

Minutes

HILLINGDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

17 June 2021

Meeting held in Committee Room 5 - Civic Centre,
High Street, Uxbridge



	<p>Committee Members Present: Carole Jones (Chair) Father Desmond Banister (Vice-Chair) Joan Beavington Pauline Byles Councillor John Hensley Keith Lunn Councillor Jagjit Singh Alice Vahdat</p> <p>Also Present: Elenor Paul (Adviser to Hillingdon SACRE) Rani Dady (Education Manager – Education Improvement and Partnerships) Steve Clarke (Democratic Services Officer)</p>
1.	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 07 November 2019 be agreed as a correct record.</p>
2.	<p>ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>The Committee agreed that Carole Jones be elected as Chair of Hillingdon SACRE and Father Desmond Banister be elected as Vice-Chair for the 2021/22 municipal year.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the HSACRE formally confirmed the appointments of both the Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2021/22 municipal calendar year.</p>
3.	<p>DRAFT HSACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19 (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>Consideration was given to the draft HSACRE annual report for the academic year 2018/19. The chair asked the Committee if there were any changes or comments they would like to make regarding the 2018/19 draft report, to which there were none. The Committee approved of the report for submission to the Secretary of State for Education.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Committee endorsed the HSACRE Annual Report for 2018/19 for submission to the Secretary of State for Education.</p>
4.	<p>AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW UPDATE (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>Elenor Paul, Adviser to Hillingdon SACRE, introduced the item noting that the agreed</p>

syllabus document was a tool to support teachers of RE in the Borough and HSACRE acted as a point of contact in assisting RE teachers. Members were informed that the current agreed RE syllabus was out of date and a new syllabus document, which had been scheduled to replace the out of date syllabus in 2018 and had been included in Members agenda packs, was yet to be published. This was attributed to a change in personnel during the publication stage leading to multiple versions of the document remaining dormant. It was noted that a lot of work had gone into the currently unpublished syllabus by both the current and previous HSACRE Advisers however, further amendments would be needed to bring the syllabus up to date. Officers noted that a freedom of information request had been received in late 2020 enquiring as to when a new RE syllabus would be published.

The Committee were minded to undertake a virtual workshop in an effort to make the necessary amendments to the syllabus document before it could be published. The Adviser would organise and host the workshop with the intent being that the newly updated syllabus could be published shortly afterwards. It was highlighted that an editable, non-pdf, version of the document would be required, officers noted that they could circulate an editable version ahead of the workshop. Details of how to join the workshop would be circulated over the coming days.

RESOLVED: That a virtual workshop be organised to make the necessary amendments to update the RE syllabus before the document can be published.

5. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** (*Agenda Item 5*)

The Committee noted that Newly Qualified Teachers (NQT) were now to be known as Early Career Teachers (ECT) following early career framework reforms in March 2021. It was also noted that ECTs would now be undertaking a structured 2-year professional development package following the reforms.

It was highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic had effectively paused HSACRE's activities with the Committee being unable to meet in 2020 and the first half of 2021. Members noted that a planned pupil conference had taken place before the onset of the pandemic, however, the planned teacher training conference had been postponed. The Adviser noted that an in-person conference was highly preferred and suggested holding off on rescheduling the conference until a more appropriate time.

Members highlighted that it had been almost two years since any previous teacher training conference and were minded to consider the merits of a virtual conference if an in-person conference was not possible due to any potential third wave of the pandemic. It was noted that a virtual conference would be better than nothing and an emphasis was placed on getting the training out there to all teachers, including ECTs. Officers highlighted that schools could prospectively be charged a small fee for the teacher training conference as invited to the conference should cover academies and independent schools in the Borough; officers further noted that they could support with communications as they had close ties to all schools in the Borough.

The Committee discussed the recent OFSTED review of research into factors that influence the quality of RE in schools in England. Members noted some of the key findings in that; due to other curriculum pressures on schools, RE was potentially falling by the wayside with regard to time spent on the subject. It was highlighted that young people had never needed more of a religious literacy and indicated that the breadth of RE taught may be lacking; for example, even if a teacher had a keen interest and knowledge of their own faith, there would likely be numerous faiths in which they were

inexperienced. In those instances, HSACRE should be a point of contact and support for those teachers, nodding to the diversity of HSACRE. The Committee were minded to gauge the confidence levels amongst teachers of RE in the Borough in the form of a survey to RE teachers, leaders and head teachers. It was noted that a draft set of survey questions would be prepared for the following HSACRE meeting and the survey could be distributed in autumn 2021.

The Committee discussed the HSACRE budget noting that since HSCARE was resuming its activities after the hiatus imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, a plan should be drawn up as to how HSACRE would spend its budget. It was noted that there was no budget for 2020 due to the pandemic, however the teacher training conference, whether it take place virtually or in-person, and the syllabus workshop could be drawn from the 2021 SACRE budget.

6. **NEXT MEETINGS** (*Agenda Item 6*)

It was noted that the next meetings of HSACRE were due to take place on Thursday 04 November 2021 and Tuesday 29 March 2022.

The meeting, which commenced at 6.00 pm, closed at 6.54 pm.

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Steve Clarke on 01895 250693. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.