MINUTES OF THE SUMMER TERM MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) HELD ON 21 JUNE 2017 AT MARITIME HOUSE, BARKING

(10:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Present:  
Ms R K Sahota (Chair)  
Ms A Bassey (representing Pastor Ade Adesina, Power House International Ministries)  
Mr P Fing  
Mr M Goodyear  
Mrs J Hoepelman  
Ms S Khan  
Rabbi I Shillor  
Mrs B Stanley-Hunt (representing Dr Beheshti, Baha’i faith)

Also present:  
Ms S Pradhan, Head of RE, Eastbury Community School (Borough Consultant for RE)  
Ms O Brown, Interim Principal Primary Adviser (Director’s Representative)  
Miss J Day, (Minute Clerk)  
Mr J Lester (Observer, Baha’i faith)

MINUTES – PART 1

638 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

639 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2017 were confirmed as a true record. Arising therefrom the members:

639.1 Membership of SACRE (Minute no. 629 refers)

a) were informed that no nominations for LA Representatives had been received yet. It was agreed that the Chair should draft a letter to be sent to the Cabinet Member for Education with a request to fill the current vacancies.

b) were informed that there had been no reply from the local Secondary Headteachers’ Association regarding help to fill the current vacancy. MG agreed to approach secondary headteachers at the next headteachers’ conference.

c) welcomed Ms Arit Bassey who attended as the representative of Pastor Ade Adesina. Pastor Adesina had been approached because SACRE had identified a lack of representation from local black churches

d) were informed that OB had approached the Faith Forum for assistance in
filling the vacancy for a Church of England representative and would follow up this request. JH offered to contact the Deanery Synod.

e) were informed that SK would ask the local NUT branch for a nomination at its next meeting on 5 July. Other union representatives would also be welcome, and JH agreed to contact the NASUWT.

639.2 **RE Reports** (Minute no. 631.5 refers)

were informed that MG had circulated the template for annual reports on RE provision which should be presented to school governing bodies. Headteachers had been very grateful for the guidance. SP added that she had also been contacted by several schools. Members requested that schools be asked to send copies of their reports to Jo Atkinson (clerical support). MG agreed to ask headteachers to do this.

639.3 **SACRE Attendance** (Minute no. 631.6 refers)

noted that attendance records had been compiled as requested but had not been circulated with the meeting papers. JD agreed to send this information to the Chair after the meeting.

639.4 **Assessment Guidance** (Minute no. 633.3 refers)

asked for the assessment guidance to be available on the website for schools to access.

639.5 **Remembering the Holocaust and Srebrenica** (Minute no. 634 refers)

agreed that as it had not been possible for the group to view the on-line video made for the 21st anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, the link should be emailed to members so they could watch in their own time. SK to provide JA with the link for distribution.

640 **REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members reviewed the terms of reference and agreed the following amendments:

- All references to QCA to be replaced with DfE
- In section Publicising the work of SACRE, change “Make an annual presentation to the Assembly of the council…” to “Offer an annual presentation…”

Members agreed that it should be made clear that observers can attend SACRE meetings. SP to email RE Co-ordinators to let them know dates of meetings, and the dates to appear on the website. SACRE minutes to be published on the website if not already done. It may be necessary to consider meeting in larger venues if observers attend.

641 **REVIEW OF SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Members agreed to add preparation for the new Agreed Syllabus in the development plan. Two working groups (Primary and Secondary) to be set up to look at the current syllabus and consider what changes are necessary. For example, primary schools
have been asking for more detailed guidance similar to a scheme of work.

SP reported that the existing development plan was progressing, e.g. the progression of support for schools. Because each school has different needs, SP has been meeting heads of RE individually rather than in groups. This has been successful.

REVIEW OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS

Members noted that there is a five year review cycle for the local Agreed Syllabus. The current syllabus was launched in 2012. SP suggested that no major amendments would be necessary because the current syllabus works well. Some changes would be needed to reflect the changes in GCSE grades, and teachers would like more guidance on questions to ask. The previous syllabus was more prescriptive. MG suggested providing an appendix with more structure and detail for teachers to use if required. The assessment guidance could also be added.

SP agreed to work with groups of primary and secondary teachers in the Autumn Term before bringing a draft to the Spring Term meeting. OB advised that a budget was available to pay for any additional time or support for SP to work on the syllabus, e.g. support from school heads of department.

It was agreed:

- MG to email headteachers inviting them to nominate representatives for the working parties (e.g. RE co-ordinators);
- SACRE members may also join the working parties – RKS and SK expressed an interest in taking part;
- SP to look at the timetable to estimate the additional hours involved – do additional personnel or extra hours for SP need to be bought in?
- Working parties to produce a draft by early Spring Term 2018 for review by SACRE;
- SACRE confirm new syllabus in the first half of the Summer Term 2018 ready for launch later in the term. Suitable venue required, e.g. Ripple Primary School, Jo Richardson Community School. Launch to include involvement of pupils so afternoon event preferred.

Suggested points for the review included:

- Update to reflect assessment changes;
- GCSE content changes – e.g. requirement for more independent learning and debate of different scriptures;
- Guidance for non-specialist teachers in dealing with pupils’ questions;
- Need to reflect changes in borough population and ensure that the syllabus is relevant;
- Focus on tolerance and respect for different religions, RE is not about teaching children to follow a particular religion. Schools are expected to respond to islamophobia, anti-Semitism etc. that they become aware of.

Members asked why each LA must have its own syllabus and OB advised that this was currently under review. It was felt that the LBBD syllabus would be suitable to use
in any LA area. MG added that many schools are likely to join Multi Academy Trusts in the next few years and will no longer be required to follow the National Curriculum. RE is already under pressure and would not be a protected subject. There could be risks if a trust sponsor wished to promote a particular faith.

643 UPDATES FROM NASACRE AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

643.1 SP reported that she would be attending a course for RE subject advisers to discuss changes for RE, e.g. effects of academisation.

643.2 NASACRE Annual Conference took place in January. Discussions included assessment changes, celebration of RE, and GCSE content changes (e.g. more analytical look at scriptures instead of just knowledge). Also discussed RE Quality Mark – would like to encourage more schools to apply for this, some funds may be available to help with the cost.

644 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Church of England Representation

JH reported that she is no longer a member of the Deanery Synod and does not work in a Church of England school now – she was willing to step down from being a Church of England Representative if others were available. Members agreed that they were happy for JH to continue in her current role as there were no other Church of England representatives in post at present. JH agreed to ask the Deanery Synod for nominations to fill the vacancies.

645 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members agreed to hold future meetings as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autumn Term</td>
<td>Tuesday 21 November 2017</td>
<td>Include draft Annual Report. OB to approach schools to host meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Term</td>
<td>Tuesday 6 February 2018</td>
<td>Include draft Agreed Syllabus. Suggest meeting to be held in a primary school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Term</td>
<td>Tuesday 22 May 2018</td>
<td>Finalise Agreed Syllabus. Meet in a place of worship if possible.</td>
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All meetings to be held 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Agreed Syllabus launch – suggested date 26 June 2018, 1:30 pm, venue to be confirmed.