

[Note: Further to the decisions reached at Minute 147 above, the following procedural sequence was followed:-

- (i) SACRE stood temporarily adjourned;
- (ii) the membership present reconvened itself in the status of the "Standing Conference for the Harrow Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education";
- (iii) the Standing Conference then being in session undertook the first three items of its meeting, being namely the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair, the receipt of previous minutes and a formal introduction to the business;
- (iv) SACRE formally reconvened and completed the business on its agenda;
- (vi) upon the rising of SACRE, the Standing Conference subsequently reconvened for the completion of its meeting (see Note at the closure of these SACRE minutes)].

148. **Apologies for Absence:**

RESOLVED: To note that apologies for absence had been received from Mr Aggarwal, Mrs Desai, Envoy Haylock, Councillor Lavingia, Mrs Perinparaja and Mrs Stowe.

149. **Attendance of Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Member:-

| <u>Ordinary Member</u> | <u>Reserve Member</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Councillor Janet Cowan | Councillor Anjana Patel |

150. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: (1) To note the following interests declared by Council Members:

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Nature of Interest</u> |
|-------------------------|--|
| Councillor Nana Asante | Declared a personal interest in that she was a Governor at Stanburn First School |
| Councillor Ismail | Declared a personal interest in that he was a Governor at Whitchurch Middle School |
| Councillor Omar | Declared a personal interest in that he was a Governor at Nower Hill High School |
| Councillor Anjana Patel | Declared a personal interest in that she was a Governor at Vaughan First and Middle School |

(2) to note the following interest declared by a non-Council member:

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Nature of Interest</u> |
|---------------|--|
| Mike Bishop | Declared a personal interest in that he was a Governor at Whitmore High School |

151. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2004, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- Membership
Amend to reflect that Mike Bishop had offered apologies and that Pam Wearing preferred not to use a title.

- Minute 145 – Standing Conference for the Harrow Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

This Minute was amended by the Standing Conference for the Harrow Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education meeting on 10 March 2005 (Minute 2 of that meeting refers).

152. **Early Years Resources:**

It was reported that Foundation Stage Project Boxes to promote awareness of Cultures and Beliefs had been launched. There were 15 boxes already available to schools and nurseries, and a further two, for Jains and Zoroastrians, were being assembled.

Each box contained soft toys, puzzles and books relating to a particular faith but items could be used to teach across the curriculum. Members were shown the box relating to Judaism and photographs of some of the other boxes were circulated. It was reported that ideas for items that could be included in the boxes would be welcomed.

Guidance notes for the packs were tabled. A member pointed out that there was an error in the guidance.

RESOLVED: That the Chair liaise with the relevant member to ensure that the guidance was corrected.

153. **Annual Report 2004/2005:**

The Chair thanked members for their comments on the draft Annual Report. The final version had now been submitted to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) and also to the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee. The Chair of the Scrutiny Sub-Committee had queried whether the Orthodox Epiphany should be added to the list of dates during school terms for which authorised absence might be taken by children to observe a festival. Members considered this issue and also that of Orthodox Good Friday.

It was noted that Muslim festivals and some other key dates had been omitted from the Annual Report circulated to members, as the second page relating to Religious Festivals had been lost when the report had been copied. It was confirmed that the version sent to the QCA was complete but the Chair undertook to establish whether faulty copies had been circulated to the Scrutiny Sub-Committee or elsewhere.

It was noted that not every festival was listed. The list was produced to help Headteachers establish whether pupils should be allowed authorised absence.

A Member commented that school governing bodies had a duty to monitor absences.

RESOLVED: That (1) the Orthodox Epiphany and Good Friday be added to the list of festivals for which authorised absence might be taken;

(2) the missing page of the Annual Report be forwarded to members;

(3) the spelling of Diwali be corrected on the list of festivals; and

(4) SACRE would continue to offer guidance to Headteachers by publishing a list of festivals.

154. **Determinations:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no determinations to be considered at this meeting.

155. **Budget:**

Details of the Harrow SACRE budget were tabled.

It was noted that schools were now using resources available via the London Grid for Learning website. The distribution costs for printed material had therefore been lower than in previous years, which meant that funding was available for the Early Years resource boxes. Business funding was being sought to provide packs on Islam, published by the Muslim Council of Britain, to all schools.

RESOLVED: (1) That the above be noted; and

(2) to note that final budget reports would be available on 11 April 2005.

156. **Tsunami Disaster Relief Effort:**

It was noted that Harrow Council and Harrow Inter Faith Council had organised a Multi Faith Memorial Service and Community Conference on 22 February 2005. Members of 11 faiths had taken part in the event. The discussion after the service had prompted some good ideas. A member highlighted that there had been more emphasis on children's needs but that elderly people also needed support.

A Member, who had lost relatives in the disaster, reported that he had been in Sri Lanka at the time. He gave a moving eye-witness account of the situation there and the hardships being endured. He pointed out that there were many long-term needs.

It was noted that, following the conference, a steering group had been set up to co-ordinate aid from Harrow to the afflicted areas.

157. **Any Other Business:**(i) Harrow Inter Faith Council Newsletter

The Harrow Inter Faith Council newsletter for Spring 2005 was tabled at the meeting.

(ii) Passover Events

Details of a Passover Seder on 30 March 2005 in Middlesex New Synagogue, to which all SACRE members were invited, were tabled.

It was also reported that the Headteacher of the Moriah Jewish Day School had invited members to a Seder meal on 13 April 2005, tickets for which were £10, inclusive of a meal.

RESOLVED: That the SACRE clerk be informed of the names of those who wished to attend the Passover Seder on 30 March 2005, or the Seder meal on 13 April 2005.

(iii) Holocaust Memorial Events

There had been various Holocaust Memorial events within the Borough, and representatives from synagogues expressed appreciation of the contribution by pupils from Harrow schools.

(iv) Membership of SACRE

Harrow Council for Racial Equality (HCRE) had asked if they could have two members on SACRE.

RESOLVED: That two HCRE representatives sit on SACRE.

(v) National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (NASACRE) AGM

SACRE Members were invited to attend the NASACRE AGM on Tuesday 19 April 2005 from 10am to 3.30 pm in Birmingham. Funding was available for travel expenses.

RESOLVED: That members wishing to attend notify the Chair.

(vi) Self-Evaluation of SACRE

It was reported that a pack on self-evaluation for SACRE, which would be used in the future, had been received from HMI Barbara Wintersgill.

(vii) Lectures

A Member suggested that SACRE arrange lectures for school children on a quarterly basis with speakers drawn from the faith communities.

It was reported that schools frequently invited visitors from faith communities to address pupils, but it was agreed that a conference could be arranged in the future.

(vii) Muslim Dress

A Member raised the recent court case in which a school girl had taken her school to court for not allowing her to wear her preferred Muslim dress.

It was reported that SACRE offered advice to schools on clothing issues, and some small hejabs had been purchased for use by girls in science and PE, where looser clothing might be dangerous.

158. **Dates of Future Meetings:**

RESOLVED: That dates for meetings in 2005/06 be forwarded to members.

(Note: Separate meetings of the Harrow Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) and of the Standing Conference for the Harrow Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education were convened for 7.30 pm and 8.00 pm respectively on 10 March 2005.

The two bodies share the same membership.

As noted above within the SACRE minutes (following Minute 147), a procedural sequence was employed to adjourn SACRE, to commence the Standing Conference, and then to reconvene and complete the SACRE meeting, before returning to complete the business of the Standing Conference.

The record of the Standing Conference proceedings are included in the Minute Volume as now appended herewith to these SACRE minutes.

The SACRE meeting having commenced at 7.30 pm, the Standing Conference meeting closed at 9.30 pm)

(Signed) PAT STEVENS
Chair

APPENDIX**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING CONFERENCE FOR THE HARROW AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HELD ON 10 MARCH 2005**

Present: See the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 10 March 2005.

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

RESOLVED: That Mike Bishop and Mary Abbott be appointed Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

(Note: The above appointments were agreed unanimously).

2. Minutes

RESOLVED: That (1) the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Conference for the Harrow Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education held on 9 December 2004 be signed as a correct record of that meeting subject to the following amendment:

Minute 145, paragraph 2, first sentence: replace 'tha' with 'that';

3. Introduction

The Chair explained that there was no national syllabus for Religious Education but that each SACRE prepared local guidelines, reviewed every 5 years.

In 2004 national guidelines had been published for the first time by the Government in order to help Local Education Authorities set up their own syllabuses. This Conference had been set up in order to review Harrow's own guidelines in the light of the Government document and as part of its 5-yearly review.

A paper outlining items for discussion was tabled. It was noted that Nursery/Reception children followed the Foundation Stage.

4. Format of Agreed Syllabus

The current agreed syllabus consisted of two elements: a booklet outlining Harrow's agreed syllabus, which was statutory, and schemes of work, which were optional. There was some discussion about the format of the documents.

RESOLVED: That it be agreed unanimously by all groups voting that the two elements of the current agreed syllabus should remain.

5. Documentation Reflecting Phases in Education

There was some discussion regarding the relative merits of reflecting the ages of children in Harrow Community Schools and the Key Stages in the documentation. It was noted that SACRE was responsible for devising the syllabus for children between the ages of 16-19 who attended college. There were moves to consider changing the admission criteria of Harrow schools to reflect Key Stages, and bring the schools into line with most neighbouring boroughs.

RESOLVED: That further discussion was needed before a decision could be taken on the issue of documentation reflecting phases or key stages.

6. **Discussion on the Non-Statutory National Framework**

Members discussed the Non-Statutory National Framework in their Groups, establishing the suitability of different portions in the Harrow syllabus. Notes of their findings were forwarded to the Chair of SACRE for compilation and further discussion.

7. **Special Educational Needs**

It was noted that Special Educational Needs were not addressed in the National Framework although an addendum was expected.

RESOLVED: That the Special Educational Needs elements of statutory syllabuses should be considered, and Special Educational Needs teachers be invited to take part in discussions about the formulation of the Harrow RE Syllabus.

8. **Further Meetings**

It was agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Conference and the Chair of SACRE would meet together with invited teachers to draft a revised syllabus based on members' recommendations, for tabling at the next meeting. There would be a mixture of day conferences and 5pm to 10pm sessions, with refreshments, to devise the programme of study. It was noted that as much notice as possible should be given.

9. **Number of Religions Depicted on the Covers of the Harrow Syllabus and the National Guidelines**

It was noted that only six religions were depicted on the cover of the national document.

RESOLVED: That (1) SACRE write to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to point out that the design for the cover was inappropriate as it should include more than six religions;

(2) Members would seek to choose a comprehensive cover for the revised Harrow document.

[Note: The Standing Conference meeting closed at 9.30 pm].

(Signed) MIKE BISHOP
Chair

[Note: Mike Bishop was initially in the Chair for this meeting, for the items at Minutes 1 to 3 above, prior to the meeting of the Standing Conference being adjourned (see the Note under Minute 147 of the SACRE meeting on 10 March 2005). Upon the meeting of the Standing Conference reconvening, and in the absence of Mike Bishop, the chair was formally taken by Mary Abbott, Vice Chair].