



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 6 NOVEMBER 2014

### **Members**

**Group A:** *Dr Bernard Arambepola*, Michael Blundell, Margaret Carr, *Robert Cawley*, *Revd. John-Edmund Hookway*, Muhammad Ibrahim, *Rabbi Yuval Keren*, *Revd. Martin Legg*, Rabbi Emanuel Levy, *Anne McNeill*, Navaratnam Shanmuganathan, *Revd. Trevor Smith*, Rubbina Umar (Vice-Chair), *Dr H. Hakan Yildirim*, vacancy x 2

**Group B:** *Revd. Ian Croft*, Sandra Channon, *Revd. Gordon Giles*, Margaret Hobbs (Chair), *Diana Stansall*, Lyn Hargreaves, vacancy x 1

**Group C:** Frances Chapman, *Naomi Franks*, Sabah Raza, *James Upton*, vacancy x 4

**Group D:** Cllr Nesimi Erbil, Cllr Eric Jukes, Cllr Bernie Lappage, *Cllr Michael Rye*, *Deborah Thompson*, *Jenny Tosh*

*Italics denotes absence*

### **Also Attending**

David Burrowes MP

Israfil Erbil - Observer

Anna Sallnow – RE Consultant

Clara Seery - Deputy Head of School Improvement & Intervention Manager

Lucia Silva-Clark – RE Teacher, Enfield Grammar School

Pauline Swain – SACRE Administrator

Janet Balfour - Minute Clerk

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members were welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Group A: *Dr Bernard Arambepola*, *Robert Cawley*, *Rev John-Edmund Hookway*, *Rabbi Yuval Keren* and *Anne McNeill*;

Group B: *Naomi Franks*;

Group C: *Diana Stansall*;

Group D: *Cllr Michael Rye*, *Deborah Thompson* and *Jenny Tosh*;

*Haydar Ulus* – *Alevi Community co-opted representative*.

**NOTED** that the SACRE recognised the importance of members' attendance at meetings to ensure that the essential work of the SACRE was completed effectively. It was therefore recognised that if individual members found it difficult to attend meetings, they may wish to consider whether an alternative member of their community would be able to take on the role.

### **2. MEMBERSHIP**

**REPORTED** the appointment of Frances Chapman, Assistant Headteacher at Capel Manor Primary School, to Group C. Ms Chapman was welcomed to the SACRE and her first meeting.

### 3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JUNE 14**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 14 were confirmed as a correct record and the opportunity taken to thank those responsible for excellent minuting throughout the year.

### 4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The following issues arose through consideration of the Minutes' Action Points:

(a) **Membership** (Minute No. 2)

**REPORTED** that letters of thanks had been sent to Cllr Brett, Cllr During, Cllr Kaye and Cllr Zinkin for their previous support of the work of the SACRE.

(b) **Roma Community Representative** (Minute No. 4(b))

**NOTED** that Cllr Lappage had raised the issue of whether a Roma community representative would be able to attend a future SACRE meeting to provide a presentation regarding their community with Cllr Brett and was awaiting her response.

**RESOLVED** to receive an update regarding this issue at the next meeting of the SACRE.

**ACTION: CLLR LAPPAGE**

(c) **RE: Realising the Potential - Assessment Pack** (Minute No. 4(c))

**NOTED** that the pack had been forwarded to Sabah Raza and Lynn Hargreaves for their consideration. Ms Raza confirmed that the pack was extremely useful and would provide an excellent resource and so would be forwarded to Schools.

The SACRE thanked Ms Sallnow for the production of the Assessment Pack.

(d) **Locally Agreed Syllabus** (Minute No. 6)

**REPORTED** that

- (i) the letters sent to Chairs of Governors of primary and secondary schools from the School Improvement Service regarding the findings and recommendations of the report "Religious Education the Truth Unmasked" had been made available on the SACRE Website;
- (ii) the Local Authority had been requested to include an RE Governor session in its 2014/15 Governors' Training programme. A date for this session had not yet been identified.

**RESOLVED** to confirm the date for an RE training session in the 2014-15 Governors' Training programme, once agreed.

**ACTION: DEBORAH THOMPSON**

(e) **Enfield Locally Agreed Syllabus** (Minute No. 6(e))

**REPORTED** that Faith representatives had been invited to consider the Enfield Locally Agreed Syllabus Schemes of Work and identify any required revisions or additions.

**NOTED** that

- (i) Ms Hobbs was currently considering the Christian Schemes of Work and Ms Umar was reviewing the Islamic Schemes of Work;
- (ii) for clarity it was confirmed that the Faith representatives were considering the content of the Schemes for accuracy and appropriate balance and to identify any omissions. The Schemes would then be reviewed by professionals to ensure they reflected current teaching pedagogies.

**RESOLVED** that Faith representatives provide feedback regarding the content of their faith's Schemes of Work by the next meeting of the SACRE, 3 February 2015.

**ACTION: FAITH REPRESENTATIVES**

## BUSINESS ITEMS

Improving standards in religious education and collective worship

### 5. **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP GUIDANCE**

#### **REPORTED**

- (a) that the SACRE was responsible for overseeing the provision of Collective Worship in maintained schools. It had previously produced Collective Worship guidance for schools, but this was now in need of review and revision to ensure that it was fit for purpose;
- (b) it was a legal requirement for all maintained schools to undertake daily acts of Collective Worship which were “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”;
- (c) when producing its previous guidance the Enfield SACRE had highlighted the importance of collective worship being inclusive;
- (d) Members had previously discussed the most effective mechanism for reviewing the SACRE's Collective Worship guidance and agreed:
  - the current Guidance would be forwarded to SACRE members for their consideration and comments and discussion could also be undertaken through the secure section of the SACRE's Website;
  - SACRE members would undertake school visits to observe examples of Collective Worship to inform discussion, where possible;
  - further review and discussion of the Guidance would be undertaken through group work at a meeting of the SACRE.

Members divided into three groups to discuss the Collective Worship document in light of the following questions:

- How do we define “worship”? What would we expect to be the elements of this? Review and feedback any amendments to page 2 (first section) and pages 4-5.
- What is a “broadly Christian character” and “broad traditions of Christian belief”? What are the key problems with this in a school and a multi-faith context, for which we need to offer guidance? How can we include what school traditionally seem to want in “Assemblies”? Review and feedback any amendments to Page 2 (second section) and Pages 6, 43 and 44.
- Why should schools be involved in spiritual development? What are the educational intentions of Collective Worship? What skills and capacities should it involve? Review and feedback any amendments to Page 3 and 7.

**RESOLVED** to continue the meeting's discussions electronically. An email would be sent to all SACRE members inviting comments on the guidance and involvement in the work to revise the Collective Worship guidance document.

**ACTION: CHAIR**

## **6. AN UPDATE FROM WESTMINSTER**

David Burrowes MP, was welcomed to the meeting. Mr Burrowes was a member of the All Party Parliamentary Group for RE (APPG) and had previously been a member of the Enfield SACRE. As such he very much respected the work the SACRE undertook and the challenges it faced. He stressed that he considered it very important to hear the views of SACRE members. In addition Mr Burrowes had been a School Governor in a variety of settings and different contexts.

Mr Burrowes explained that he had been speaking to the Minister responsible for the RE Curriculum who was working to encourage the Government to help improve religious literacy. There was general concern regarding the lack of religious literacy in society which could in turn contribute to examples of extremism. How these issues were addressed could affect all of society. Mr Burrowes felt that religion was relevant to everyone and it affected wide and various aspects of life. It was therefore very important for people to understand religion and its context. Schools were key to helping people understand religion through the provision of quality RE, it was therefore important that there were the tools available to provide this i.e through quality teachers and a quality curriculum.

**REPORTED** that

- (a) there had been considerable concern amongst colleagues and members of the APPG regarding the possible impact of the E-Baccalaureate on RE; that it would reduce take-up of the subject and/or impact on the number of specialist RE teachers available. A further issue of concern was the RE GCSE – it was essential that there was a good offer. Mr Burrowes was therefore pleased to inform the SACRE that the next day there would be an announcement regarding the launch of a new Religious Studies GCSEs, AS and A levels qualifications for 2016 and he urged SACRE Members to consider the recommendations in detail, to respond to the consultation and also feedback their views on the announcement to him.

**NOTED** that there was a desire in Government to ensure that there was a more robust RE offer. The new GCSE would include:

- more robust textual analysis;
- broad study of the major religions with an in-depth focus on two of these – involving study of scripture and text and how the faiths tackle philosophical and ethical issues.

- (b) the Government had confirmed that 'British values' should be taught in every school: 'Freedom, tolerance and respect for the rule of law and UK institutions': This aimed at stopping radicalisation. At the Enfield Governors' Conference on 23 October, Nicky Morgan had been keen to reassure Governors that this initiative should not be an issue for the majority of schools which already promoted basic British values of tolerance and respect for each other;

**NOTED** that how Ofsted would be addressing this requirement still needed to be clarified and the Minister was looking into some voiced concerns about how it would work in practise.

Mr Burrowes invited questions from SACRE members.

- (i) Ms Silva-Clark asked if the Government intended to take action against those schools not fulfilling the statutory requirement to teach RE.

Mr Burrowes confirmed that there were no proposed changes to the statutory requirements and identified the need to ensure that Ofsted applied this requirement. There was an issue surrounding custom and practise. However, it was anticipated that a good GCSE offer would have a positive impact on RE provision with improved take up and an increased supply of specialist teachers. It was anticipated that this increased quality provision and seeing good practise would encourage schools to fulfil their statutory requirements.

- (ii) Rabbi Levy highlighted Jewish schools' concerns regarding recent intrusive Ofsted visits and that there appeared to be a misunderstanding of Jewish spiritual and moral standards, which did not clash with 'British values'.

Mr Burrowes accepted that there had been some recent unfortunate examples of Ofsted Inspections of Jewish schools and the Secretary of State had assured him that this issue was being investigated.

Although there was currently some defensiveness regarding the idea of promoting 'British values', instead this should be considered as a significant opportunity. The Minister was passionate about quality RE and how this could be linked with promoting British values. Mr Burrowes considered that SACREs could have a key role in promoting British Values.

- (iii) Mr Ibrahim noted that in his experience schools were increasingly Ofsted driven and that this could have negative repercussions. For example, the focusing upon E-Baccalaureate subjects or the disproportionate time focus upon English and Maths to the detriment of the Every Child Matters Agenda or the reduction in the Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development aspects. There was therefore a concern that in some schools RE was being squeezed out of the curriculum. However, RE provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to grow into confident citizens and a quality RE provision could enable pupils to serve themselves and the country positively in the future.

Mr Ibrahim therefore recommended that a school should not be able to be judged above 'Good' following an Ofsted Inspection if it did not meet the requirements of the Locally Agreed RE Syllabus.

Mr Burrowes thanked Mr Ibrahim for this suggestion and agreed to feed this back to Westminster. If there was such a requirement, it would help ensure that all schools put RE and religious awareness at the centre of school life.

Revd Gordon Giles considered that this recommendation if adopted could be a valuable support for the work of the SACRE.

**NOTED** that if there was a requirement to comply with the Locally Agreed RE Syllabus then it would help to put RE and religious awareness at the centre of school life

Mr Burrowes asked about the relationship between the SACRE and Enfield Academies and Free Schools. The Chair confirmed that the SACRE sent information and offers of support to Academies and Free schools, but these had not been yet been taken up.

- (iv) Ms Raza asked a question on behalf of RE Subject Leaders, whether the 1944 law, which allowed pupils to opt out of RE, was going to be removed as it was considered that this provision was a contradiction of what RE was about. Originally it was mainly Jehovah Witness pupils who opted out of RE lessons, but now there was an increasing number of Muslim pupils being withdrawn from RE lessons or RE trips.

Mr Burrows replied that there was no plan to change the 1944 rule, in fact some were discussing whether the teaching of RE should be statutory. However, he agreed it was a concern if it was increasing isolation.

Mr Ibrahim noted that in 1944 religious instruction had been confessional, but now in non faith schools it was illegal to teach RE confessionally; it must be inclusive. The 1944 ruling was therefore no longer necessary in today's society.

Mr Burrows agreed to refer the issue back to his colleagues.

**RESOLVED** that SACRE members consider the proposed new RE GCSEs, AS and A levels qualifications, respond to the formal consultation and also feedback views/comments to Mr Burrows.

**ACTION: ALL MEMBERS**

Mr Burrows then invited SACRE members to attend a discussion on International Religious Freedom with himself and Lord Alton on 26 November at 8 pm, held at Southgate College.

Mr Burrows was thanked for attending the meeting.

## **7. PRIMARY RE CO-ORDINATOR WORKSHOP**

**REPORTED** that the next Primary RE Co-ordinator Workshop was scheduled for 2 December 14 and the focus for the session would be the RE Quality Mark. The session would raise the profile of the REQM and encourage schools to undertake the self-evaluation process as a mechanism for improving RE in schools. Schools could achieve a Gold, Silver or Bronze REQM, but the commitment required to obtain Gold was significant.

**NOTED** that

- (a) Firs Farm Primary School had recently been awarded the Gold RE Quality Mark and Ms Raza would be sharing examples of good practice at the Workshop;
- (b) Ms Raza was working with a Senior Lecturer at Middlesex University, based at Hendon, who would be attending Enfield NQT sessions. Ms Raza would, in turn, attend sessions at Hendon;
- (c) in the Spring Term Ms Raza had arranged a visit for RE Co-ordinators at the British Museum focusing upon original religious texts.

Ms Raza was congratulated on the award gained by the pilot initiative at Firs Farm Primary School.

## INFORMATION ITEMS Improving SACRE's effectiveness

## **8. NASACRE AND AREIAC JOINT ONE DAY CONFERENCE**

**REPORTED** that a joint one day conference to explore the impact on RE, SMSC and collective worship was to be held on 27 November 2014 in Birmingham. The conference would provide

an opportunity to raise and explore very relevant issues and consider strategies that schools and SACREs may wish to pursue in light of future Ofsted inspections.

**NOTED** that Ms Anna Sallnow would be attending the Conference and agreed to feedback to SACRE members on the issues discussed.

## **9. HOLOCAST MEMORIAL DAY 27 JANUARY 2015**

**REPORTED** that the theme for the 2015 Holocaust Memorial Day was “Keep the memory alive”. It would mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and 2014 was also the 20th anniversary of the Genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia, so the theme of keeping the memory alive was an important one.

**NOTED** that

- (a) Ms Sallnow would be producing two packs to support the Holocaust Memorial Day, for secondary and primary schools. The packs would be sent to SACRE members before Christmas and to all schools at the beginning of the Spring Term 2015;
- (b) the packs would include contributions from:
  - a Kindertransport Rabbi;
  - A Holocaust survivor
  - two students who had visited Auschwitz – who would reflect upon how the trip had affected them;
- (c) Rabbi Levy confirmed that it was intended for a Holocaust survivor to attend and speak at the event.

## **10. INTER FAITH WEEK**

**REPORTED** that Inter Faith Week was taking place between 16 to 22 November. The week would be launched at a high profile meeting in London on 13 November at which NASACRE would have a presence. The aims of the Week included:

- strengthening good inter faith relations at all levels;
- increasing awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and wider society;
- increasing understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

**NOTED** that

- (a) it was queried whether SACRE provided any Inter Faith materials for schools. In response it was confirmed that Inter Faith Week focused mainly upon events within communities rather than in schools, although schools may wish to become involved, for example through lunchtime student debates. The SACRE supported a variety of events in schools during Celebrating RE Week in order to promote RE in schools;
- (b) the Enfield Faith Forum was holding an Interfaith Week quiz, the details of which were available on the Inter Faith Website;
- (c) Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church was holding an Interfaith Community Event on Saturday 25 October, 10am- 4pm: Coming together through Art, Poetry, Drama, Dance and Music: fun, faith and food.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(a) SACRE Annual Report Summary 2013-2014

**RECEIVED** the draft Annual Report Summary 2013-14, a copy of which is included in the Minute Book. It was a requirement for SACRE to publish an annual report on its functions and actions, particularly specifying any advice, its nature and reasons for giving the advice to the Local Authority. Once agreed the Report would be submitted to the NASACRE.

**REPORTED** that

- (i) in 2013-14 there had been the highest number of students achieving a nationally recognised qualification at GCSE in RE since 2008, which was very encouraging; “It is encouraging that the majority of our non-denominational secondary schools are delivering our pupils’ entitlement to Religious Education with the endorsement of a national qualification, and that the pupils are achieving so well”;
- (ii) supporting information would be made available on the SACRE’s Website.

**RESOLVED** to agree the report subject to

- resolving inconsistencies in SACRE members’ personal titles on the back page;
- other amendments notified, and agreed, by the Chair by 14 November 14.

**ACTION: SACRE MEMBERS & CHAIR**

(b) Funding Grants

**REPORTED** that the SACRE had previously identified the possibility of applying for grant funding to undertake RE projects in Enfield to support and promote the delivery of high quality RE. For example, submitting a bid to the NASACRE Westhill Awards 2014/15, which had a March deadline.

Ms Sallnow had identified that successful Westhill awards often included projects directly involving young people and had suggested that the SACRE could develop a project to enable secondary students to visit primary schools to talk about their faith. SACRE members considered that such a project would enhance community and faith groups links with schools, supporting its work to promote community cohesion and religious and racial harmony. It also involved valuable secondary and primary links.

**NOTED** that

- (i) such a project would require the support of secondary school staff and the requirement for such a project to be inclusiveness was stressed;
- (ii) if a bid was successful, the funding (up to £2000) could be used to support a pilot project funding the purchase of resources, artefacts, identification and travel requirements. If the pilot project was successful it could then be extended across the borough;
- (iii) it was considered that Year 7 and 8 pupils should be involved in the project;
- (iv) to maximise effectiveness Ms Sallnow suggested that a joint Enfield/Barnet project be pursued;
- (v) the SACRE may also wish to investigate other possible funding opportunities, for example the Jack Petchy Awards;

- (vi) if other funding opportunities arose, the SACRE may wish to consider providing Conference and Seminars for teachers led by quality external speakers on matters of interest for RE teachers.

**RESOLVED** that

- (A) a draft Westhill Awards funding bid be produced for consultation with SACRE Members;

**ACTION: ANNA SALLNOW**

- (B) if the bid was successful the SACRE would then agree the details and implementation of the project.

**12. SACRE MEETING DATES**

**NOTED** that future meetings were scheduled for:

- Tuesday 3 February 15 at 5.30pm;
- Thursday 18 June 15 at 5.30 pm;
- Thursday 12 November 15 at 5.30 pm.