

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION****21 SEPTEMBER 2005**Representatives of the LEA

Councillors: * Nana Asante Ismail * Anjana Patel (2)

Representatives of Christian and Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

* Mrs M Besser	* Brother L Lindsay
* Mr M Bishop	Mrs S Lynn
Mrs N Desai	Councillor Asad Omar
† Mrs P Gan-Kotwal	† Mrs P Perinparaja
Mrs M Hale	Rabbi D Roselaar
† Envoy B Haylock	Prof H Singh
† Mrs Z Jaffer	Mr P Singh-Kohli
Dr V Kapashi	* P Wearing
Councillor Dhirajlal Lavingia	

Representatives of the Church of England

* Mrs M Abbott Rev'd S Pothen
* Dr K Pinching

Representatives of Teachers

Mr R Crocker	Mrs A Stowe
* Mrs S Mistry	† Rev'd Dr S Thompson
* Mrs R Shakar	

Co-opted Members

Mr A Aggarwal	Mr M Shah
* Mr D Liversage	* Ms P Stevens (Chair)

Adviser to the Council, Nominated by the Director of Education

† Mr P O'Dwyer

* Denotes Member present
(2) Denotes category of Reserve Member
† Denotes apologies received

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL**PART II - MINUTES**

168. **Apologies for Absence:**
Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Cowan and Ismail, Mrs P Gan-Kotwal, Envoy Haylock, Mrs Jaffer, Mr O'Dwyer, Mrs Perinparaja and Reverend Dr S Thompson.
169. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**
RESOLVED: To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Members:-
- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Ordinary Member</u> | <u>Reserve Member</u> |
| Councillor Janet Cowan | Councillor Anjana Patel |
170. **Declarations of Interest:**
RESOLVED: To note (1) the following interests declared by Council Members:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>
Councillor Anjana Patel	Declared a personal interest in that she was a Governor of Vaughan First and Middle School.
Councillor Nana Asante	Declared a personal interest in that she was a Governor at Stanburn First School.
(2) the following interests declared by non-Council members:	
Mike Bishop	Declared a personal interest in that he was a Governor at Whitmore High School.
Mary Abbot	Declared a personal interest in that she was a Governor at Pinner Park First School.

171. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2005, having been circulated, be taken as read, and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- (i) Minute 160 – Apologies for Absence
That the names of Dr Pinching and Reverend Pothen be added to the list of apologies in minute 160.
- (ii) Minute 165 - Determination
That the following be added to the end of section (3): "It was noted that determinations were needed by schools before they could organise worship in faith groups."
- (iii) Minute 167 – Any Other Business – News
That the words 'Local Education Authority' be added after the word Sefton in Minute 167.

172. **Matters Arising:**Muslim Resource Pack and associated in-service training for teachers

The launch of the Muslim Resource Pack for primary school children had been arranged at the last moment, however, a number of SACRE members had been among the people who had attended the Mosque for this occasion. It was noted that not many teachers had attended. The Chair explained that she had been unable to borrow a pack for members to see but would do so for the next SACRE meeting. The secondary school pack was due to be published in Spring 2006; SACRE had already ordered one for each high school.

The pack, which was based on the non-statutory national guidelines for religious education, had proved helpful across the country. Harrow had been the first London Borough to use it. It put emphasis on similarities rather than differences among faiths. Two in-service teacher training days about the pack had been scheduled for Wednesday 12 October 2005 and Tuesday 18 October 2005, both between 4.30pm and 6pm at the Teachers' Centre. SACRE members were welcome to come to either or both events.

Draft report to the Education Consultative Forum

It was noted that the Muslim community had devised, and Harrow Council had financed the Muslim Resource pack. If other faith communities produced suitable educational packs, SACRE would consider purchasing them. The Chair tabled a draft of her report to the Education Consultative Forum, a version of which might be supplied later for publication in "Harrow People".

Effectiveness of the local Agreed Syllabus

An extract from "SACREs and Self-Evaluation: a Guide" was tabled. This outlined measures which could be used to determine the effectiveness of a SACRE with regard to administration. There was some discussion about the effectiveness of SACRE meetings.

Attendance

It was considered that attendance was not very good and measures to improve the situation were discussed.

SACRE Venues

Following discussion from "SACREs and Self-Evaluation: a Guide", members considered whether it would be possible to hold meetings in various places of worship. The Chair explained that there were no funds to pay for venues, other than Harrow Council premises for meetings. It was suggested that the 8 December 2005 meeting be held at the Civic Centre. Councillor Patel offered to investigate whether the SACRE meeting on 9 March 2005 could take place at the Hindu temple in Neasden. The meeting would probably start at 6pm and would incorporate a tour of the temple. Members also suggested Stanmore Baptist Church and All Saints Church for future meetings.

Reaction to London bombings on 7 July 2005

The Chair explained that Harrow had set up an emergency centre on 7 July 2005. Thousands of people had offered accommodation and food and all faith communities had been supportive. Schools had remained open until all the children had been collected, and the last child had left at 9.30pm. Following the incident, headteachers had observed children for reactions such as name calling and stereotyping. Some schools had asked for advice and suggestions had been offered. Harrow Inter-Faith Council had issued a statement. The Harrow Times reporter, who had been given details of contacts for different faiths, had included their quotes in a headline piece about reactions to the bombing. The Borough had organised a conference which had been very well attended. A further conference would be arranged for women only, after Ramadan.

Black History Month

Councillor Asante explained that two competitions were being run as part of Black History Month. One was an essay about critical revolution in Africa and the other was a Powerpoint presentation to look at lives and see how they could change worlds and minds. SACRE members were invited to the award ceremony on 29 October 2005, between 6pm and 8pm at Bernays Memorial Hall, Stanmore. It was noted that it would be useful if people would confirm attendance by emailing admin@sfsg.org or theconnexion@yahoo.co.uk

RESOLVED: That (1) the above be noted;

(2) a Muslim Resource Pack be available for members to see at the next meeting of SACRE;

(3) the following amendments be made to the Draft report to Education Consultative Forum:

- a) the Rastafarian faith be added to the lists of faiths
- b) the wording of the report be changed to include: "it is noticeable that children are very well educated in their faith communities";

(4) letters be written to faith communities in Harrow, asking if they or their national bodies had considered producing education packs about their faiths;

(5) if a member was unable to attend a meeting, they should nominate a reserve;

(6) the Chair to contact members who had not attended for three consecutive meetings and ask if they could consider giving someone else the opportunity to represent their faith group/profession;

(7) Democratic Services be contacted to request that clashes between SACRE and other council meetings be avoided;

(8) Councillor Patel to contact Susan Bole to confirm venue arrangements for 9 March 2005.

173.

Determination:

It was expected that Whitmore High School's application would be resubmitted shortly following school working party discussions.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 9.00 pm, closed at 10.00 pm)

(Signed) MS P STEVENS
Chair