



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2007
7.30 PM

COMMITTEE AGENDA

COMMITTEE ROOM 5,
HARROW CIVIC CENTRE

MEMBERSHIP (Quorum: 1 member from each of 4 groups: Representatives of the Local Authority, Representatives of Christian and other religious denominations and faiths, Representatives of Church of England, Representatives of Teachers)

Chairman: Mrs M Besser

Vice-Chairman: Mrs A Stowe

Councillors:

Mrs Lurline Champagnie
Mrs Anjana Patel

Ms Nana Asante

Reserve Members:

1. Mrs Janet Cowan
2. Tony Ferrari

1. Nizam Ismail

Issued by the Democratic Services Section,
Legal and Governance Services Department

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***NOTE FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING:
IF YOU WISH TO DISPOSE OF THIS AGENDA, PLEASE LEAVE IT BEHIND AFTER THE MEETING.
IT WILL BE COLLECTED FOR RECYCLING.***

[Minutes Silence to Commemorate the Anniversary of the Ending of the Transatlantic Slave Trade]

1. **Apologies for Absence:**
2. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**
3. **Declarations of Interest:**
To receive declarations of personal or prejudicial interests, arising from business to be transacted at this meeting, from:
 - (a) all Members of the Committee, Sub Committee, Panel or Forum;
 - (b) all other Members present in any part of the room or chamber.
- Enc. 4. **Minutes:** (Pages 1 - 10)
That the minutes of the meetings held on 8 March 2007 and 5 June 2007 be taken as read and signed as correct records.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - (a) **SACRE Membership:**
All.
 - (b) **NASACRE London Meeting:**
Alison Stowe.
 - (c) **SACRE Showcase for Councillors:**
Councillor Mrs Anjana Patel.
 - (d) **SACRE Constitution:**
Pat Stevens.
 - (e) **SACRE advice on the religious needs of pupils:**
Alison Stowe.
 - (f) **Multi Faith Calenders:**
Pat Stevens and Councillor Mrs Anjana Patel.
6. **Pupil/Student Representation on SACRE and Early Look at GCSE results 2007:**
Niru Desai, Zia Baig, representatives from the Student Advisory Group.
7. **Resources for School - Launch of the Jain and Baha'i Packs:**
Martha Besser.
8. **Harrow Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and Non-Statutory scheme of work:**
Mike Bishop, Pat Stevens and Bavita Pandya-Arepalli.
9. **SACRE Budget - Half Year Review:**
Pat Stevens.

10. **Update from:**

- (a) Harrow Multi-Agency Forum:
Pat Stevens.
- (b) Harrow Inter Faith Council:
Mary Hale.
- (c) Local Faith Communities.:
All.

11. **Any Other Urgent Business:**
Which Cannot Otherwise Be Dealt With.

12. **Dates of Next Meetings:**
To note the following meeting dates:

- The Working Party regarding the SACRE advice on the religious needs of pupils - 20 September 2007, 1pm
- The next meetings of SACRE – 5 December 2007 and 12 March 2008.

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**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION****8 MARCH 2007**Representatives of the LEA

Councillors: † Ms Nana Asante * Mrs Anjana Patel
* Councillor Mrs Lurline
Champagne (Chairman)

Representatives of Christian and Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

* Zia Baig	Brother L Lindsay
* Mrs M Besser	Mrs S Lynn
* Mr M Bishop	* Councillor Asad Omar
† Mrs N Desai	Mrs S Panjwani
* Mrs P Gan-Kotwal	* Mr Neville Ransley
* Mrs M Hale	Rabbi D Roselaar
† Dr V Kapashi	Prof H Singh
Councillor Dhirajlal Lavingia	Mr P Singh-Kohli
* Mr Don Liversedge	

Representatives of the Church of England

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

Representatives of Teachers

* Mrs S Mistry	† Mrs A Stowe
Ms B Pandya-Arepalli	* Rev'd Dr S Thompson
* Mrs R Shakar	

Co-opted Members

* Mr Jagdish Dave	* Ms P Stevens
Mr M Shah	

Adviser to the Council, Nominated by the Director of Education

† Mr P O'Dwyer

* Denotes Member present

† Denotes apologies received

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL**PART II - MINUTES**47. **Apologies for Absence:**

RESOLVED: To note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Ms Nana Asante, Mrs N Desai, Dr V Kapashi, Mr P O'Dwyer and Mrs A Stowe.

48. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance at this meeting.

49. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members in relation to the business transacted at this meeting.

50. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 December 2007:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2006 be taken as read and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

Minute 42 – Collective Worship

Replace “National Teacher Research Conference” with “Farmington Institute”.

51. **Matters Arising**

- (a) **Contacts with London SACREs:**
The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lurline Champagnie, explained that pressure of work had prevented a meeting between Councillor Ms Nana Asante, Pat Stevens and herself to discuss the suggested open day.

RESOLVED: That the meeting take place and report its ideas to the next SACRE.

- (b) **SACRE Showcase for Councillors:**
Pat Stevens confirmed that she and Patrick O'Dwyer were planning an event to include an overview of Harrow's faiths and philosophies. This was to include photographs and statistical material, information about Harrow SACRE, samples of Harrow Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, sample primary and secondary lessons for Councillors led by SACRE teacher members and a question and answer session. Don Liversedge suggested that the history of Harrow SACRE be included, with details about Humanist involvement. This was agreed.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman suggest a date for the showcase, once the meeting dates for the Municipal Year 2007-2008 were known.

- (c) **SACRE Constitution:**
There was a wide-ranging discussion of drafts produced by Mike Bishop and Pat Stevens of amendments to the SACRE constitution, a nomination form and possible sources of nomination.

RESOLVED: That (1) the updated constitution, nomination form and list of nominating groups be circulated with the minutes of the meeting;

(2) nomination of all members be ratified at the beginning of each Municipal Year, current members receive a nomination form to be signed by their sponsoring body in order to confirm their nomination, and nomination of new members be sought through the agreed nominating groups;

(3) advice be sought on an appropriate quorum for SACRE, as one representative from the large Group One (representing Christian and other religious denominations reflecting the principal traditions of the area) was felt to be inadequate;

(4) two pupils from the Youth Parliament of Harrow be invited to attend meetings of SACRE as non-voting members, to represent the views of pupils of their experiences of religious education and collective worship;

(5) a working party consisting of Mike Bishop, Shruti Mistry, Pat Stevens and Stephen Thompson meet to discuss a strategy for youth involvement in SACRE and report to the next meeting.

- (d) **Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and Scheme of Work:**
Pat Stevens reported that the faith contributions for the introduction to the agreed syllabus would be complete in the next few days. The agreed syllabus would be sent for final design, preparation for the Harrow website and printing before the end of March. The accompanying non-statutory units of work would be completed during the Summer Term 2007.

RESOLVED: That (1) the revised Harrow agreed syllabus for Religious Education be submitted to the Print Factory for final website design and printing by 30 March 2007;

(2) the website design costs and the printing costs be taken from the SACRE budget 2007-08.

- (e) **Baha'i Materials:**
The Chairman reported that Harrow Council would not be able to fund future resource packs from faith communities due to budget cuts. It was reiterated, however, that the rolling programme of provision of resource packs from each faith included for study in the Harrow Agreed syllabus should continue. Approximate costs of the Baha'i packs were £120 for the secondary pack and £90 for the primary pack.

RESOLVED: That SACRE seek sources of funding for the Baha'i and future packs, by inviting donations or match funding from the sponsoring faiths and possibly asking schools to make a contribution to the costs.

52. **Determinations:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no determinations to report.

53. **News from the Faith Communities:**

A number of events were discussed, including the Eid-ul-Adha on 6 January 2007, the Harrow Inter Faith Council Prayers for Peace at Harrow Central Mosque on 25 January 2007 and the Youth Conference, sponsored by Harrow Inter Faith Council with a grant from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund on 15 February 2007.

Information was given about an occasion of Syrian Vespers, and the Hatch End High School International Evening on Friday 23 March 2007, entitled 'Unity in Diversity', which would include religious drama and refreshments from the various cultures represented in the school.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

54. **Dates and Venues for Future Meetings:**

Meeting dates for the new Municipal Year would be circulated as soon as they were known. The legal situation with regard to the holding of meetings in religious venues that were outside the Borough was being investigated by Harrow Council.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 9.50 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR MRS LURLINE CHAMPAGNIE
Chairman

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**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION****5 JUNE 2007**Representatives of the LEA

Councillors: * Ms Nana Asante * Mrs Anjana Patel
 * Mrs Lurline Champagnie

Representatives of Christian and Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

* Mrs M Besser (Chairman)	Mrs S Lynn
* Zia Baig	† Councillor Asad Omar
* Mr M Bishop	Mrs S Panjwani
* Mrs N Desai	* Mr N Ramsley
* Mrs P Gan-Kotwal	Rabbi D Roselaar
* Mrs M Hale	Prof H Singh
* Dr V Kapashi	† Mr P Singh-Kohli
* Mr D Liversedge	

Representatives of the Church of England

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

Representatives of Teachers

* Mrs S Mistry	* Mrs A Stowe
† Ms B Pandya-Arepalli	† Rev'd Dr S Thompson
* Mrs R Shakar	

Co-opted Members

Mr J Dave	* Ms P Stevens
Mr M Shah	

Adviser to the Council, Nominated by the Corporate Director, Children's Services

† Mr P O'Dwyer

* Denotes Member present

† Denotes apologies received

Also in attendance at the meeting:

- Ms Jasbinder Baddhan (Harrow Council Race Hate Crime Co-ordinator)
- Paul Evans (Inspector for Partnerships, Harrow Police)
- Mark Tomlinson (Street Pastor Co-ordinator for Sutton)
- Councillor Navin Shah

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL**PART II - MINUTES**55. **Appointment of Chairman:**

RESOLVED: That Mrs Martha Besser be appointed Chairman of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

56. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman:**

RESOLVED: That Mrs Alison Stowe be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

57. **Membership:**

Nomination forms had been issued in order for the membership of SACRE to be confirmed for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

RESOLVED: That forms not returned at the meeting be forwarded to Pat Stevens by 29 June 2007.

58. **Apologies for Absence:**

RESOLVED: To note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Asad Omar, Mr Patrick O'Dwyer, Mrs Bavita Pandya-Arepalli, Mr Paramjit Singh Kohli and the Reverend Dr Stephen Thompson.

59. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance at this meeting.

60. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note that the following interest was declared:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>
Pat Stevens	Pat Stevens declared a personal interest in that she was the Religious Education Consultant to Harrow Council.

61. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 March 2007:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2007 be deferred until printed in the Council Bound Minute Volume.

62. **Matters Arising**(a) **Contacts with London SACREs:**

Pat Stevens reported that a letter had been received from the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), inviting the Chairs and Advisers of London SACREs to NASACRE's first London Regional Seminar at City Hall on Wednesday 11 July 2007 from 11.15 am to 4.15 pm.

RESOLVED: That (1) Alison Stowe and Pat Stevens attend the seminar, but if either were unable to go, they nominate other SACRE members to attend in their place;

(2) Harrow SACRE be pro-active in inviting neighbouring SACRE members to its functions, for example the SACRE showcase for Councillors.

(b) **SACRE showcase for Councillors:**

Members agreed with suggested plans that the event should include:

- an overview of Harrow's range of beliefs and philosophies;
- an explanation of the role, membership and make-up of Harrow SACRE;
- an insight into Harrow's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and associated schemes of work;
- an exhibition of children's work, including pupil presentations;
- the opportunity for Councillors and visitors to ask questions of an inter-faith panel comprising members of SACRE and representatives of Christian and other religious denominations and faiths.

RESOLVED: That (1) Councillor Mrs Anjana Patel negotiate a date for the showcase at the Managers' meeting and inform Pat Stevens;

(2) a Working Party consisting of Alison Stowe, Patrick O'Dwyer, Pat Stevens and Shruti Mistry meet to organise the event and seek advice from the Member Development Team via Aileen Beaumont.

(c) **SACRE Constitution:**

Members had scrutinised the copy of the revised constitution, which was circulated following discussion at the SACRE meeting of 8 March 2007. Mike Bishop led further discussion on three items:

1. **Pupil Representation.**

It was agreed that section 2, Group D, Consultants and officers, item 4 should read: "Pupil representatives will be encouraged to attend

SACRE meetings. Two student representatives will be seconded from the Harrow Council Advisory Group”.

SACRE representatives were invited to a meeting of the Harrow Student Advisory Group to be held at 4.00 pm on Monday 25 June 2007 at Harrow Teachers' Centre to talk to the students about SACRE and to invite their participation. Mary Abbott, Zia Baig, Niru Desai and Mary Hale expressed interest in attending the meeting. Pat Stevens would contact them with details of the meeting. In addition it was agreed that there would be a regular agenda item to enable pupils from a variety of schools to present to SACRE projects and activities that they have carried out during RE lessons.

SACRE members affirmed their pleasure in the future involvement of young people in SACRE and looked forward to hearing their views on how religious education and collective worship might be developed.

2. Review of the Agreed Syllabus

Mike Bishop pointed out that section 7 item 4, contravened a clause in the 1996 Education Act, which stated that Group D, comprising Local Authority representatives, may not require a review of the agreed syllabus.

The Group D representatives strongly expressed the view that Group D should be able to require an agreed syllabus review, if appropriate, along with Groups A, B and C. It was agreed that SACRE would seek advice on this point from Legal Services, as well as seeking legal advice on the clarity of wording of SACRE's revised constitution.

3. Nominating Groups for SACRE members

It was agreed that the title of the document to accompany the constitution should be “Some suggested nominating groups for SACRE members”, rather than “Range of nominating groups for SACRE members”.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(d) Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and Scheme of Work:

Pat Stevens reported that the revised Harrow Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education with its detailed introduction to Harrow faiths and philosophies and illustrations of the religious life of Harrow was being prepared for electronic publication and printing. The development of the accompanying non-statutory units of work was underway.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(e) Baha'i materials and resource packs for schools:

Martha Besser reported that taking into account diminished funding possibilities from Harrow Council for the development of resource packs for schools, the Baha'i community had reduced the content of the Baha'i packs to materials that would be particularly valuable for schools. This would bring the cost of packs for all schools to £2,490. The Baha'is agreed to fund a third of this amount.

Councillor Navin Shah joined the meeting to inform members that education was an important item on the Jain agenda and that the Institute of Jainology was in the final stages of preparation of a primary Jain resource pack. This would be available shortly for members to examine and it was hoped that the Jain pack would be available for launch in the near future. The Jains would fund a substantial part of the venture.

Members welcomed the coming availability of Baha'i and Jain packs and thanked these faiths for their hard work in developing the materials. Teacher members confirmed the pressing need for the resources.

RESOLVED: (1) That the above be noted;

(2) that, in addition to the Baha'i subsidy, SACRE would contribute £500 towards the packs and schools would be asked to contribute the remainder of the cost, about £17 per school; and

(3) to proceed with contacting schools and ordering the Baha'i packs.

63. **Report from the Multi-Agency Forum regarding the Proposed Street Warden Scheme:**

Jasbinder Baddhan, Harrow Council's Race Hate Crime Coordinator introduced Paul Evans, Inspector for Partnerships, Harrow Police and Mark Tomlinson, Street Pastor Coordinator for Sutton.

Mark Tomlinson explained his role as a Street Pastor in the London Borough of Sutton, which statistically had the lowest crime rate in London, yet a high fear of crime. The Sutton Street Pastors, who were all Christian ministers, worked closely with the police. Wearing a recognisable uniform with a logo, they were visible in the streets as people who cared and listened. The scheme came under the umbrella of the Ascension Trust and received funding from the police, local council, businesses and churches. Although Mark was also involved with the Sutton Partnership and the Faith and Belief Forum, the Street Pastor scheme was seen in Sutton as a Christian project. Other faiths were aware of the scheme and were supportive of its aims. Further details of the Sutton scheme could be accessed through www.streetpastors.org.

Harrow SACRE members voiced their support of the scheme and asked if such a scheme would be viable in Harrow. Jasbinder Baddhan explained that plans were underway for a scheme to operate in Harrow. Members felt that Harrow's record in inter-faith relations could well lead to a multi-faith street pastor scheme. The visitors were thanked for their presentation.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

64. **Report from NASACRE Conference:**

Phiroza Gan-Kotwal handed documentation from the conference to the Chairman and agreed to inform members of proceedings once she had received the minutes. It was agreed that further information would be distributed.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

65. **SACRE Report 2006:**

Pat Stevens distributed copies of the report for Members to read outside of the meeting. Mike Bishop suggested that SACRE should write to the high schools to congratulate them on their continued good achievements at GCSE and AS levels.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

66. **Determinations:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no determination renewals for discussion at the meeting.

67. **SACRE Advice on the Religious Needs of Pupils:**

Pat Stevens stressed the pressing need for SACRE to discuss and produce guidelines for the religious needs of pupils in schools. Headteachers and Governors looked to SACRE as a respected body, which could provide balanced, well-considered advice to bring cohesion of practice across the Borough. There were urgent questions from schools, particularly about clothing worn by Muslim pupils and issues relating to Swaminarayan pupils removing beads for physical education, which schools classed as jewellery.

RESOLVED: That a working party led by Alison Stowe meet at 1.00 pm on 20 September 2007 at the Civic Centre to begin work on the guidance, and it be noted that Martha Besser (Baha'i), Mary Hale (Buddhist), Niru Desai (Hindu), Phiroza Gan-Kotwal (Zoroastrian), Vinod Kapashi (Jain) and Zia Baig (Muslim) had volunteered to join the working party and others would be welcome.

68. **Multi-Faith Calendars for Schools:**

Pat Stevens reminded members that each year SACRE purchased the SHAP Calendar of Religious Festivals for Schools. Mahendra Hirani had worked with a world focus on a Multi Faiths Festivals calendar, which took a detailed scholarly approach to explanations of the festivals. Copies of the calendar running from January 2008 – April 2009 would retail at £12.50.

RESOLVED: (1) To continue supplying the SHAP calendar to First and Middle Schools, and to order copies of Mr Hirani's calendar for high schools, colleges and the Teachers' Centre;

(2) that there should be a joint order from SACRE and Councillor Mrs Anjana Patel to include educational establishments, libraries, the Civic Centre and community centres.

69. **News from Organisations on which Harrow SACRE has Representation and from Faith Communities:**

- Harrow Council was congratulated on its very successful Baisakhi celebration at the Civic Centre.
- On behalf of Harrow Inter Faith Council, Mary Hale and Martha Besser distributed a detailed report of the successful conference run for Harrow high schools.
- A film by Al Gore on climate change would be shown at Harrow Baptist Church at 8.00 pm on Sunday 10 June and Kol Chai Jewish Community was giving a presentation on Thursday 28 June by the Director of the Meridian Project, with a view to developing a cohesive approach to energy saving by all of Harrow's faith communities. Further details could be obtained by Rabbi Michael Hilton on 020 8906 8241. SACRE members would be most welcome at these events.
- It was noted that Under One Sky would be held on Sunday 8 July 2007 and a pan London inter-faith event, "Thursday's Child" would run at the West Ham Memorial Recreation ground during the weekend 7/ 8 July 2007.

Vinod Kapashi gave notice of a touring World Congress of Faiths exhibition and asked if a venue might be found for it in Harrow. The Harrow Museum and Heritage Centre was recommended as an ideal venue.

RESOLVED: That (1) the above be noted;

(2) Vinod Kapashi liaise with Councillor Mrs Anjana Patel early next year to identify a venue in Harrow for the touring World Congress of Faiths exhibition.

70. **Dates and Venues of Next Meetings:**

SACRE meetings for the rest of the Municipal Year 2007-2008 would be held on Wednesday 19 September 2007, Wednesday 5 December 2007 and Wednesday 12 March 2008. It was agreed to hold meetings at the Civic Centre but to arrange visits to additional places of worship.

Harrow Inter Faith Council would invite SACRE members to join them on their future programme of visits. It was agreed that Pat Stevens would write to the priest of St John Fisher Church to thank him, Neville Ransley and the congregation for their kind hospitality for the meeting on 8 March 2007.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 9.45 pm)

(Signed) MRS M BESSER
Chairman

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