L Hillier  
Alderman F Jones  (arrived 10.50 am)

Also present:  Ms O Brown, Interim Principal Primary Adviser (Director’s Representative)  
Mr I Starling, Head of School Improvement  
Miss J Day, (Minute Clerk)

MINUTES – PART 1

593  APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted as follows:
  Councillor S Ashraf
  Mr D Dickson
  Mr P Fing
  Mrs J Hoepelman
  Ms S Khan
  Ms S Pradhan
  Mr J Sowerby
  Mrs B Stanley-Hunt

The following member was absent and apologies had not been received:
  Councillor J White

594  ELECTION OF CHAIR

The members elected Reverend Y Gooljary as Chair of SACRE

595  MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2015 were confirmed as a true record.

Arising therefrom the members:

595.1  agreed that the Chair should write to former SACRE members Reverend Roger Gayler and Reverend Stewart Myers to thank them for their service. Opal Brown agreed to find a contact name to invite the local Jewish community to nominate a new representative in place of Reverend Myers.
595.2 were informed that Mr Martin Nicholson had resigned from his position as Primary Headteachers’ Representative. Ms Jo Preston had been appointed to take his place.

595.3 received an extract from the 2015 Ofsted handbook which sets out what inspectors will look for in spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, including the promotion of British values. The Chair also provided members with copies of the Dagenham Park Church of England School statement of British Values. This is published on the school website.

596 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members reviewed the current Terms of Reference. Arising therefrom the members:

596.1 noted that they should produce a three year development plan to guide their work and set objectives for future development. They discussed the current development plan and made the following comments:

a) the plan does not show who is responsible for the objectives, the progress of objectives, nor the dates they should be achieved – the format of the plan should be reviewed.
b) need to ensure that collective worship is included – SACRE has a legal duty to advise the LA on matters related to collective worship.

Reverend Hillier agreed to ask colleagues at the Diocese of Chelmsford for examples of three year plans, and what other SACREs have been doing on collective worship (any examples to be circulated before the next meeting).

Action: Spring Term agenda item to discuss the three year plan; receive any information on collective worship from Diocese of Chelmsford

596.2 noted that they should examine recent Ofsted reports for comments on RE and matters of Social, Moral, Cultural and Spiritual Development. They expected Ofsted to look at these areas in terms of British values and the Prevent duty. The Chair and Vice-chair confirmed that work is being done in schools, e.g. INSET for staff and presentations to pupils by guest speakers. Most schools incorporate RE and SMSC and safeguarding, and they must ensure that there is evidence to be seen by Ofsted inspectors.

596.3 noted the changes in the membership of SACRE since the 2014 annual report was published:

Group A: Reverend Gayler replaced by Reverend Gooljary

Group B: Reverend Myers resigned (Jewish community) – new nomination to be invited

Group C: Mr Nicholson replaced by Ms Preston (Primary Headteacher)

Group D: Councillor Jamu resigned – Lead Member for Education to be asked to nominate a person to fill the vacancy.

596.4 agreed that the Chair should write to members who were absent to ask if they wish to continue as members of SACRE.

Action: Chair to write (addresses to be provided)
ARRANGEMENTS FOR SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Members received copies of the 2014 Annual Report. Ms Brown advised that Ms Pradhan would produce a draft report for approval at the next meeting.

Action: agenda item

RE AT DAGENHAM PARK CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Reverend Gooljary gave a report on RE provision at Dagenham Park Church of England School:

598.1 GCSE results in 2015 – 67% of students achieved A* - C grades; A Level - 98% of students scored A* - E grades.

598.2 73% of students made at least 3 levels of progress. The three year trend was above national for GCSE. 95% of students take GCSE RE and achievement is better than in comparable subjects. Members recorded their congratulations to staff and students on such good results compared to local and national schools.

598.3 Sex and Relationships Education is not part of RE in school. Instead it is part of Personal Development, and the school follows the Christopher Winter Project which is a pan-London scheme. Ms Brown suggested that Jo Caswell be invited to the next meeting to present the LA’s new SRE document.

598.4 10% of the KS4 syllabus is devoted to RE – this is above average. KS3 receive 1 hour’s RE teaching per week which is similar to other schools. The school follows the locally agreed syllabus. KS4 is largely Christian based. KS3 teaches about the six major religions. The secular view is presented where appropriate.

598.5 Collective worship includes four Eucharist services per year. The whole school is covered by year group. There is a weekly tutorial reflection programme. Christian based collective worship is included in assemblies on a weekly basis with KS3 students presenting an appropriate prayer or point for reflection.

598.6 Members asked if there was a subject leader for collective worship. Reverend Gooljary advised that it was his role.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

599.1 Members asked who holds the budget for SACRE and how much had been spent. Mr Starling advised that the budget pays for Ms Pradhan’s advisory work for the borough. Ms Brown agreed to make enquiries with a finance officer.

Action: O Brown

599.2 Members asked how Ofsted inspections can be monitored. Mr Starling suggested that inspection reports could be checked for any reference to RE teaching. These comments are likely to be brief – if any – now that most inspections will be completed in one day.
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members agreed to hold future meetings as follows:

Spring Term 2016  Tuesday 15 March 2016 at Eastbury School
Summer Term 2016  Tuesday 7 June 2016 – it was confirmed that this
meeting would be held at Northbury Primary School

Items for next agenda:

- Draft Annual Report for 2015
- Discuss 3 Year Development Plan
- Receive any information on Collective Worship
- Sex and Relationships presentation by Jo Caswell (early item on agenda)