

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION****2 DECEMBER 2008**Representatives of the Local Authority

Councillors: \* Mrs Lurline Champagnie † Mrs Anjana Patel  
\* Nizam Ismail (1)

Representatives of Christian and Other Religious Denominations and Faiths

* Mrs M Besser	* Councillor Asad Omar
* Mr Z Baig	Mr N Ransley
* Mr M Bishop	* Mrs G Ross
† Mrs N Desai	* Mr S Saddik
† Mrs P Gan-Kotwal	Mrs B Samuels
Ms S Gulamhussein	Prof H Singh
* Mrs M Hale	Mr P Singh-Kohli
Dr V Kapashi	† Ms B Willson
Mr D Liversedge	

Representatives of the Church of England

\* Mrs M Abbott Mrs G Mercer

Representatives of Teachers

Ms G Capin	* Mrs A Stowe (Chairman)
* Ms B Pandya-Arepalli	† Rev'd Dr S Thompson
† Ms N Parsons	

Co-opted Members

Mr J Dave	D Patel
Mr R Mistry	† Ms P Stevens

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

\* Ms F Aldridge

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

**PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL****PART II - MINUTES**160. **Apologies for Absence:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Nana Asante, Councillor Anjana Patel, Mrs N Desai, Ms B Wilson, Mrs N Parsons and Ms Pat Stevens.

161. **Opening reflection:**

Mrs Mary Abbott opened the meeting with a spiritual reflection.

162. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

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

Ordinary Member

Councillor Nana Asante

Reserve Member

Councillor Nizam Ismail

163. **Declarations of Interest:**

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

164. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 2008:**

**RESOLVED:** That subject to the following amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2008 be taken as read and signed as a correct record of the meeting:

(i) To insert “†” before Councillor Asad Omar’s name.

(ii) Minute 156 to read:

**News from Harrow Inter Faith Council**  
Change Mary Hale’s name to Martha Besser.

165. **Matters Arising:**

Councillor Champagne noted that the appointment of new Hindu representatives to SACRE should have been on the agenda. However it was noted that, without Councillor Anjana Patel being present, the appointments could not be agreed.

**RESOLVED:** That the comments be noted.

166. **SACRE guidance on the religious needs of pupils:**

Alison Stowe tabled a guidance brochure containing information on the religious needs of pupils drawn from Harrow’s faith communities. The brochure had been written in consultation with Group A SACRE members. It was noted that ‘yarmullar’ should be replaced by ‘kippah’ in the document. The Chairman requested that members forward any amendments Alison Stowe email address by 31 January 2009.

**RESOLVED:** That the comments be noted.

167. **Guidance on authorised absence for pupils to fulfill religious obligations:**

A draft copy of the Guidance on Authorised Absence for Pupils to fulfill Religious Obligations 2008-2009 to schools was tabled at the meeting. Members considered that it would helpful for the guidance to be extended to bring it in line with the latest Shap calendar and that past dates should be deleted. It was noted that Id-ul-Adha (End of Pilgrimage) fell on 8 December 2008. Members were requested to write to Alison Stowe with any further amendments. The official borough allowance for authorized absence was discussed and it was considered that the wording in the report should read: “The official borough allowance for authorised absence for religious observance is up to 3 days in the school year.”

**RESOLVED:** That the comments be noted and the report updated accordingly.

168. **SACRE Report 2008-09:**

The draft report was tabled at the meeting. It was noted that the section on GCSE results section was not yet completed as figures had only just become available. The Chair requested that members forward any amendments to her email address by 12 December 2008.

**RESOLVED:** That the comments be noted.

169. **News from the Harrow Inter-Faith Council:**

Mary Hale reported that plans for the celebration of 25 years of Harrow Interfaith Council had progressed. An event would take place on Sunday 29 March 2009 at the Zoroastrian Centre in Rayners Lane from 11.00 am. It was agreed that Alison Stowe and Bhavita Pandya-Arepalli would contact High Schools within the borough for volunteers to steward or film the event. All replies would be forwarded to Alison Stowe.

**RESOLVED:** That the above be noted.

170. **Any Other Business:**

(i) **SACRE Showcase, 18 November 2008**

Members were commended on their efforts for the SACRE showcase on 18 November 2008. It was reported that the event had been a huge success, all faiths had been represented and the profile of SACRE had been raised. It was reported that letters of thanks had been circulated to all participants who

had taken part or sent work in had. Members suggested that Religious Education Coordinators at each school as well as the Headteachers be contacted for their support if the event were to take place again. The profile of SACRE could also be raised if it were to be included on governing bodies agendas as a standing item and included in governor training.

**RESOLVED:** That the above be noted.

(ii) Visits to Other Faith Areas

Councillor Champagnie suggested that the committee should visit places of worship once a year and that SACRE approach places of worship regarding this possibility.

**RESOLVED:** That the comments be noted.

171. **Dates of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2009-10:**

**RESOLVED:** That the proposed dates for the Municipal Year 2009/10 be agreed and noted.

172. **Date of Next Meeting:**

**RESOLVED:** That the date of the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 11 March 2009 at 7.30 pm.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.40 pm)

(Signed) MRS A STOWE  
Chairman