

**Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

**held on Monday, 22 July, 2019 at 6.00 p.m.**

**at the Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall**

**Present**

Mr. D. Lomax (Chair)  
Ms P. Lane (Vice Chair)  
Mr. A. Orlik  
Mrs K. Donnellan  
Dr. G. Gomez  
Mrs M. Gibbons  
Mrs B. Groombridge  
Mrs V. Heydon-Matterface  
Mr. M. Lad  
Imam Saeed-Ur-Rahman  
Councillor Bashir  
Councillor Mazhar  
Councillor Nasreen  
Councillor Rasab  
Councillor Singh-Sohal

**In Attendance:-**

Mr. Lat Blaylock - (Consultant, REToday)  
Mrs. B. Mycock - Democratic Services / Clerk to SACRE

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received by Councillor Ali, Councillor Johal, Mr. M. Sacha and Mrs C. Beirne (Walsall Council).

**2. Appointment of Chairman for the 2019/20 Municipal Year**

Mr D. Lomax was nominated by Dr. Gomez and seconded by Mrs Gibbons

**Resolved**

That Mr D. Lomax be appointed Chairman for the 2019/20 municipal year.

**3. Appointment of Vice Chairman for the 2019/20 Municipal Year**

Mrs P. Lane was nominated by the Chair and this was seconded by Councillor Sohal Singh.

**Resolved**

That Mrs P. Lane be appointed Vice-Chairman for the 2019/20 municipal year

**4. Late Items to be introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

**5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items for consideration in the private session.

**6. Minutes of the previous meetings**

**Resolved**

- i. That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October, 2018 be signed and approved as a true record;
- ii. That the minutes of the inquorate meeting on 25 March be signed and noted as a true record.

**7. Approval of Annual Report 2016-17**

A copy of the annual report 2016-17 had been submitted.

Mrs Groombridge **moved** and it was duly **seconded** by Mr. Orlik that the annual report for 2016-17 be approved.

**Resolved**

That the annual report 2016-17 be approved.

**8. Approval of Annual Report 2017-18**

A copy of the annual report 2017-18 had been submitted

Mr. Lomax **moved** and it was duly **seconded** by Mrs Groombridge that the annual report 2017-18 be approved

**Resolved**

That the annual report 2017-18 be approved.

**9. SACRE Constitution**

Documents had been submitted.

Mr. Lat Blaylock from R.E. Today introduced himself and informed members of his substitution for Ms Fiona Moss. He advised members that Walsall SACRE's Constitution was due for review and he drew members' attention to the NASACRE Guidance document.

The document aimed to assist local authorities in reviewing the content of their SACRE Constitutions in accordance with the Education Act 1996.

In discussion with regard to the Constitution, members raised the following points:-

- Quorum to be reviewed (current attendance 8 members from 3 out of 4 groups)
- SACRE to consider including teachers on membership
- Vacant positions to be filled

Members to contact RE Today through the Clerk should they have any Constitution items for consideration.

Mr. Blaylock advised members of a request from Humanists UK to join Walsall's SACRE as either a full or a co-opted member. He further added that Humanists UK had approached all local authorities and that some SACREs had resolved to include a Humanist representative within their SACRE membership as a non-religious worldviews member. Following a detailed discussion about Humanism, members agreed to invite a Humanist representative to a future meeting to enable members to make an informed decision.

**Resolved**

That:-

- i. members noted the updates
- ii. the Constitution to be reviewed at next meeting
- iii. a representative from Humanist UK be invited to the meeting on 16 March, 2020 to provide an overview of their practice

**10. SACRE National Updates**

RE Today/NATRE National updates had been submitted.

Mr. Blaylock advised members of the new Ofsted Framework. The Framework would increase the number of schools inspected by Ofsted with regard to RE teaching. It would ensure the teaching of RE met legal requirements and of a high enough quality. Ofsted Inspection reports were public documents and SACRE could request reports from the Local Authority when RE was highlighted.

Mr. Blaylock suggested a couple of actions for SACRE's consideration:-

- i. to offer support to schools ahead of their Ofsted inspections
- ii. SACRE be prepared with letters for schools following their Ofsted inspections to either congratulate or offer future RE support

In the discussion regarding Ofsted inspections, Mr. Orlik suggested the possibility of SACRE arranging training for schools with a potential to generate funding.

**Resolved**

That the National Updates be noted

**11. Election of Spokespersons for the Groups**

The report was submitted.

**Resolved**

That the following members be appointed as Spokesperson for their individual Group:-

- Mr. A. Orlik – Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education
- Mr. D. Lomax – Christian and other religious denominations
- Councillor Sohal Singh – Local Education Authority

**12. SIAMS Report – Blue Coat CE (A) Infant School**

The meeting received the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) report of Blue Coat Church of England Aided Infant School, which graded the 'Impact of collective worship' and the 'effectiveness of religious education' as Excellent.

**Resolved**

That the Clerk to write to Blue Coat Church of England Aid Infant School on behalf of SACRE to congratulate them on the outstanding SIAMS report.

**13. Dates of next meetings for 2019/20**

The next scheduled meetings for SACRE are: -

- Monday 21 October, 2019
- Monday, 16 March, 2020

**Termination of meeting**

The meeting terminated at 7.05 p.m.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....