

54. **Attendance of Reserve Members:**

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

Ordinary Member

Councillor Mrs Champagnie

Councillor Gate

Reserve Member

Councillor Janet Cowan

Councillor Nana Asante

55. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note the following declarations of interest:

Ms Pat Stevens, Mr Mike Bishop, Cllr Cowan and Cllr Ray declared interests by nature of their position as governors at St John's Middle School, Whitmore High School, Belmont First and Middle School, and Kingsley High School, respectively.

56. **Welcome:**

The Chair welcomed Members of the Council, including Cllr Ray as a visitor, Dr Katherine Pinching as a Church of England Representative, and Michelle Chard who attended as acting clerk.

57. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 12 June 2003 were signed as a correct record.

58. **Matters Arising:**Membership

A current membership list was circulated and Members noted that Mr Ray Crocker had agreed to join SACRE. Ms Pat Stevens advised the Council that a number of vacancies, which she was actively seeking to fill, remained for the Jewish Representatives, an additional Church of England Representative, the Religious Education subject leaders and to the British Humanist Association.

Collective Worship

The Council was informed that the Collective Worship document was presently being printed, and those schools needing determination renewals at the 11 December 2003 meeting had been sent draft copies.

Sunday Parking

The Chair informed the Council that she had written to the Traffic and Safety Advisory Panel regarding Sunday parking restrictions outside places of worship, but had yet to receive a reply.

Harrow Baptist Church

The Chair confirmed that a letter had been sent to Cllr Miles concerning the proposed redevelopment of Harrow Baptist Church. This letter had been acknowledged and the matter was currently under debate.

Drama based on Harrow's faiths – material for Hatch End High School

Dr S Thompson requested material from each faith to include in Hatch End High School's drama presentation later in the year. This could be in the form of play scripts, music or dance.

59. **Determinations:**

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

60. **SACRE Lecture – Building One World – Thursday 13 November 2003:**
The Chair circulated an information sheet with full details on the annual SACRE lecture, which would be by the National Secretary for the Bahai Council, the Hon. Barnabas Leith. The poster was to be circulated to all schools, libraries and community centres.
61. **Portfolio of Religious Education & Opportunities for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development 2002-2003**
The Chair circulated an interim report outlining the progress in this subject area to date. The previous year's figures up to the end of July 2002 were also discussed and compared. The Council were informed that Harrow schools performance were generally very strong compared to overall national results and those of their statistical neighbours. It was noted that results at Key Stage 2 were particularly good and the Chair also reported to Members that a pupil from Rooks Heath High School had taken a GCSE short course in RE and achieved 100%.
- Three Harrow High schools had incurred unsatisfactory results in Key Stage 4, reportedly due to insufficient curriculum time. SACRE agreed to work with those schools to help them achieve statutory provision. It was reported that some schools found it hard to give full curriculum entitlement at Key Stage 4, and that not every school had a specialist subject leader.
- Members discussed the use of language in Religious Education (RE), in particular the provision of religious texts in traditional language. It was felt by the Council that ultimately this could cause further burden to children who may, in some instances already be struggling, especially those already contending with English as a foreign language.
- RESOLVED:** (1) That the Chair send a letter on behalf of the Council congratulating the pupil on his exam success;
- (2) that the medium for teaching RE be English but that any child who wished to share a story or text from home in a different language would be supported and praised;
- (3) that the full Portfolio be presented to the Council at the next meeting.
62. **In-service training for School Governors on their responsibilities for RE and Collective worship – Wednesday 3 December 2003 at 7.30-9.00pm:**
It was noted that all SACRE members would be welcome at this in-service training.
63. **Correspondence:**
- Area Child Protection Committee
A letter had been received requesting that a SACRE Member join the Committee.
- Connexions
The minutes of the Local Management Committee had been received.
- Harrow Inter Faith Council
An anthology of readings, poetry, drama, music and dance entitled "One World" would take place on Saturday 18 October 2003 from 2pm-4pm at The Chapel of Northwick Park Hospital. This would also be repeated on Tuesday 21 October for One World Week, in association with the Central Harrow Council of Churches, which would be held at St Mary's Church.
- Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
SACRE Members were invited to attend the QCA/SACRE Conference, on Tuesday 9 December or Thursday 11 December 2003. A booking form was available.
- Russell Sutcliffe
A Governor at Nower Hill High School had enquired about SACRE's constitution.

St Mary's, Harrow on the Hill

St Mary's Church had invited all teachers to "Contemplating God" - an opportunity to explore aspects of spirituality, on 25 September 2003. They would be delighted if any SACRE members could attend.

The Weald Trust

The Trust had written to inform SACRE of a tour of their bus "GSUS LIVE" providing an opportunity for all faiths to learn more about Christianity.

Buddhism in the West

Mrs M Hale reported that a panel of distinguished speakers would be at the University of Westminster on Sunday 28 September from 9.30pm – 5pm. Any Member wishing to attend should advise Mrs M Hale.

64. **News from the Faith Communities including a report from Mrs Punitha Perinparaja (Hindu Member):**

Mrs Perinparaja gave a report on her work, and workshops, in schools on cultural diversity. She reported teaching children of many different nationalities, finding that once she had been able to engage with the child's cultural identity, they were more likely to settle in their new environments quickly. She had recently run a successful course on Hinduism, which had covered a wide range of aspects including drama, music, humanities and literature. Mrs Perinparaja was enthusiastic at how much she had learned from the children. Mrs P Stevens thanked her for her contribution to the meeting.

Prof. H Singh suggested that SACRE arrange a visit to the new Sikh Temple in Southall.

65. **Events 2004:**

Harrow Inter Faith Council Peace Festival

The Council were informed that the Harrow Inter Faith Council were working with St Mary's Church to organise a Peace Festival for which more details would follow.

The Masque of Gaia

The date for this community musical event would be announced in due course.

66. **Any Other Business:**

Advice required from faith communities

The Chair circulated a form for members to complete and return, as SACRE's advice had been requested on certain aspects of Personal Education (PE), Personal Social and Health Education and Relationships. A discussion followed on areas of sensitivity with regard to PE in particular, covering jewellery and artefacts, health and safety, and the needs of the different faith communities. It was agreed to collect the comments into an advice booklet for schools. Mrs P Perinparaja agreed to provide resources on the separate Hindu sectors.

67. **Dates of Future Meetings:**

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

11 December 2003

11 March 2004

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30pm closed at 9.40pm.

(Signed) PAT STEVENS
Chair