

**THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - SACRE**

MINUTES

Meeting RBKC SACRE
 Date 9th June 2022
 Time of meeting 5-6:30pm
 Venue Kensington Town Hall / Microsoft Teams (hybrid meeting)

Present:

Committee A (Faiths and Denominations):

- Laurence Julius (LJ), Board of Deputies of British Jews (Chair)
- Lady Singh (LS) (Kanwaljit Kaur), Network of Sikh Organisations
- Susan Jaff (SJ), Islamic Faith

Committee B (Church of England): N/A

Committee C (Teachers):

- Celia Platt (CP), National Education Union

Committee D (Local Education Authority): N/A

Co-opted Members:

- Gillian Berg (GB), Kensington and Chelsea Baha'i Community

Local Authority Servicing Officers:

- Natalija Sorokina (NS) (Clerk)
- Jackie Saddington (JS)

RE Consultant Adviser:

- Lesley Prior (LP)

Item Number	Minute Content
Item 1: Welcome and apologies	<p>Chair LJ welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Clerk NS informed that, before the meeting, formal apologies had been received from Jane Griffith, Rev Ken Persaud, Katrina Quinton and Cllr David Lindsay.</p> <p>Clerk NS advised that the meeting was not quorate as no representatives from Committee B and D were present.</p>
Item 2: Membership Update	<p>Clerk NS informed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr David Lindsay has recently been elected as Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea. NS has contacted the Mayor's Office to confirm whether

	<p>Cllr Lindsay would be able to continue with the SACRE membership in view of his new role.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No other nominations or expressions of interest in joining the SACRE have been received since the spring term meeting. - NS has sent a follow-up email to the Buddhist Society who said last term that they would get back to NS regarding a possible nomination. No answer has yet been received. - NS has also written to the Humanists UK to enquire if they would like to join the SACRE. - Whenever there is information going out to schools from the SACRE and LP via the Schools Circular, NS adds a paragraph to invite teachers to join it. <p>Chair LJ congratulated Cllr Lindsay on becoming Mayor on behalf of the SACRE.</p> <p>Chair LJ further asked if there was any information on when the Census 2021 results were likely to be published. Nobody at the meeting knew the specific timeline; however, it was noted that the results should be made available fairly soon. It was noted that the results of the Census would help the SACRE review its membership.</p> <p>JS advised that she had recently joined a project group of LA officers who would be looking at various needs within the LA to utilise the Census 2021 data.</p> <p>LP added that, as part of its recommendations, NASACRE's <i>Still Standing Report (November 2021)</i> (available here) provided a list of nominating bodies that the Local Authority should consider approaching regarding SACRE membership - for example, education departments within museums, universities, etc.</p> <p>Chair LJ reiterated his views that the SACRE should be as inclusive as possible.</p>
<p>Item 3: Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</p>	<p>Minutes of the spring term SACRE meeting in March 2022 were reviewed and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">➔ Clerk NS to upload the minutes of the March meeting to the RBKC SACRE website.</p>
<p>Item 4: SACRE Self-Evaluation</p>	<p>NASACRE's self-evaluation tool document was shared with the SACRE members ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>Chair LJ shared his view that the SACRE in RBKC were well resources and supported by the LA. This was what he took away from the NASACRE Annual Conference having heard from other SACREs.</p> <p>LJ asked LP to give her views on what the RBKC SACRE's evaluation could be using the above tool. LP advised the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The SACRE is well resourced. It has support from the Clerk, JS as the LA Adviser and LP herself who is funded by the LA. This puts the

RBKC SACRE in a much better position than many other SACREs across the country.

- With the above essentials in place, the question to ask would be what the SACRE is doing with these resources.
- The SACRE may wish to identify a number of priorities that it could work on in the future. This could result in a project that could fall under some of the categories in the self-evaluation tool. An example from other SACREs could be to organise a day for secondary school pupils to have an opportunity to meet with the SACRE members.
- Capacity is a key factor to consider as all members on the SACRE are doing this work on a voluntary basis.

Below are further points made by the SACRE members:

- Chair LJ reminded of the SACRE's long-standing challenge to engage more teachers.

CP also stated that more teachers needed to be involved so she was not the only teacher representative. It has been difficult to achieve this. It is acknowledged that teachers have high levels of workload, which may be the reason behind the lack of interest.

Both LP and CP always promote the SACRE to teachers at the termly RE Good Practice Network meetings emphasising the benefits that the teachers could get from this membership. They will continue trying.

- GB thought that it would be useful for pupils to meet with representatives of different religions. She would be happy to take part in a new project should this be initiated by the SACRE.
- LS suggested identifying RE leads in all schools and reaching out to them either through email communication, regular meetings or through schools' visits to places of worship.
- SJ queried how much time schools had allocated to visiting places of worship and where they would look to find them. If it was known when this is scheduled over an academic year, timely contact could be made with schools by the members to invite them to visit such places.

LP informed there was a list of all places of worship located in the Borough. Details of location and contact details of each known faith organisation in RBKC are available on the [Faith Communities page](#).

CP advised it would be difficult to confidently say for all schools when they would be covering such visits during an academic year. This could vary from school to school. Although CP was able to

	<p>make some links through her SACRE membership, most schools will have their own links with various places of worship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SJ suggested that the SACRE should do some work around collective worship. <p style="text-align: center;">→ The SACRE to discuss possible projects at the next meeting.</p>
<p>Item 5: Standards and Achievements in RE in Schools</p>	<p>The meeting agreed to defer this agenda item to the next meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ Clerk NS to reflect on the agenda at the next meeting.</p>
<p>Item 6: NASACRE/RE Updates – Lesley Prior</p>	<p>LP provided the following feedback on the recent NASACRE Annual Conference and AGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The first keynote speaker was Ed Pawson, Vice Chair of REC, who spoke on <i>Working together for high quality education in religion and worldviews</i>. This was to talk about the work that the REC were doing to advance some of the recommendations from the CoRE report in 2018. - The second keynote speaker was Dr Richard Kueh, Chief Inspector for RE at Ofsted, who spoke on <i>The substance of the curriculum: high-quality RE and Ofsted’s inspection frameworks</i>. This was to give headlines from the report Ofsted published in May 2021. He also informed that Ofsted were gathering RE-related intelligence from the inspections that had been carried out since the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, which should result in a report produced in the near future. This could then be looked at by the SACRE at the autumn term meeting. - The third keynote speaker was David Hampshire who gave headlines from a national analysis of SACRE annual reports. - There was also a discussion around implications of the recently published Education White Paper on RE and SACREs. If the White Paper becomes statutory legislation, then all schools will have to become or be in the process of becoming academies by 2030. SACREs will then cease as the statutory functions will stop. NASACRE is in regular conversations with the DfE about the Paper’s implications for RE and the work of SACREs. - Over June, NASACRE will be running workshops open to the conference attendees. - NASACRE online training sessions for SACRE members will continue into the new year. <p>Chair LJ added that he was in a discussion group which spoke about SACREs only focusing on two main religions. He felt that inner-London SACREs should not be supporting that and that they should cover all the different religions represented in their communities.</p>

	<p>LP referred to Dr Kueh one of whose arguments was that covering a range of religions and worldviews did not necessarily imply high quality RE. There has to be a breadth versus depth balance. The Locally Agreed Syllabus in RBKC seems to offer the breadth of content and the depth of concepts.</p>
<p>Item 7: Update from Chair</p>	<p>Chair LJ gave an update on the feedback that was received on Hampshire's new <i>Living Difference IV</i> syllabus. The link to this syllabus was circulated to all members following the spring term meeting. The views of teachers and some members were to keep the current syllabus in place until it was scheduled to be reviewed to avoid additional change and workload pressures.</p> <p>LP added the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On the expiry of the current syllabus, it would not be possible to re-adopt the same version. The options would be to adopt a different syllabus, re-new one from Hampshire (<i>LD IV</i>) or to create a new one. - Following the discussions at the previous meeting, LP contacted Hampshire colleagues, and they agreed to run a session for SACRE members and teachers to explain in more detail how <i>LD IV</i> was different from <i>LD III</i>, the parent document of RBKC's current Syllabus, and to talk about their deals, availability of supplementary materials, etc. This would be open to SACREs and teachers in the four London local authorities which had adopted their <i>LD III</i>. - RE Today offers a commercially available syllabus; however, it is not available online to view. It has, however, been adopted by the Trafford SACRE, so it may be useful to check their website for a copy. - It may be a good idea to wait until the Census 2021 results are published before taking up a syllabus review. - With regards to self-written syllabi, SACREs would be unlikely to write one independently. They would need to be done through a series of working parties and by involving the support of an RE adviser. <p>SJ felt it would be useful to hear from a few providers before making a decision, and, based on the past experience, it would be sensible to start the review process earlier.</p> <p>NS also added that she had had some contact with Hampshire colleagues, and they confirmed that RBKC had the right to use their existing Syllabus, adopted from Hampshire's <i>LD III</i>, indefinitely. This means that once the syllabus review process starts, the current Locally Agreed Syllabus can continue to be used by schools right until the review process is complete and a new syllabus is available.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> → Clerk NS to publish the details of the meeting with Hampshire in the Schools Circular as a way of inviting teachers. → Clerk NS to send the invitation to the SACRE members. </p>

Item 8: Freedom of Information Requests	NS confirmed that no freedom of information requests had been received.
Item 9: Dates and Venues of 2022-23 Meetings	<p>The meeting agreed the following meeting dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spring: 5pm, 16th March (Thursday) - Summer: 5pm, 8th June (Thursday) <p style="text-align: right;">→ Clerk NS to organise a Doodle poll to choose a meeting date for Autumn 2022.</p> <p>With regards to venues, Chair LJ, GB and CP all offered to host the meetings. Kensington Town Hall will also be available as an option.</p>
Item 10: AOB	N/A