

Representatives of the LEA

Councillors: * Anjana Patel (2) * Ismail (1)
* Choudhury

Representatives of Christian and Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

* Revd. D Beckwith * Mrs Martha Besser † Mrs N Desai * Mrs P Gan-Kotwal * Mrs M Hale * Envoy B Haylock * Mrs S Imani Dr V Kapashi	* Mr P. Singh Kohli * Cllr D Lavingia * Cllr A Omar † Mrs P Perinparaja Prof. H Singh * Mrs P. Wearing * Mrs Z Jaffer
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Representatives of the Church of England

* Mrs M. Abbott † Dr Katherine Pinching

Representatives of Teachers

† Mrs L Bedford * Mr M Bishop Mrs S. Catton	* Revd. Dr. S Thompson
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Co-opted Members

Mr A Aggarwal Mr Z Baig	* Ms P. Stevens (Humanist Vacancy)
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Adviser to the Council, Nominated by the Director of Education

* Mr P O'Dwyer

Visitors

* Mrs Ling Dee (Falun Gong) * Mrs Dattoo (Husaini Centre)	* Mrs Gill Roberts (Curriculum Leader PSHE)
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* Denotes Member present
 † Denotes apologies received
 (1), (2) Denote Category of Reserve Member

[Please Note: Councillor Ray attended this meeting in a participatory role, on behalf of Councillor Stephenson.]

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL

PART II - MINUTES

41. **Attendance of Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note the attendance of the following Reserve Members:

<u>Ordinary Member</u> Councillor Mrs Champagne Councillor Gate	<u>Reserve Member</u> Councillor Anjana Patel Councillor Ismail
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42. **Declarations of Interest:**

It was queried whether Members should declare membership of school governing bodies. This was not the usual practice; nevertheless Cllr Ismail, Cllr Choudhury, Cllr Ray, Cllr Patel and Pat Stevens declared that they were school governors at Whitchurch Middle, Kingsley High, Vaughan and St John's Middle Schools respectively. Following discussion it was;

RESOLVED: (1) That the above declarations of interest be noted;

(2) That the Chair would approach the Committee Administrator to clarify whether it was necessary for Members to declare interests in relation to their appointments as school governors.

43. **Welcome:**

The Chair, Pat Stevens, welcomed Members of the Council, Cllr Ray, Gill Roberts, and two new Members of SACRE who were joining the Council as representatives of Christian and other Religious Denominations and Faiths (see minute 45a).

44. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on the 11 March 2003 having been circulated, were signed as a correct record subject to the following amendments: It be noted that Mr M Bishop had sent apologies for his absence, Dr Katherine Pinching's name was spelt incorrectly and the meeting had closed at 9.30pm.

45. **Matters Arising:**

Membership

The Ba'hai representative, Soussan Imani, who was attending her last meeting before moving to Australia, thanked Members for their support. She introduced Mrs Martha Besser, who would be Mrs Imani's replacement on SACRE. Mr Paramjit Singh Kohli was also welcomed as a new Sikh representative. It was reported that the Jewish representative, Mrs Suzanne Lynne had resigned. The Chair informed Members that she had written to the Deputies of British Jews requesting a Jewish representative. The Council were informed that Mrs Zaitun Virani and Sylvia Daniels had also resigned. The Chair informed the meeting she would write to the London Diocesan Board for Schools, regarding a Church of England replacement.

RESOLVED: That the Chair write to the appropriate bodies, as outlined above, to invite them to nominate representatives to SACRE.

Connexions Awayday

The Council was informed of the Connexions service that provided advice and counselling for school pupils and young people who had left school.

Collective Worship

The Chair informed the Council that the updated guidelines would be distributed to schools before the end of term.

Harrow Interfaith Council

The Chair showed the Council some beautiful pieces of work by schools and faith communities, which had been distributed at the 'Spring for Peace' festival. The material would be mounted as an exhibition which would be available to libraries, Churches and other venues.

46. **Determinations:**

The Chair reminded Members that schools could apply to SACRE for a 'determination' which would exempt them from the requirement to hold collective worship that was wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Mr Bishop, a governor at Whitmore High School, which had had a 'determination' for approximately 10 years, explained that, although he had had reservations when the school initially requested a 'determination', he now felt that it had been a positive step, which had produced new and interesting ideas. The pupils assembled either in year groups or as upper and lower school for collective worship, different themes of a non-overtly religious and moral nature were often raised. Pupils were encouraged to reflect on these ideas.

Mr Thompson advised the meeting that there was an 'Assemblies Working Party' at his school which chose topics. There was also an interfaith group which was to be involved in assemblies. He hoped that eventually all faith groups would take part.

RESOLVED: To note there were no new determinations for discussion at this meeting.

47. **Religious Education, Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship**

The National Curriculum and RE

The Chair, in her capacity as an Education Adviser, explained that Members had worked on an agreed syllabus for Religious Education (RE). This had two attainment targets. The first was learning about religions, including key points and values, and the second was learning from religions – in which life issues are discussed. The syllabus included codes of conduct for several different religions, which were similar to issues discussed in personal, social and health education. The aim of 'learning from religions' was to highlight the relevance of religious teachings to the 21st century.

The Chair also explained that there were core subjects that all pupils from Reception to Year 11 must study. These were English, Mathematics, Science, Citizenship, Religious Education, Personal Social and Health Education and Physical Education (PSHE). It was hoped that the RE provided at school would enhance any religious education provided in the child's faith community and at home. However it was noted that parents retained the right to withdraw their child from RE. The Chair also highlighted the often close relationship between RE and other subjects such as PSHE, Citizenship, History, Geography, Art and Music.

PSHE and Sex and Relationship Education

Gill Roberts (Curriculum Leader PSHE), explained that there were non-statutory frameworks for PSHE, the main emphasis being on developing safe and healthy lifestyles and respecting differences. The meeting were informed that Brent and Harrow had been accredited to the National Healthy Schools initiative. This scheme encouraged a holistic approach to healthy living for both children and staff. It was reported that ten Harrow schools had been validated to the scheme and a further 20 were working towards it. A key part of the Healthy Schools initiative was a sex and relationship programme as there is concern regarding levels of teenage pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. It was indicated that the Sex and Relationship LEA Policy would be revised in the light of the following documents (which had been circulated): *Sex and Relationship Guidance (DfES 2000)*, *Ofstead Survey of Sex and Relationship in Schools and material by the Department of Health and the Pregnancy Unit*. It was noted that the Sex and Relationship Policy needed to reflect the multi-faith community in Harrow.

There was a wide-ranging discussion about appropriate approaches to Sex and Relationship Education. Members requested to be involved in the draft of the Sex and Relationship Policy. Gill Roberts agreed to liaise with the Chair and present material to the next meeting so that it could be discussed in more detail, perhaps in small faith groups. It was also agreed that the details about the proposed Sex and Relationships syllabus would be tabled at the next SACRE meeting. The Chair thanked Gill Roberts for her contribution.

Citizenship

Patrick O'Dwyer (General Education Adviser for Humanities, including Citizenship) explained that Citizenship had only been on the National Curriculum since 2002. He tabled a syllabus outline. The close links between RE and Citizenship were illustrated and discussed. The Chair thanked Patrick O'Dwyer for his contribution and agreed to circulate the tabled documents with the minutes.

48. **Correspondence:**

The Qualifications and Curriculum Agency (QCA)

The Council were informed that the QCA had published a report on a non-statutory framework for RE. Currently each LEA followed a syllabus for RE agreed by the local Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education every 5 years. After some research, the QCA had concluded that it was desirable to have a National framework for a National RE Syllabus but that this would be non-statutory and would not replace locally agreed syllabuses. Members noted that the Harrow RE Syllabus would be revised in 2005 and any new national framework would be consulted as available.

Interfaith Network

There had been some correspondence regarding links between SACRE and the Interfaith Network.

49. **News from the Faith Communities Mrs Ling Dee of Falun Gong:**

Mrs Dee explained to Members that Falun Gong was not a religion but a belief or way of life based on 5 sets of gentle, slow exercises, similar to Tai Chi. The key points were truthfulness, compassion and forbearance. She informed the meeting that Falun Gong

had 100 million followers in 60 countries, having been founded by Mr Li Hong Zhi in China in 1992. Mrs Dee told the meeting that although the Chinese government was originally very supportive of the movement, since 1999 many followers in China had been persecuted and sent to labour camps and mental hospitals. There then followed a discussion about Falun Gong. Mrs Dee tabled literature and said she was happy to introduce anyone who was interested to local groups. The Chair thanked Mrs Dee for her helpful contribution.

50. **Any Other Business:**

Parking

Mr Mike Bishop reported that local Christians had been concerned regarding the proposal to charge for parking on Sundays. He was concerned that this would adversely affect local churches, especially people who could not use public transport. There was also a proposal to increase the hours for permit parking to 8.30pm, affecting evening functions including social events.

RESOLVED: That the Chair write to the Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel on behalf of SACRE to express the view that there should not be parking restrictions near places of worship during principal times of worship.

Harrow Baptist Church

Mr Mike Bishop explained that there were proposals for the old Harrow Post Office site including Harrow Baptist Church in College Road, to be redeveloped. There was concern by local Christians that there was no provision in the new plans for a Christian centre. It was further noted that Harrow Baptist Church currently provided social support for the community which would also be lost if the church was to move.

RESOLVED: That the Chair write, on behalf of SACRE, to the Chief Planning Officer, copying the letter to the Chair of Development Control Committee (formerly known as the Planning committee), Cllr Miles, the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition asking that developers should retain provision for a place of worship at the redeveloped site.

An International Evening of Faith

This event, held at Hatch End High School, was reported as a success. Seven different faiths had been represented with original language music and dance. Next year the faith groups planned to present playlets to represent aspects of the different religions. Members of the Council were asked for suitable material to be passed to Hatch End High School via the Chair of SACRE.

Annual Cardinal Bell Memorial Lecture

Pam Wearing reported on the Annual lecture, which, this year, had been about the Holocaust, and commented on how it had led to life changing understanding in individual pupils.

Tranquillity Zone

The Ba'hai members advised that they organise a Tranquillity Zone event from 7.30 - 8.30pm on the last Thursday of each month at Northwick Park Hospital Chapel.

51. **Dates of Future Meetings:**

The Chair informed the meeting that the Annual SACRE lecture was due to take place in Autumn 2003. The Chair had identified the following dates that did not coincide with key festivals: 13, 17, 19 and 20 November. The meeting agreed that the Chair should suggest these dates to the speaker, who, this year is to be Mr Barney Leith, a member of the Ba'hai community. The Council also suggested 'Building one World' as a suitable topic.

RESOLVED: That the following dates for future meetings of SACRE be noted: -

17 September 2003
11 December 2003
11 March 2004

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 9.55 pm).

(Signed) PAT STEVENS
Chair