

**DRAFT MINUTES of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held on 11 December 2012 at 6.00pm**

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**Present:**

Committee A	Mrs S Lawson (from 6.38pm)
Committee B	Mr J Graham
Committee C	Mr J Misra
Committee D	Councillors Anderson, Healy and Ojetola

**Apologies:** Mr Gill, Ms Jellicoe and Mr Tweedle.

**In attendance:** Ms D Weston, RE Consultant (Advisor to SACRE)  
Ms V Freeman, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Gill, Ms Jellicoe and Mr Tweedle.

**2. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2012**

It was noted that minutes of the meeting held on the 22 October 2012 were correct with the exception of Item 4, Declarations of Interest, whereby Councillor Anderson declared a 'non-pecuniary interest in Item 7'. However, as the meeting was not quorate at this stage, the minutes could not be approved.

The Chair requested that the Clerk write to Ms Fuller thanking her for the time that she has invested in as a member on Thurrock SACRE and that the Diocese of Chelmsford be asked to recommend a replacement for Ms Fuller.

**3. TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

There were no additional items.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no such declarations made.

## 5. THURROCK SACRE – THE NATIONAL REVIEW

The RE Consultant introduced a report that provided the background about the National Religious Education Review and presented information on the review process and a summary of the recommendations. Members were requested to consider the Phase 1 Review report and the addendum and consider whether or not SACRE might contribute to the review using the questionnaire.

Members were advised that the role of the RE Subject Review for England was to defend and enhance the place of RE in the curriculum of English schools, for the benefit of learners. Along with all the subjects of the curriculum, RE should provide children and young people 4-19 with knowledge and understanding that enables them to move confidently and successfully through their education, taking into account their needs, including those who are the most able as well as those pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

The RE Consultant informed Members that the Expert Panel had made 9 recommendations and that these were outlined on page 26 of the agenda.

During questioning, Members were advised that the Phase 1 was due to be completed at Christmas and that the consultation process was due to end this week, however late data would be considered. Members were advised that Phase 2 would take place between February and April 2013 and consultation would take place subsequent to this with task groups undertaking work from May 2013, with the intention of work being completed at the end of the academic year.

Members questioned whether the current agreed syllabus addressed the minimum standards, and were advised that although there were some variations, the agreed syllabus was based on the national framework.

*The meeting became quorate at 6.38pm upon the arrival of Mrs Lawson. At this stage of the meeting, the minutes from the meeting held on the 22 October 2012, with the amendment as stated in Minute 2 above, were agreed as a correct record.*

Members expressed concern regarding the level of teacher competence and concern that teachers were more comfortable teaching their practiced religion. The RE Consultant explained that maintained and community primary schools were required to follow the agreed syllabus, however there was concern regarding secondary schools, in particular the academies as the local authority had limited authority to visit academies, although it was noted that academies were required to publish their curriculum.

The RE Consultant informed members that under the Education Act 1996, the Local Authority still held the responsibility for standards across schools and that academies were encouraged to contact the local authority for expertise.

Members suggested that the academies be approached to sign up to the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus and were advised that this would be a positive action and that the DfE were preparing a publication on frequently asked questions and answers for academies.

The RE Consultant suggested that the notes from the meeting's discussion be circulated to members and that the RE Consultant share the discussion notes with the RE Review as a means of feeding back the view of Thurrock SACRE to the Review Team. Furthermore, Members agreed that they would complete the questionnaire in the agenda and email to the Clerk.

**RESOLVED: That SACRE:**

- i) Received a presentation on the RE Review – review process (Appendix A.)**
- ii) Received a presentation on the RE Review – summary of the recommendations (Appendix B).**
- iii) Considered the Phase 1 Review report (Appendix C) and Addendum (Appendix D).**
- iv) Considered whether or not members of SACRE might contribute to the review using the questionnaire (Appendix E).**
- v) Members be provided discussion notes and that the RE Consultant share the discussion notes with the RE Review as a means of feeding back the view of Thurrock SACRE to the Review Team.**
- vi) Members complete the questionnaire and return to the Clerk to SACRE.**

**The meeting ended at 7.25pm**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
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or alternatively e-mail [VEFreeman@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:VEFreeman@thurrock.gov.uk)**