

# **AGENDA**

# Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: Tuesday 1 December 2009

Time: **2.15 pm** 

Place: The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road,

Hereford

Notes: Please note the **time**, **date** and **venue** of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please call Paul James, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 260460 or e-mail pjames@herefordshire.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

# Agenda for the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

### Membership

Chairman Councillor J Stone

Councillor WU Attfield The Local Authority

Mrs. C. Ault Bahai faith

Mrs L BarkerSecondary TeachersRevd. P. BarlowChurch of EnglandMr. P. BowenChurch of England

Mrs. J. Brown Special Education Schools

Councillor P Jones CBE The Local Authority

Mrs G Jutle Sikh Faith
Mrs S McCamley Primary Schools

Sr. D. O'Donnell Roman Catholic Church

Mr. Z. Pandor Muslim Faith

**Rev L Rickards** The Free Church from Churches Together

Non Voting Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins Co-opted member

Mrs A. Daniel Co-opted Member
Ms. K. Mayglothling Co-Opted Member

Mrs. G. Morris Co-Opted Member for the Academic

Community

### **GUIDANCE ON DECLARING PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AT MEETINGS**

The Council's Members' Code of Conduct requires Councillors to declare against an Agenda item(s) the nature of an interest and whether the interest is personal or prejudicial. Councillors have to decide first whether or not they have a personal interest in the matter under discussion. They will then have to decide whether that personal interest is also prejudicial.

A personal interest is an interest that affects the Councillor more than most other people in the area. People in the area include those who live, work or have property in the area of the Council. Councillors will also have a personal interest if their partner, relative or a close friend, or an organisation that they or the member works for, is affected more than other people in the area. If they do have a personal interest, they must declare it but can stay and take part and vote in the meeting.

Whether an interest is prejudicial is a matter of judgement for each Councillor. What Councillors have to do is ask themselves whether a member of the public – if he or she knew all the facts – would think that the Councillor's interest was so important that their decision would be affected by it. If a Councillor has a prejudicial interest then they must declare what that interest is. A Councillor who has declared a prejudicial interest at a meeting may nevertheless be able to address that meeting, but only in circumstances where an ordinary member of the public would be also allowed to speak. In such circumstances, the Councillor concerned will have the same opportunity to address the meeting and on the same terms. However, a Councillor exercising their ability to speak in these circumstances must leave the meeting immediately after they have spoken.

### **AGENDA**

### **Pages** 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY) 2. To receive any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee. 3. **MINUTES** 1 - 6 To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2009... **RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)** 4. To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public. 5. **RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2009** 7 - 10 To consider the 2009 Religious Education examination results for Herefordshire. DRAFT SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010 - 2013 6. 11 - 12 That SACRE consider the draft SACRE Development Plan 2010 - 2013 and, subject to any comment or amendment proposed, consider adopting the new Plan. NOTE: The draft Plan has been issued with the agenda to Members as a separate document. 7. **SACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009** To receive a report on the success of the 2009 SACRE Annual Conference held 24 September 2009 at Hedley Lodge Conference Centre, Belmont, Hereford. 8. **MULTI-FAITH EVENT HELD 19 OCTOBER 2009** To report on the Multi-Faith Event held on 19 October 2009 at Holmer CE Primary School, Hereford. DRAFT HEREFORDSHIRE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT - ACADEMIC YEAR 9. 13 - 14 2008/9 To comment on the draft SACRE Annual Report for the academic year September 2008 to July 2009 prior to submission to QCDA. NOTE: The draft report has been issued with the agenda to Members as a separate document.

### HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Monday 29 June 2009 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Stone (Chairman)

Councillor WU Attfield, Mrs C Ault, Mrs L Barker, Revd. P. Barlow, Mr. P. Bowen, Mrs A Daniel, Mr T Leach, Sr. D. O'Donnell and Ms C Wolfe

In attendance: Councillor WLS Bowen (Chairman of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee)

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Brigadier P Jones CBE, Mrs G Jutle, Mrs S McCamley and Mrs K Mayglothling.

### 2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no substitutions made.

### 3. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2009 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

### 4. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No written questions were received from the public.

### 5. WELCOME TO CHERRY WOLFE MEMBER FOR THE JEWISH FAITH COMMUNITY

The Chairman welcomed Cherry Wolfe, a representative of the Jewish Community, to her first meeting of SACRE.

The Chairman informed the committee that Mrs Gurmit Jutle had recently completed training in SACRE membership and had been awarded a certificate from NASACRE which would be passed on. The Chairman emphasised the importance of training for SACRE members and offered his congratulations to Mrs Jutle.

### 6. NASACRE AND QCA UPDATE

The consultant for RE informed the committee that Herefordshire had not been represented at the NASACRE AGM held during June so was unable to provide any feedback.

The consultant for RE then went on to inform SACRE that she had completed a national interfaith questionnaire on their behalf. The consultant also informed Members that she would be attending a consultation focus group in July concerning the ongoing curriculum reviews.

### 7. FUNDING FOR FUTURE MULTI-FAITH EVENTS

The Chairman informed the meeting that thanks to the initiative of the headteacher of Holmer primary school, there would be a further multi faith event for children this year. The Chairman further informed members that he had contacted the Local Authority's Director of Children's Services to enquire about the local authority contributing to the funding of future events, as funding for the next financial year was not yet secure. He added that a bid (by the Multifaith Group who run these events) for funding had been made to the Faiths in Action Fund.

Regarding the issue of securing funding for the next financial year, the Chairman said that it would be necessary to draft a business plan and submit it for consideration before September as budgets for Children's Services are determined in the autumn of each year.

The Chairman added that he felt it was important to invite County Councillors to a multi faith event so that their positive message is spread throughout the county. The meeting agreed that this was a good way to enhance the profile of such events.

Mrs A Daniel commented that schools found it hard to accept that there was no money available for such a vitally important event and she expressed concern that the Children's Services directorate did not value these events more highly. She added that multi faith events are a cutting edge approach towards delivering the Every Child Matters agenda and significantly promote community cohesion. The committee shared the concerns voiced by Mrs Daniel and were keen to see this funding shortfall addressed at the highest level within the directorate.

The Primary School Improvement Manager said that she would create a business plan to submit to the Director of Children's Services to ask for funding. She added that the plan would need to be robust and would call on members of SACRE to help draft its content. Councillor WLS Bowen, observing the meeting in his capacity as Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Chairman said that he would also raise this matter within the directorate.

### **RESOLVED That**

- (a) The Primary School Improvement Manager drafts a robust and compelling business plan, with input from SACRE, bidding for funding to host multi faith events in future; and
- (b) Members of Herefordshire Council are invited to attend multi-faith events in future

### 8. FUNDING FOR SACRE

The Primary School Improvement Manager explained that in previous financial years SACRE had enjoyed a budget uplift and that this year an increase had not been received. She added that a business plan for the financial year 2010/11 would need to be written to make a case for the uplift to be reintroduced. She informed SACRE that significant funds would be required in order to carry out the syllabus review during this financial year 2009/2010 and in 2010/11.

The Chairman expressed his regret at the budget situation due to the difficult financial context. He said that all Local Authorities are in a similar situation but would again make the case to the director.

The Primary School Improvement Manger informed SACRE that even though the budget uplift had not been received the syllabus had to be reviewed. Therefore the number of days the authority could employ the consultant in RE work would be reduced. This would inevitably impact on what could be achieved in this academic year.

RESOLVED That The Primary Schools Improvement Manager drafts a compelling business plan bidding for funding for SACRE/ RE provision during the financial year 2010/11.

### 9. RE IN THE CURRICULUM - CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS FOR DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK

The Consultant for RE set the scene regarding the ongoing national reviews of primary education. She reported that one of SACRE's key roles was to advise the Local Authority on RE provision in accordance with the agreed syllabus. She reminded SACRE that RE was the one curriculum area that is required by law but determined and delivered locally and that this provision, through the Locally Agreed Syllabus, is subject to review every five years.

The consultant went on to explain that a national consultation was currently underway on the final report of the Rose Review of the Primary curriculum and the role of RE within it, and on the paper 'RE in English Schools: Non Statutory Guidance 2009' - a review of the government guidance on RE (formerly known as circular 1/94) Changes arising from these will take effect from September 2011. These proposals will impact on the review the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus to begin in Autumn 09 as the syllabus would need to take account of the new primary school curriculum.

Members were then taken through the detailed consultation responses drafted by the Consultant for RE and various points were discussed. The consultant informed members that the new guidance would replace government circular number 1/94 which was in need of updating.

After a brief discussion, SACRE agreed with the responses drafted by the Consultant and asked that they be formally submitted by the Clerk to QCA who were carrying out the survey on behalf of the DCSF. In particular the discussion focused on how the progression statements in the draft Programme of Learning for Religious Education in the primary school appeared to be dominated by "learning about" religion (AT1) outcomes. SACRE expressed their concern at this.

They also felt that the issue of funding for SACREs, as a statutory body, had not been adequately addressed in the new RE guidance (RE in English Schools: Non Statutory Guidance 2009'). Whilst the document made it clear that Local Authorities were required to 'fund a SACRE and an ASC satisfactorily in line with the duty to convene each of these bodies' it did not make it clear how a Local Authority could do this.

The consultant went on to explain the significance of the new Primary Curriculum for Religious Education. She said that six key area of learning had been identified in the document and that RE was not explicitly referred to in any area. This anomaly was due to the unique status of RE. The report focused only on the National Curriculum subjects. RE is part of the Basic Curriculum required in all schools, but, as it is determined locally, it is not part of the National Curriculum.

SACRE expressed their concern that Religious Education would be overlooked and may be marginalised in the new curriculum and they asked that this concern be expressed in their response to the consultation. SACRE also expressed concern that the statutory position of RE in the school curriculum had not been stated clearly in the report. They agreed that members should inform as many colleagues in the RE field as possible

about the consultation so that this important document is responded to as widely as possible. Members also requested that a strongly worded letter be written to the QCA outlining their concerns as soon as possible.

### **RESOLVED That**

- (a) the responses to the two consultations be submitted to the QCA; and
- (b) A Letter be drafted to the QCA highlighting SACRE's concerns.

### 10. FEEDBACK FROM THE AGREED SYLLABUS ALIGNMENT GROUP MEETING

The Consultant for RE informed the meeting that QCA had invited a number of local authorities who are about to review their agreed syllabuses to work with it to demonstrate how the proposed non statutory national guidance for RE can be implemented at the local level in a variety of ways. The RE consultant had attended the first of these meeting on behalf of Herefordshire.

### 11. RE PROVISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREED SYLLABUS

The Chairman informed the meeting that a request for RE GCSE exam entry levels had been sent out to all secondary schools. He highlighted that there is a statutory obligation for all school aged children to follow a course in RE until the age of 19 (when in maintained sixth forms).

The Primary School Improvement Manger gave a breakdown of the examination courses followed in Herefordshire High Schools. She reported that the majority of high schools did follow either a short or long course GCSE in RE and that some students opted to study towards a certificate qualification in RE. At the time of the meeting there were currently a number of schools yet to provide the information. There was a concern that not all High schools offered accredited courses for all students – as required by the Agreed Syllabus.

SACRE felt that the authority should provide a reminder to schools highlighting the importance of Religious Education to all pupils. The Primary Schools Improvement Manager agreed to send a letter to schools as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That the Primary School Improvement Manger sends a letter to all schools reminding staff of their obligation concerning the provision of Religious Education.

### 12. REVIEW OF THE SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Primary School Improvement Manger informed SACRE that as the Consultant for RE's days of work were reduced for this financial year she would be undertaking a review of the SACRE Development Plan herself. She mentioned the possibility of convening a working group that would need to meet next spring. This work would be shared with the March meeting of SACRE ready for a draft to be written soon after.

RESOLVED: That the Primary Schools Improvement Manager undertake preliminary work on updating the SACRE Development Plan and report to the March meeting of SACRE.

### 13. SACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009 - UPDATE

The Consultant for RE informed the meeting that this years Annual Conference would be taking place on 24 September and it was anticipated that promotion for the event would start within days. The event would be taking place at Hedley Lodge in Belmont and all schools would be targeted as potential attendees. The Primary School Improvement Manager said that a "2 for 1" offer on tickets would be offered to encourage a higher level of attendance and this could be justified in terms of cost. The event would run between 8.45 am and 3.30 pm and had been very successful in previous years.

Members agreed that this event should be publicised widely amongst teaching colleagues, school governors and members of the religious community.

## 14. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DVDS PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS' OF RE

The Consultant for RE introduced the meeting to the promotional films made by The National Association of Teachers of RE which were available for free download from their website (<a href="www.natre.org.uk">www.natre.org.uk</a>). She highlighted that the films had been made with the assistance of pupils and staff from a number of Herefordshire schools.

After viewing clips of the DVD films, members agreed that they should be publicised to all county schools as they were a celebration of excellence. The Primary School Improvement Manger added that she would write to schools advising how the DVD could be obtained.

### 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

SACRE noted that the next meeting would be held at Brockington on Tuesday 1 December 2009 at 2.00pm.

Immediately following the next SACRE meeting, there would be the first meeting of the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference.

The meeting ended at 4.00 pm

CHAIRMAN





# Performance Improvement Team Children & Young People's Directorate

### **RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2009**

### **Purpose**

To consider the 2009 Religious Education examination results for Herefordshire.

### Report

Results for the 2009 GCSE and GCE A Level examinations for Religious Studies (subject to final validation) are summarised in Appendix A together with comparative data from 2008.

### **GCSE Religious Studies**

- 1. Results from the 2009 full GCSE were 76.5% A\* C (Boys = 66.9%, Girls = 83.7%) which was above the national average of 72% and above the 2008 results of 65% (Boys= 57.5%, Girls=71.4%).
- 2. Results from the short course were 55.2% A\* C (Boys = 50.4%, Girls = 60.3%) which is above the national average of 51.4% and below the 2008 results of 57.1% (Boys = 48.2%, Girls = 65.1%).
- 3. 387 pupils (166 Boys, 221 Girls), 20.1% of all pupils at the end of KS4 in Herefordshire maintained schools in 2009, entered for the full GCSE, a slight decrease from the 412 pupils, 20.5% of all pupils (181 Boys, 231 Girls) in 2008
- 4. A further 897 pupils (466 Boys, 431 Girls), 43.6% of the county's end of KS4 cohort, took the Short Course. This was an increase on 2008: 773 pupils (369 Boys, 404 Girls) 38.5%.
- 5. Total entries of 1291 (639 Boys, 652 Girls) represented 67.4% of the cohort, an increase from the proportion in 2008 which was 1193 (554 Boys, 639 Girls) representing 59.1% of the cohort.

### GCE A and AS Level Religious Studies

- 6. 70 pupils (25 Boys, 45 Girls) took A level in 2009, which is 1 less than in 2008 when there were 71 (23 Boys, 48 Girls))
- The numbers taking AS level increased from 23 (9 Boys, 14 Girls) in 2008 to 43 (23 Boys, 20 Girls) in 2009.
- 8. 7 pupils (7 Boys, 0 Girls) took Entry Level Qualifications in 2009 slightly less than the 8 (4 Boys, 4 Girls) students in 2008.

Report by: Paul Leo Cooper Performance Improvement Team Children & Young People's Directorate

### Appendix A

### GCSE 2009 Results for Religious Studies

### **Religious Studies**

		Full Course				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	Number A* to G	% A* to G	
ALL	387	296	76.5%	386	99.7%	
Boys	166	111	66.9%	165	99.4%	
Girls	221	185	83.7%	221	100.0%	

### **GCSE 2008 Results for Religious Studies**

### Religious Studies

	Full Course				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	Number A* to G	% A* to G
ALL	412	268	65.0%	409	99.3%
Boys	181	104	57.5%	180	99.4%
Girls	231	165	71.4%	229	99.1%

### Religious Studies

		Short Course					
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	Number A* to G	% A* to G		
ALL	897	495	55.2%	886	98.8%		
Boys	466	235	50.4%	460	98.7%		
Girls	431	260	60.3%	426	98.8%		

### **Religious Studies**

		0				
		Short Course				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	Number A* to G	% A* to G	
ALL	773	441	57.1%	733	94.8%	
Boys	369	178	48.2%	344	93.2%	
Girls	404	263	65.1%	389	96.3%	

### Religious Studies

	ELQ Band C					
	Entered	No. Grds 1- 3	% Grade 1	% Grade 2	% Grade 3	
ALL	7	7	85.7%	0.0%	14.3%	
Boys	7	7	85.7%	0.0%	14.3%	
Girls	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	

### Religious Studies

	ELQ Band C				
	Fatanad	No. Grds 1-	% Grade	% Grade	% Grade
	Entered	3	i i	2	3
ALL	8	8	37.5%	50.0%	12.5%
Boys	4	4	25.0%	75.0%	0.0%
Girls	4	4	50.0%	25.0%	25.0%

### GCE A' Level 2009

### **Religious Studies**

		A Level				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E	
ALL	12	10	83.3%	12	100.0%	
Boys	3	3	100.0%	3	100.0%	
Girls	9	7	77.8%	9	100.0%	

### GCE A' Level 2008

### **Religious Studies**

	A Level					
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E	
ALL	9	8	88.9%	8	88.9%	
Boys	4	4	100.0%	4	100.0%	
Girls	5	4	80.0%	4	80.0%	

	AS Level				
		1	AS Level	ı	1
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E
ALL	7	4	57.1%	7	100.0%
Boys	1	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Girls	6	4	66.7%	6	100.0%

	AS Level					
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E	
ALL	3	1	33.3%	3	100.0%	
Boys	3	1	33.3%	3	100.0%	
Girls	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	

### **Results from Hereford Sixthform College:**

### A2 Level

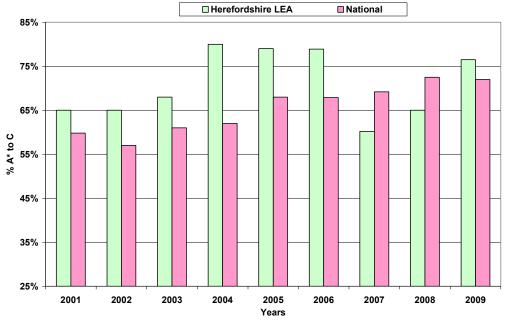
Subject	% A-B	% A-C
Theology	82.8%	100.0%
AS Level		
Subject	% A-B	% A-C
Theology	50.0%	69.4%

### Results from Hereford Sixthform College:

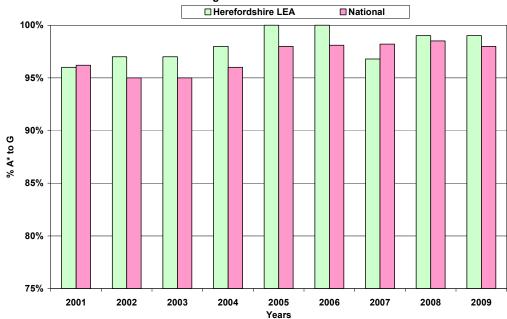
### A2 Level

Subject	% A-B	% A-C
Theology	71.4%	87.5%
AS Level		
Subject	% A-B	% A-C
Theology	58.5%	80.5%





### GCSE Religious Studies 1999 - 2009 % A\* to G



### DRAFT SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010-2013

Report By: Clerk to SACRE

### **Purpose**

1 That SACRE consider the draft SACRE Development Plan 2010 – 2013 and, subject to any comment or amendment proposed, consider adopting the new Plan.

### **Background**

- 2. In 2006 SACRE approved a development plan to guide its work for the period 2007/2010. At its meeting on 29 June 2009 SACRE were informed of the intention to commence a review of the Development Plan by the Primary School Improvement Manager. SACRE agreed that preliminary work be undertaken, possibly by a small working group.
- Since June a group have met and agreed a draft plan for consideration by SACRE. The Group comprised of: the Chairman of SACRE (Councillor J Stone), the Consultant for RE (Joyce Mackley), the Diocesan Director of Education (Tony Leach) the new Diocesan Schools Adviser (Theresa Gregory) and the Primary School Improvement Manager (Bridget Knight).
- 4. The draft SACRE Development Plan 2010 2013 has been issued to SACRE members as a separate document.
- 5. In the draft document the red text is the suggested new wording included for 2010-2013. The introductory statements are based on the DCSF guidance replacing circular 1/94. The DCSF may slightly amend the statements when they publish the guidance in its final form and therefore any amendments may be reflected in the Development Plan.
- 6. SACRE are asked to consider the draft SACRE Development Plan for the period 2010 2013 and come to the meeting prepared with any suggested comments/amendments. It is hoped that the Development Plan can then be adopted at the meeting.

### RECOMMENDATION

### THAT SACRE:

- (a) consider the draft SACRE Development Plan 2010-2013; and
- (b) subject to any amendments or comments proposed at the meeting the SACRE Development Plan 2010-2013 be considered for adoption.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None identified.

# DRAFT HEREFORDSHIRE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT – ACADEMIC YEAR 2008/2009

**Report By: Democratic Services Officer** 

### **Purpose**

1. To comment on the draft SACRE Annual Report for the academic year September 2008 to July 2009 prior to submission to QCA.

### Report

- DfE Circular 1/94 requires SACREs to produce an annual report for submission to QCDA (formerly QCA). The draft annual report, copies of which have been issued to members of SACRE, gives an indication of the work of Herefordshire SACRE during the academic year September 2008 to July 2009. Copies of the draft report are also available to the public on request.
- 3. Members will recall that QCDA introduced an Annual Report template which set out the themes and key questions for the report. In the absence of further guidance from QCDA the same report template has been used for this years report.
- 4. SACRE will have received at this meeting a report on the results of Religious Education examinations in the County and these details, together with any appropriate comments made by SACRE, will also be included in the final document.
- 5. Information from the reports and minutes of your meetings have been used by officers to complete the report in accordance with the report template. SACREs input is requested in relation to the last section headed 'Summary' on which SACRE may wish to offer its thoughts.
- 6. As in previous Annual Reports the Chairman of SACRE will provide a foreword to introduce the report.
- 7. Final proof reading will be undertaken prior to finalising the report. The final report is required to be submitted to QCDA before the end of December 2009.

### RECOMMENDATION

- THAT a) SACRE offer its thoughts on the completion of the section headed 'Summary"; and
  - b) subject to any comments by SACRE and final proof reading the SACRE Annual Report 2008/09 be submitted to QCA.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None identified.