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DATE: 12 October 2010

To: Members of the
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Councillors: Roger Charsley, Russell Jackson, Diana MacMull, Councillor Mrs Anne Manning, David McBride and Ian F. Payne,

Church of England: Reverend M Camp, Ms J Thompson, Mr C Town and Reverend S Varney

Teachers: Mrs F Hawkes, Ms E Honey, Mrs H James, Mr J Stone and Ms J Tranchina

Other Faiths: Mrs P Colling, Mr S Gupta, Mr R Hagley, Mr S Mahmood, Mrs R Michaelis, Mr S Riat and Mr M Sweet

Co-optee: Mrs S Polydorou

A meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education will be held at Bromley Civic Centre on **WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2010 AT 6.30 PM**

MARK BOWEN
Director of Legal, Democratic and
Customer Services.

Copies of the documents referred to below can be obtained from
www.bromley.gov.uk/meetings

A G E N D A

- 1 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN & VICE-CHAIRMAN**
- 2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF ALTERNATE MEMBERS**
- 3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 4 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27TH MAY 2010 (Pages 3 - 12)**
- 5 **ORAL UPDATE & PUBLICATIONS**
 - a) Agreed Syllabus – Update
 - b) Report of London SACRE AGM
 - c) Islamic competition 2010
 - d) Youth SACRE

- 6 SACRE MEMBERS TRAINING** (Pages 13 - 22)
- 7 CELEBRATING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MONTH** (Pages 23 - 26)
- 8 BROMLEY SACRE ANNUAL EVENT 2010** (Pages 27 - 28)
- 9 SACRE FAITH DIRECTORY FOR SCHOOLS** (Pages 29 - 30)
- 10 SACRE VISITS TO SCHOOLS** (Pages 31 - 34)
- 11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
Wednesday 16th February 2011 at 6.30pm

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2010
starting at 6.30pm

Present:

Martin Sweet (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Anne Manning (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Roger Charsley, Russell Jackson,
Diana MacMull, Anne Manning and Ian F. Payne
Rev M Camp, Mr Green, Mr Stone, Ms Tranchina,
Mr Gupta, Mr Hagley, Mr Mahmood, Mr Riat and
Mrs Polydorou (co-opted member)

Also Present:

Dr George Searle and Mrs Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Hawkes, Mrs James, Mrs Michaelis and Rev Varney. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Payne who had earlier attended another meeting. The Chairman welcomed the new Councillor members to the meeting and introductions took place. It was noted that this would be the last SACRE meeting for Mr Green from Bullers Wood School, who would be moving to a new school outside the Borough in September 2010.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2010

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 2 February 2010 be confirmed.

Matters Arising:

Item 7) Students had been invited to attend the summer meeting of SACRE, but were unable to do so due to examination commitments. It was hoped that they would be able to attend the next meeting.

Item 8) Dr Searle reported that he had just received notification that the Secretary of State for Education had announced that the Qualification and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) was to be abolished within a few months. The Chairman commented that he hoped the expertise of Mark Chater the QCDA RE Consultant would not be lost.

4 ORAL UPDATE & PUBLICATIONS

a) NASACRE AGM

The Chairman and RE Adviser had attended the NASACRE meeting on 12th May 2010, when Clare Short had given a keynote address on "Religion, Politics and Community: SACREs capacity to engage". (Notes of the address are attached to these minutes - Appendix 1). The meeting saw the launch of the CD "Effective SACREs" which gives guidance on the materials available to help SACREs become successful.

b) London SACRE

Members had been invited to attend the annual meeting of the London and South-East SACREs, to be held at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church on 18th June 2010. Councillors Charsley and Manning and Mr Mahmood wished to attend. The clerk to SACRE would arrange the booking for them.

c) Islamic competition 2010

Mr Mahmood informed the meeting that so far only one school had confirmed their attendance at this event which was to take place at Darul Uloom on 4th November 2010 between 7-9pm. All schools had been invited to participate. Members of SACRE were also invited, but were asked to notify Mr Mahmood at least one week beforehand if they wished to attend, in order to assist with catering. The RE Adviser and Councillor Manning had previously attended the event which was most enjoyable and appreciated by all, including teachers, students and parents who had attended.

d) 6th Form Conference- Prevent

At the previous SACRE meeting a presentation had been given by the Head of Community Safety which emphasised the importance of community cohesion.

The RE Adviser informed SACRE members that there was to be a conference for Year 12 students at the Education Development Centre on 15th July 2010. SACRE faith members were asked if they might be able to take part in a question and answer session at the conference lasting about half an hour. The RE Adviser agreed to email faith representatives with more information on what would be required. The Police would be at the conference with an "Act Now" presentation, and there would also be a theatre group attending.

A conference for teachers on Community Cohesion was planned for the 9th July 2010, when Lat Blaylock would be speaking. The SACRE RE Adviser had notified Bromley schools of the event which was being run by Jan Thompson, RE Adviser for the Rochester Diocese. It was understood that so far only four teachers had booked into the conference but ten were needed in order for it to be viable.

e) Holocaust Event

An event as part of the “Legacy of Hope” programme was organised by Mandy King, (Pupil Support Service), and had been held at Cator Park School on 10th March 2010. (This event had been launched on 27th January 2010 – Holocaust Memorial Day.) Several schools had been involved and Mr Mahmood had given a presentation at the event. The RE Adviser commented that the occasion had been very good and had incorporated dancing, acting, poetry and drawing. Mandy King hoped to run the event again in 2011. The Chairman remarked that Anne Frank Day was on 12th June 2010, when some schools would be holding a special assembly.

f) RE Celebrations 2011

RE Celebrations would take place during March 2011 and details can be viewed on <http://www.celebratingre.org>. It was hoped that SACREs would be involved and would encourage schools to celebrate. The RE Adviser had notified schools and would give out fliers via the Bromley Primary Schools Network in a few weeks time. She would also forward further details to SACRE members via the committee clerk.

g) Faith Directory

This was in the process of being finalised. A lot of information had been provided by faith representatives and churches on suitable people who would be able to speak to schools in collective worship time or during lessons. Mr Gupta said that he had been contacted and had visited St Vincent’s Catholic Primary school in Mottingham. Mr Mahmood remarked that he too had been invited to attend the school. He commented on the importance of keeping the directory regularly updated but expressed concern about individual’s contact details being made public as it was understood that the faith directory could be made available via the Bromley internet. Councillor Payne stated that under the Data Protection Act individuals would have to give permission for their contact details to be made public. The Chairman and RE Adviser confirmed that before the information was published those involved would be asked to agree to this and to confirm that the information was correct.

The RE Adviser informed members that she had had discussions with Andrew Ferrier, ICT Adviser from Bromley. He had been liaising with Gareth Denton from LB Croydon who was working on publishing something similar for that Authority. It was hoped that with agreement from LB Croydon an appropriate template could be prepared which could also be used by Bromley. The Assistant Director for Learning and Achievement outlined and explained the Managed Learning Environment in schools which gave pupils and teachers their own web space, designed to enhance teaching and learning.

5 BROMLEY SACRE ANNUAL EVENT 2010

Report No. DCYP10072

The RE Adviser informed members that it was hoped a speaker would be able to take part in the annual event for 2010 by talking on the value of excellent Religious Education. The Assistant Director for Learning and Achievement suggested that the Chairman and RE Adviser meet outside of the meeting to discuss arrangements on when and where the event should take place and let him have details of the costs involved. A possible venue would be the Education Development Centre during Interfaith week, 22nd - 26th November 2010 (although it was not essential that the event took place during this week if the speaker was not available). Previous annual events had included the 6th Form Conference, a speaker from the Canterbury Diocese and a talk on Self-Evaluation by Mark Chater from the QCDA.

The Chairman expressed the view that it would be good to have a speaker who would be of particular benefit to teachers. Ms Tranchina said it would be helpful for Primary Schools to have information about using the internet as a resource. Mr Stone suggested that it would be good to look at philosophy for children and the Assistant Director agreed with this. He thought it would be good to have a speaker during the "twilight" session to give professional leadership.

RESOLVED that the Chairman, RE Adviser and Assistant Director for Learning and Achievement meet to discuss the event.

6 BROMLEY YOUTH SACRE AND SACRE WEBSITE

Report No. DCYP10073

The Youth SACRE had been formed as a result of the 6th Form Conference which was the annual SACRE event in 2009. The youth SACRE had met twice on the 2nd March and 27th April 2010, and the notes of their meetings were circulated with the SACRE agenda. The RE Adviser informed the meeting that Year 13 students from Hayes school who had attended the second meeting said that they would go back to school to talk about Youth SACRE to the year 11 pupils. The next meeting of the Youth SACRE was due to take place on 16th June 2010. The students were very keen on a SACRE website and had lots of ideas for it. They planned to meet early on the 16th June in the IT suite at Cooper's Technology School to put together some ideas. (Incorporating the faith directory on the SACRE website had been discussed under item 4(g) above.) The Chairman commented on the very positive feedback from the Youth SACRE and agreed to write to the five Head Teachers who had been involved to express SACRE's appreciation.

RESOLVED that

- (i) members note the information from the Youth SACRE and endorse the work carried out so far and;**
- (ii) the Chairman write to the Head Teachers of the schools involved with Youth SACRE.**

7 BROMLEY SACRE AGREED SYLLABUS

Report No: DCYP10074

At the previous meeting it was decided that some time would be spent at the May meeting looking at the Bromley Agreed Syllabus in accordance with the development plan. Members had been sent the internet link to the current syllabus. Whilst there was time before the Agreed Syllabus Conference needed to be held, the opportunity was taken to raise awareness of the current syllabus. The RE Adviser outlined the current RE syllabus for both Primary and Secondary Schools in Bromley. The publication currently in use for primary schools in Bromley was the "Bromley Primary Scheme of Work for Religious Education 2004" published by LB Bromley. For secondary schools the documents used were "Religious Education: the non-statutory national framework 2004", published by the Department for Education & Skills, and the "Bromley Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (2007) published by LB Bromley.

The Chairman and RE Adviser gave a verbal report on syllabus information given at the QCDA conference held in March 2010. A new document entitled "RE in English Schools: Non Statutory Guidance 2010, had been published by the Department for Children Schools and Families.

The RE Adviser stated that in Bromley it had been decided it was not appropriate for secular study at primary schools, but secular views were taught in secondary schools. Christianity was however the core religion to be studied at each stage.

The RE Adviser commented that some teachers were not happy with the study of Pilgrimages in Year 6, and some teachers at Key stage 1 felt that the syllabus was a "bit dull" and added things to it. The Rev Camp stated that he would not like to see pilgrimages disappear from the curriculum, and asked what teachers added to the syllabus. The RE Adviser said that sometimes the teachers added information in about other faiths, especially if they had children from a non-Christian faith in their class. Teachers had expressed anxiety not about content but about support to deliver RE education. Mark Chater from the QCDA had worked with a number of SACREs on what the syllabus might look like. The ideas being put forward were that the Primary Curriculum was going to be much freer, and more about concepts than content.

Ms Tranchina commented that often in Primary Schools RE was taught by non-RE specialists who were happy to use the current guidance. The RE Adviser added that often class room assistants were also expected to help with teaching RE.

The Assistant Director for Learning and Achievement suggested that Bromley should look objectively at neighbouring authorities to see what they were doing.

The Chairman made the following comments:

1. A stronger picture needed to be obtained about what Religious Education really looks like in schools - more anecdotal evidence is needed. It is necessary to find the true picture of what teachers want in order to help them teach and deliver.

2. Bromley should maintain its distinctiveness as an Authority

3. A modern and relevant curriculum should be developed (The Chairman considered that the current Bromley Syllabus was dated in its style and approach.)

The Chairman considered that the end product should be for teachers to have a syllabus which they could “run with” and which would be adaptable with maximum flexibility. He remarked that it was important to listen to the views expressed by the Youth SACRE. There were some fantastic teachers in Bromley and some who needed support. It would be quite a challenge to produce a syllabus which was more exciting and creative.

RESOLVED that information from the CD “Essential SACREs” should be presented at the next meeting with the first 30 minutes of the meeting being used to explain how SACRE works which would be of benefit, particularly to new members.

8 BROMLEY SACRE SELF EVALUATION

Report No. DCYP 10075

The RE Adviser had been asked to look at the progress which had been made towards being an advanced SACRE. The RE Adviser referred to the Bromley SACRE Self-Evaluation results for Autumn 2008 and considered that Bromley were not yet an established SACRE for items 5B (Knowledge and understanding of the local religious, cultural, ethnic community) and 5C (Understanding the intrinsic contribution RE can make to social and racial harmony), although the Youth Conference and Youth SACRE had helped towards this. With reference to item 5D (Links to the LA initiatives promoting social and racial harmony) it would be helpful if SACRE had more knowledge of Local Authority initiatives and were able to contribute towards these. The Chairman remarked that he had previously met with The Head of Community Safety and Councillor Bloom, the former Portfolio Holder for Public Protection

and Safety. Councillor Payne suggested that Councillor Peter Morgan, the new Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety and Chairman of the Safer Bromley Partnership should be added to the distribution list for SACRE minutes.

The RE Adviser reported that NASACRE were producing a new version of the self evaluation tool; "Reporting and Evaluating Tool Kit" which was to be launched on 18th June 2010. The Chairman and RE Adviser would look at the document when published and report back at the next meeting. The Chairman commented that the new document would help to establish priorities and would assist in preparing the annual SACRE report.

RESOLVED that the Chairman and RE Adviser report back at the next meeting on the new self-evaluation tool.

9 SACRE VISITS TO SCHOOLS

Report no. DCYP10076

The RE Adviser reported on the successful visits to St Paul's Cray Primary School and Bishop Justus CE School which had taken place during the Spring term. No arrangements had yet been made for visits during the Summer term. The RE Adviser had tried to organise a visit to Hayes School and Councillor Manning one of the schools governor's said that she would follow this up. Mr Green and Mr Stone from Bullers Wood School thought a visit to their school might be possible and the Rev Camp suggested that a visit to Parish school could be made. Mr Riat and Councillor Payne indicated that they would be willing to accompany the RE Adviser on a visit. The Chairman asked other members to let the RE Adviser know if they might be available as it would be good to get as many SACRE Members as possible to attend school visits. The school visits assisted with informed debate and enabled members to get an idea of pressures experienced by teachers.

RESOLVED that the reports of the school visits be noted.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 20th October 2010 at 6.30pm. Councillor MacMull submitted her apologies for the meeting.

12 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006, AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006, AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

The Chairman moved that the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the item of business referred to below as it was likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

The following summary

refers to matters involving exempt information

13 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2010

RESOLVED that the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2010 be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm

Chairman

Minute Annex

BROMLEY SACRE - Meeting held on 27th May 2010

Appendix 1

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SACREs MEETING 12th May 2010 at BMA House

Keynote Address by Clare Short

Title: Religion, Politics and Community: SACREs capacity to engage

Clare Short started by suggesting we live in “interesting times” which is, apparently, an old Chinese curse! She suggested that we are in a time of a new beginning and that she was in favour of a hung parliament. However, power is concentrated and driven by 24 hour media. She felt that the current sense of disillusionment is going to change in this new era.

She suggested that SACREs are a model of consensus except that they reach better decisions! She believed that secularisation/bureaucracy/heavyweight management has squashed creativity at the coal face of education. She felt that SACREs have pioneered (and should be the proof of) religious cohesion where the work of RE teaching has “massively” shifted our communities. She believed that RE teaching had taken Britain by the hand and led the country into a more open understanding community. She drew the conference’s attention to the NASACRE handbook, page 18, which invites children to consider the given issues outlined and suggested that this task was massive (did she mean impossible) and went on to suggest we live in a different world. She quoted Richard Layard (The Landmark Report for the Children’s Society 2009) which suggests that increased income growth does increase happiness – but only up to a point. After that it has no effect and, whilst we are rich beyond belief, as a society we are not happy. In the report “The Spirit Level: why equality is better for everyone” Wilkinson & Pickett suggest that inequality within society is a large issue across OECD countries and that GB is high up on the list of countries with inequality (second only to USA). We live in a hedonistic society whereby the means of getting to the top are different, hopefully, from the means set out in good RE.

In seeking the “meaning of life” she felt there was no good product to that task without love and care. We live in a global community and live with massive threats such as global warming and increased fuel and food prices. She believed that this can only lead to increased human displacement where Britain, for example, spends £2 billion a year badly treating immigrants. She quoted the Geneva Convention that ascertains that anyone fleeing for religious reasons should be accepted in the first country they come to. She expressed her concern that we allow criminal gangs to run our immigration policies so, therefore, all this is going to generate mass immigration with a future that either generates good solutions or nasty political segregation.

She also went on to express her concern that OECD wealth is not sustainable since there are insufficient basic resources such as oil and food. Although we have technology and capacity to respond on our own, segregation is inevitable, she warns, if our society can live on “sufficient” and not on “more”. She felt that the qualities set out in NASACREs mission for RE need to be nurtured with big questions of faith and belief.

She also believes that global co-operation is an essential requirement and it is not enough to have “smaller aims”. She felt that global realities are not wise in the who and/or how they support, certainly regimes. She quoted the Middle East and the thought that issues in Gaza are driving a bigger hatred. She noted that the BNP’s increased percentage of the vote was driven by Muslim rhetoric.

So she wonders if it is too big a task to challenge the inequalities that governments sustain.

She noted that the language of religion is unquestioningly the platform for fundamentalists of all backgrounds and she was concerned at the dividing lines that exist around the identity that religion demarcates. If the principles of religious education is seen as “good”, then we need to refine our curriculum to explore the dangers of segregation. She worried that in an age or season of cutbacks, unsavoury groups could flourish as unfair policies are implemented.

She concluded by saying that people are looking for something finer than the current hedonistic mode. However, SACREs can be a force for good and are needed more now than before. However, the job is harder than before if we are to “take the next generation by the hand”.

Report No.
DCYP10140

London Borough of Bromley

Agenda
Item No.

6

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

Date: **20 October 2010**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

TITLE: SACRE MEMBERS TRAINING

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser
Tel: 020 8653 8606 Email: penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 NASACRE has produced training materials in the form of a CDROM for individual SACREs following the very successful national training programme.
- 1.2 At this meeting and subsequent meetings members will be shown a section of the training materials. This will help towards Bromley SACRE achieving advanced SACRE status.
- 1.3 Attached is a document that outlines the statutory work of a SACRE and other information on SACREs.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **Members to agree to adopt the training materials on improving the role of the Bromley SACRE.**

Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Nil
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SECTION 1: ABOUT SACREs

What is a SACRE?

SACRE stands for:

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

A SACRE is part of the local government machinery; its main function is to advise the local authority on matters related to RE and collective worship in schools.

About SACREs

In 1944, Local Education Authorities (LEAs) were empowered by law to set up a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE);

In 1988, LEAs had a duty laid upon them to do so;

So every local authority must have a SACRE and it must meet sufficient times to fulfil its statutory duties;

Most SACREs meet at least three times a year, ie once a term.

Statutory Responsibilities: A SACRE *must*:

- advise the local authority (LA) on matters related to agreed syllabus religious;
- education (RE) and collective worship (CW) either in response to a referral from the LA or as it sees fit;
- publish an annual report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups;
- email a copy of its report to the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) at: sacres@qcda.gov.uk;
- meet in public, unless confidential information is to be disclosed;
- make minutes of its meetings available for inspection at LA offices.

A SACRE *should*:

- monitor the provision and quality of agreed syllabus RE and of CW;
- provide advice and support on teaching agreed syllabus RE;
- consider whether changes need to be made to the agreed syllabus, in partnership with the LA;
- offer advice to the LA in respect of the agreed syllabus and its implementation.

A SACRE *may*:

- require the LA to review its agreed syllabus and, if after discussion a vote is taken, the LA group is not entitled to a vote;
- decide to advise the LA on matters to do with RE and CW;

- co-opt individuals who are not members of any of the groups, to provide educational expertise, the views of young people, or religious and non-religious views that reflect a diverse multi-cultural society.

In addition, SACREs **must**:

- consider appeals from schools wishing to modify the legal requirement for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character; this procedure is called a '**determination**'.

Composition of a SACRE

Representation on a SACRE

All four groups must be represented on the SACRE.

The number of members in each group will be determined by the individual SACRE's constitution.

The composition of Group A should be broadly proportionate to the religions and denominations represented in the local area.

Group A

Representatives of Christian denominations and other religions reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area.

Group B

Church of England representatives.

Group C

Teacher representatives (often from the teacher associations).

Group D

Local Authority representatives (often Councillors).

Organisation

- Each of these groups has equal voting rights: one vote per group.
- Decisions within a group about how that vote is to be cast do not require unanimity.
- Each group has to regulate its own proceedings, including provision for resolving
- deadlock. (In most SACREs, there is discussion and agreement about issues without the need for a vote.)

SACRE Annual Reports

- The annual report includes details of the SACRE's activities, including advice given to schools and any monitoring that has been undertaken in the past year. In the best practice, it is accompanied by a development plan.
- It can be used to publicise the work of SACRE with schools, governors, elected members and the general public.

The Broad Role of SACREs

Effective SACREs also:

- give advice to schools on methods of teaching agreed syllabus RE;
- advise the LA on the provision of training for teachers;
- monitor the quality and provision of RE and collective worship in schools;
- consider complaints about RE and CW referred to them by their LA;

When SACREs were inspected by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) Inspectors (HMI) judged the overall effectiveness of SACREs on:

- the contribution they make to social harmony and community cohesion;
- their partnership with the local authority.

SACREs' remit for schools

SACREs are responsible for oversight of religious education and collective worship in the majority of maintained schools.

The exceptions are:

- religious education in voluntary aided schools where RE is determined by the governors and taught according to the school's trust deed;
- collective worship in all schools with a religious character where worship can be reflective of that religious faith;
- academies (even those which follow the LA agreed syllabus).

Every Local Authority must:

- ensure there is a SACRE;
- ensure all four groups are represented on the SACRE;
- establish an occasional body called an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) and appoint members to it;
- ensure there is an agreed syllabus, reviewed every five years;
- ensure funds and support are in place to enable SACRE to fulfil its duties;
- take note of and respond to advice from the SACRE.

Appointing members

It is the responsibility of the LA to appoint members of the SACRE and the ASC.

The LA should:

- ensure those appointed are representative of the religion, denomination or association in question;
- seek nominations from the organisations to be represented.
- It is good practice for the SACRE to review its constitution periodically to ensure membership is appropriately representative and to advise the LA of any necessary amendments.

In Summary...

SACREs:

- are statutory bodies which all local authorities have to have and support;
- are representative of the local community;
- are responsible for RE and CW in most schools;
- have to report annually to QCDA;
- are instrumental in ensuring quality experiences for all pupils in RE and CW;
- have the potential to contribute to social harmony and community cohesion.

SECTION 2: What are SACRE's responsibilities? RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In relation to RE, a SACRE **must**:

- advise the local authority (LA) on religious education given in accordance with the agreed syllabus, and on matters to do with RE as the SACRE sees fit or in response to those issues that might be referred to the SACRE by the LA.

In relation to RE, a SACRE **should**:

- monitor the provision and quality of agreed syllabus RE and the effectiveness of the syllabus itself;
- provide advice and support on teaching agreed syllabus RE;
- consider whether changes need to be made to the agreed syllabus;
- offer advice to the LA, and through the LA to its schools, concerning how an existing agreed syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum.

In relation to RE, a SACRE **may**:

- require the LA to review its agreed syllabus and, if after discussion a vote is taken, the LA group is not entitled to a vote;
- advise the LA on matters to do with the work of the SACRE;
- co-opt individuals who are not members of any of the groups, to provide educational expertise, the views of young people, or religious and non-religious views to ensure RE reflects a diverse multi-cultural society.

The locally agreed syllabus

- The locally agreed syllabus is the statutory document for RE in the local authority. It sets out what should be taught to pupils in all key stages and the standards expected of them at the end of each key stage.
- It is produced by an agreed syllabus conference (ASC).
- The agreed syllabus must be reviewed every five years. If, at some other time, a majority of the groups of the SACRE asks the LA in writing to reconsider its agreed syllabus, it must convene a conference for that purpose.

Agreed Syllabus Conference

An agreed syllabus conference (ASC) is a statutory body brought together in order to produce an agreed syllabus for RE. It is a separate legal entity from a SACRE.

An ASC:

- has the same group structure as the SACRE but these are called committees;
- can be made up of SACRE members but need not be so;
- has no provision for co-opted members;
- may be chaired by an appointee of the local authority or may be permitted to choose its own Chair.

The LA's responsibility to convene the ASC implies a duty to provide funds and support for its work.

SACRE's remit in the LA

SACRE is responsible for RE in all community, foundation, trust and voluntary controlled schools where the agreed syllabus must be followed.

SACRE's responsibility does not extend to:

- voluntary aided schools where RE is determined by the governors according to the trust deed and reflects the religious character of the school;
- academies which are independent of the LA, although they are expected to use the locally agreed syllabus.

(DCSF Guidance on RE, 2010)

What else can a SACRE do?

A SACRE's broad role with regard to RE is to support good practice within its schools by:

- giving advice on ways of teaching agreed syllabus RE, including the choice of teaching materials;
- monitoring schools' provision for the subject as well as for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) of pupils;
- advising the LA on the provision of training for teachers in RE;
- considering complaints about the provision and delivery of religious education referred to it by the LA.

Giving advice on methods of teaching RE

Questions which should concern SACRE include:

- How is the agreed syllabus best delivered to each age group?
- What mixture should there be of formal content, thematic work, group work, personal discovery, visits to specified buildings or events, and visitors?
- What is the relationship of RE to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, to cross curricular studies, to citizenship and to personal, social and health education (PSHE)?
- Is the distinctiveness of RE being maintained in such relationships?

Giving advice on resources for RE

- The SACRE should offer advice on the most appropriate materials to use in delivering the aims, objectives and content of the agreed syllabus.
- Sometimes SACRE members review materials or investigate websites that could be useful for schools to use for RE, publishing their findings to schools.
- Some SACREs produce and circulate a newsletter every term.

Monitoring RE in schools

SACREs should:

- monitor good practice in the delivery of the agreed syllabus in a range of ways and take note of any difficulties;
- maintain regular contact with teachers by inviting them to report to SACRE meetings and attend in-service training;
- disseminate good practice in the teaching of RE;

- review provision for in-service training and development;
- scrutinise examination results;
- receive and discuss relevant sections of school inspection reports.

Training of teachers of RE

- If a new agreed syllabus is to be properly implemented, there needs to be training for all teachers in primary and special schools and all those teaching RE in secondary schools.
- SACREs should ensure that local authorities are aware of this need for training.
- SACREs also have a responsibility to be aware of the arrangements for preparing teachers in initial training to teach RE.

SECTION 3: What are SACRE's responsibilities? COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

SACREs' statutory duty

The SACRE has only one statutory duty with regard to CW. It is to grant a **DETERMINATION** to a community school where it is felt CW of 'a broadly Christian character' is not appropriate for all or some pupils. Granting such a determination does not lift the requirement for the school to provide CW.

A Reminder...

The law requires all schools to provide CW for every pupil every day, unless withdrawn by a parent.

In the schools within the SACRE's remit, CW **must**:

- be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character;
- reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief;
- not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

Context

In these schools, collective worship (CW) must be educational and appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils. It must not be confessional.

The Determination Procedure

- The application comes from the head teacher after proper consultation with staff, governors and parents. It must be accompanied by alternative plans for CW.
- This facility is only open to community schools; schools with a religious character are not eligible. It is for the individual SACRE to decide how applications should be made and to make the necessary advice available to schools.

It is the full SACRE that determines whether the application is justified. It would be considered good practice, however, for a SACRE to have a 'determinations panel' to consider such applications and make a recommendation to the SACRE. Since a controversial decision may be challenged by the school, it would be prudent for the SACRE also to have a separate 'appeals committee'. The SACRE should review each determination every five years.

SACREs' broader role

In relation to CW, SACREs should also:

- receive inspection reports, noting any references to the quality of CW in the context of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- monitor the quality of provision where possible;
- offer advice to head teachers and governors, including where there are difficulties.
- Schools should be able to look to their SACRE for advice about CW and many SACREs have produced guidance and resource materials.
- These can often be found for reference on local authority or SACRE websites.
- In the best practice, these are produced collaboratively between SACRE members, advisers/consultants and teachers, and trialled extensively in schools.

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Report No.
DCYP10139

London Borough of Bromley

Agenda
Item No.

7

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

Date: **20 October 2010**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

TITLE: CELEBRATING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MONTH

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser
Tel: 020 8653 8606 Email: penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 In order to highlight the importance of Religious Education in Schools there will be a national month of celebration in March 2011.
 - 1.2 Members have received the original flyer advertising this (attached) and it is hoped that we can look at the website at the meeting.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **Members are asked to consider what Bromley SACRE might do to help schools 'Celebrate RE'.**

Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Nil
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CELEBRATINGRE

... exploring values and beliefs for tomorrow's world

A month long celebration of religious education in England and Wales in March 2011

Celebrating RE month aims to:

- provide a showcase for enjoyable and relevant religious education with pupils of all abilities and age groups
- celebrate RE and its contribution to the education and personal development of all pupils and to society at large
- strengthen links between RE and local, regional and national faith communities
- connect RE professionals nationwide and encourage the sharing of good practice to foster lasting relationships between sectors, teachers and the wider RE community
- raise public awareness of RE's distinctive and positive contribution to society and social cohesion
- develop and maintain a strong presence for RE in the online community and news media
- promote imaginative examples of exploring questions of meaning, purpose and moral responsibility
- encourage creativity and excellence in RE, and
- highlight the excellent work that teachers, pupils and communities in England and Wales are already doing by shining the spotlight on the subject for a whole month

www.celebratingre.org

Visit www.celebratingre.org to:

- register your interest and receive free updates on events and developments
- share information about the events you are planning in your school and community
- find out how to enter competitions with an amazing array of RE prizes
- be inspired by the ideas and projects being developed by teachers across England and Wales for early years, primary, secondary, special, gifted and talented pupils
- look at events being planned by schools, faith communities, SACREs, libraries, museums and other interested parties
- find easy to access resources that you can use in your own school, and
- promote good RE teaching in your local authority, diocese or region

 **Religious Education Council**
of England and Wales



www.celebratingre.org

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Report No.
DCYP10142

London Borough of Bromley

Agenda
Item No.

8

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

Date: **20 October 2010**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

TITLE: SACRE ANNUAL EVENT 2010

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser
Tel: 020 8653 8606 Email: penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

1.1 As per the minutes of 27 May 2010 discussions have taken place regarding the Annual SACRE Event for this year. It has been decided to organise a twilight session on Philosophy for Children (PforC).

1.2 The final details on this event will be given at the meeting on 20 October 2010.

Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Relevant Minute from 27/5/10 SACRE meeting
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Report No.
DCYP10143

London Borough of Bromley

Agenda
Item No.

9

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

Date: **20 October 2010**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

TITLE: SACRE FAITH DIRECTORY FOR SCHOOLS

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser
Tel: 020 8653 8606 Email: penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 Bromley SACRE now has a page on the internet Managed Learning Environment 'Fronter' which is available at a charge to Bromley schools. It is not known at present how many schools have taken this up.
- 1.2 The information on Faith speakers and visitors to schools has been collected and discussed over the last year.
- 1.3 All people who have volunteered to go into schools will be contacted by the SACRE representative of their faith to check their continued willingness and will be given some training/guidelines for protocol in schools by the RE consultant, Penny Smith-Orr. The information will then be uploaded onto the SACRE section of Fronter so that teachers can access it and make their own arrangements for speakers.
- 1.4 This has been a long process and is something that the members are always asked for when visiting schools. Schools which don't buy into the Fronter system will be encouraged to contact the RE Adviser for a list of speakers.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **Members to note the contents of the paper and comment as appropriate.**

Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Nil.
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Report No.
DCYP10141

London Borough of Bromley

Agenda
Item No.

10

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

Date: **20 October 2010**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

TITLE: SCHOOL VISITS

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser
Tel: 020 8653 8606 Email: penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

1.1 Members of Bromley SACRE visited two secondary schools, Bullers Wood and Hayes Secondary, during the Summer Term 2010. Reports of the visits are attached.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 **Members to read the reports and comment as appropriate.**

2.2 **Members to volunteer to attend visits this term.**

Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Nil.
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SACRE Visit to Bullers Wood School 22 June 2010

The visit to Bullers Wood School was by invitation from Mr Jed Stone who is a teacher member of Bromley SACRE and a teacher at Bullers Wood. As well as this Mr. Stone was very active in organising the SACRE sixth form conference in 2009. The members of SACRE who went on the visit were Mrs Penny Smith-Orr, the RE consultant, and Rev Michael Camp, a representative of the Church of England group.

On arrival we were met by Helen van Teutem a deputy head teacher and were joined later by Mr Alex Green, also a member of SACRE, and had a short talk about the context of the school and our visit. The school follows the Bromley syllabus which has been extensively worked on by Mr Stone and his department to meet the needs of the pupils. We were given some of the documentation and also a copy of the latest departmental review, from March 2010. This document praised the department for several areas of good practice and included action points for minor improvements.

We went to observe a collective worship in a tutor group setting with Mrs Clothier's group. Tutors are provided with a booklet called Reflections which has the theme for the week and suggestions for expanding the theme including stories, and a reflective prayer. Resources are provided through the MLE. Twice a week there are Year group and key stage collective worship sessions. The group were respectful and all took part in the short activity, followed by a short reflection and prayer. The students then went to their different lessons.

We then observed Mr Stone conducting a lesson using Philosophy for Children (P4C) techniques. The pupils were very engaged with the subject, which was a modern version of a Parable, and they then discussed their reactions and posed questions on the story. The classrooms we saw had excellent and thought provoking interactive displays. Once a term the 6th form are involved in a conference day on an RS topic, a recent one involved the parents of Jimmy Misson.

After the lesson we had three quarters of an hour where students from each year group made presentations to us on various aspects of the RE they had been taught and discussed their feelings about the subject. This was an excellent session with very positive views from the students and an opportunity for us to look at work they had undertaken.

We had a short discussion afterwards with members of the department, which is lucky to have five RS specialists and is a very dynamic part of the school. We discussed the possibility of links with St Georges to add to their links with Christchurch Chislehurst. We also discussed the possibility of Mr Stone presenting his work on P4C to SACRE.

This was an excellent visit which really showed how pupils can be inspired and how they feel about the subject.

Visit to Hayes Secondary School on 29 June 2010

The visit to Hayes School was by invitation from the head of department Mrs Hannah Silley as a result of suggestions by SACRE members and after attendance by some sixth formers at the Youth SACRE meeting. Three members of SACRE went, Martin Sweet, Chair, Cllr Manning, Vice Chairman, and Penny Smith-Orr, RE consultant.

On arrival we were offered lunch with Mrs Silley and Mr Osborne, the head teacher. We discussed the importance of RE within the school. All pupils are entered for the short course GCSE and 40 pupils were taking the full course by working after school. Two pupils in Y7 and two in Y10 are withdrawn from RE lessons, otherwise pupils of all faiths take part. We were given a copy of the scheme of work for Key stage 3 which follows the advice of the Bromley Agreed Syllabus. We were also given some examples of planning sheets and assessment activities that are used. It was very good to see and hear how the role of RE in the school has moved forward most positively.

We then went to observe two lessons, Year 8 with Mrs Silley looking at how Christians make moral decisions and Y12 with Mrs Boyden looking at the role of libertarianism and how it conflicts with determination. Both of these were very interesting, the Y12 lesson was revision and the students were very motivated and engaged with the teacher and each other to debate the question. The Year 8 class were quite a lively class and it was an extremely hot day but the teacher had good control and the pupils engaged in conversation and all tried to complete the written activity.

After this we observed a collective worship with years 7 and 8. This was on the theme of leadership and the need to take advantage of all the opportunities that present themselves in life. After a presentation on different well known leaders the new Head boy and Head girl were introduced and some of the new prefects. Several of these then made speeches about the things they hoped to be able to achieve during the following year which was quite inspirational.

This was a very useful and enjoyable visit and the members who attended would like to thank Mrs Silley and Mr Osborne for their welcome. We have subsequently had a letter from the Head Teacher expressing a wish to be able to work with SACRE in the future.

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