

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

**MINUTES**

Meeting RBKC SACRE  
Date 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
Time of meeting 4:30-6pm  
Venue Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

**Present:**

**Committee A** (Faiths and Denominations):

- Jane Griffiths (JG), Diocese of Westminster
- Laurence Julius (LJ), Board of Deputies of British Jews (Chair)

**Committee B** (Church of England):

- Graham Marriner (GM), London Diocesan Board for Schools (*joined at 4:53pm*)
- Katrina Quinton (KQ) (*joined at 5.13pm*)

**Committee C** (Teachers):

- Celia Platt (CP), Colville Primary School

**Committee D** (Local Education Authority):

- Cllr David Lindsay (DL)

**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)

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Minute Content</b>
<b>Item 1: Welcome and apologies</b>	<p>Chair LJ welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Clerk NS informed that before the meeting formal apologies had been received from Lady Singh (Kanwaljit Kaur) and Kathryn Kane. KQ had advised that she would be late for the meeting due to other commitments.</p> <p>Clerk NS advised that the meeting was not quorate as it started but it would be quorate once the Church of England members joined the meeting.</p> <p>Retrospective apologies were received from Rev Ken Persaud after the meeting.</p>

<p><b>Item 2: Membership Update</b></p>	<p>Clerk NS informed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communication continued to go out to schools via the Schools Circular to encourage members of the teaching staff with an interest in RE to join the SACRE under Group C. This information is added to all communication items that are included in the Circular on behalf of the SACRE or LP, RE Adviser. So far, no nominations or expressions of interest have been received.</li> <li>- Follow up membership requests have been sent to the Buddhist Society and the Hindu Education Board. A response has been received from the Buddhist Society who said that they would get back to NS in a couple of weeks to advise of any nominations.</li> </ul> <p>Chair LJ advised that he would like the SACRE to be inclusive. He asked if a response had been received from Humanists UK. Clerk NS advised there had not been a response.</p> <p>LP reminded that SACRE members could recommend to the SACRE which faiths, denominations or worldviews should be represented on the SACRE. However, it is the LA who decides who can be nominated. The results of the National Census 2021 should be released soon, so when they are published, it would be a good idea to look at them for RBKC to see if there have been any changes in the Borough's demographics. With those results in mind, the SACRE members would be able to make recommendations to the Local Authority with regards to revising/adding to the current list of SACRE members and nominating bodies.</p>
<p><b>Item 3: Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</b></p>	<p>Minutes of the autumn term SACRE meeting in November 2021 were reviewed and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>→ Clerk NS to upload the minutes of the November meeting to the RBKC SACRE <u>website</u>.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Briefing for Schools</u></b></li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>SACRE Briefing for RBKC Schools.docx</p> </div> <p>Please, find attached above the briefing which had been shared with the SACRE members as part of the meeting papers.</p> <p>LP informed that she had put it together for schools to highlight the key points in relation to RE and the work of SACREs. It is a summary of what LP presented to headteachers at the RBKC Primary Heads' Briefing in December.</p> <p>LP further added that the briefing paper did not talk directly about the quality of teaching RE or teachers' commitment to the teaching of the subject. This is something that is looked at through the local RE Good Practice Network meetings, which Lesley runs on a termly basis and which are becoming more cohesive with a core group of teachers attending.</p>

	<p>CP, as a regular attendee of the network meetings, agreed that these were very good meetings and that the teachers attending them felt they had more of a say on how these meetings should work to better support them.</p> <p>JG highlighted the importance of teachers’ subject knowledge which would then be directly impacting on the quality of their teaching.</p> <p>The SACRE members agreed for this briefing to be sent to schools.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>→ Clerk NS to arrange for the SACRE Briefing to be shared with schools via the weekly Schools Circular.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>SACRE Work Plan</u></b></li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Draft Annual Work Plan - SACRE - March</p> </div> <p>Please find attached above the draft annual work plan that had been shared with the SACRE members as part of the meeting papers.</p> <p>JS informed that this had been put together noting down recurrent themes that the SACRE had previously looked at on a termly basis over time and also reflecting what other SACREs were doing. The main purpose of the work plan would be to help the Clerk, Chair and LA Adviser with agenda setting and to make sure that the SACRE does not miss any key deadlines or activities. This is an internal working document which can be continuously revised and further developed. Good practice would be to review it annually.</p> <p>Chair LJ suggested putting Ramadan guidance down for the autumn term, which NS agreed to reflect.</p> <p>The SACRE agreed the work plan subject to the above change being made to it by the Clerk.</p>
<p><b>Item 4: Ramadan Guidance 2022</b></p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Ramadan Guidance 2022 by Discover Islam</p> </div> <p>Please find attached above the Ramadan Guidance prepared by Discover Islam that had been shared with the SACRE members as part of the meeting papers. This is a revised version of the guidance that the SACRE had agreed in the previous years, and Discover Islam is represented on the SACRE by Naif Sheikh.</p> <p>The SACRE agreed for this document to be shared with local schools for their information. Every school must then make their own decisions with regards to their approaches to Ramadan.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>→ Clerk NS to arrange circulation of the Guidance via the Schools Circular.</b></p>

<p><b>Item 5: Update from Chair</b></p>	<p>Chair LJ encouraged members to attend the NASACRE Conference and AGM 2022 taking place in Birmingham on 23 May. LJ would be happy to attend it if nobody else wanted to, but as he attended the Conference in 2020, it would be a good opportunity for other members to do so in 2022.</p> <p>NS reminded that the Local Authority would fund for two members of the SACRE to attend the Conference.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>→ NS to send the members another reminder after the meeting to encourage volunteers to attend.</b></p>
<p><b>Item 6: NASACRE/RE Updates – Lesley Prior</b></p>	<p>LP gave the following updates:</p> <p>Locally,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The spring term’s second edition of LP’s Primary RE Newsletter has just been shared, and Clerk NS will be sending it to the SACRE members after the meeting. The first edition came out in January.</li> <li>• The termly RE Good Practice Network meeting took place in early March with the next meeting scheduled for June 2022.</li> </ul> <p>Nationally,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NASACRE Briefing, Issue 31 (March 2022) has very recently come out with a number of updates. All SACRE members have been sent a copy of it.</li> <li>• <a href="#">NASACRE Training Offer</a> is available for SACRE members to support them in their role. All members are encouraged to check the offer.</li> <li>• <a href="#">The NASACRE Conference and AGM 2022</a> is booked for Monday 23 May 2022, and it will be held at the Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Birmingham. Virtual attendance will also be possible. One of the key speakers at the Conference will be Dr Richard Kueh, Chief Inspector for RE at Ofsted. Dr Kueh will be giving headlines from a major report that Ofsted are due to publish later in the summer. It would be helpful if the SACRE members attending the Conference could then produce a brief report on key headlines from the Conference to be shared with the SACRE at the summer term meeting and later with schools too.</li> <li>• RBKC’s current Locally Agreed Syllabus was adopted from Hampshire’s <i>Living Difference III</i> Syllabus in 2020. Hampshire have recently revised it and <i>Living Difference IV</i> is available via this <a href="#">link</a>.</li> </ul> <p>The SACRE could call for a syllabus review if this was the will of the group to reflect the latest version by Hampshire. A London version has not yet been produced.</p> <p>During this revision process, Hampshire had consulted with a wide range of recognised national organisations representing various religions and worldviews.</p>

The updated Syllabus has also been updated to reflect the changes in the EYFS provision, and assessment has also been reviewed.

Hampshire insist on retaining the integrity of their original document, so substantial changes to it would not be possible. However, there would be room for some change – for example, around personalising the foreword and adding religions and worldviews studied at KS1.

Hampshire’s RE Advisers would be happy to speak to the SACRE about their revised Syllabus, and LP would be happy to arrange this should the SACRE find this helpful. Part of this, it would be possible to ask Hampshire colleagues to speak about the costs, what modifications they would allow to be made, whether there would be a revised London version, etc.

Alternatively, the SACRE could decide to keep the current Syllabus in place until the end of its 5 year period and then either purchase a further lease from Hampshire or any other local authority, create a new syllabus from scratch or purchase a commercially available syllabus. If the SACRE were to decide to work with Hampshire, it would not be possible to keep the current *Living Difference III* Syllabus and further revise it. They would need to adopt the *Living Difference IV* version.

Below are key comments from the discussion that the SACRE had about RBKC’s current Syllabus and whether an early review should be called in view of the parent document having been recently revised:

- CP finds the current Syllabus a good and workable document with a better structure than the previous one. CP’s school provided funding to access Hampshire’s additional RE resources and modules which were available to go along with *Living Difference III* on a prescription basis. CP felt that new teachers without access to these extra resources would find the Syllabus more challenging to work with.
- LP informed that, nationally, RE was often marginalised in initial teacher training, so teachers may have difficulties no matter what syllabus was available to them and no matter how well resourced it was. This is the reason why RE teacher network meetings are important to help teachers to deliver RE effectively.
- JS informed that the Local Authority did not provide the funding to buy Hampshire’s additional RE resources for all schools and that this was part of schools’ direct budgets.
- LP advised that she had not heard anything with regards to whether there would be any implications on RE as schools moved towards the National Funding Formula. LP reminded that, in law, local authorities had a statutory obligation to fund and agree an Agreed Syllabus Conference, but not necessarily resources around the syllabus.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GM felt that teachers did not need further change in times when they had had much change already. Sticking to what is available seems reasonable for the time being.</li> <li>- JG commented that it would be helpful to start the review process earlier so that there was something in place for when the lease of the current Syllabus expired.</li> <li>- CP advised that it would be useful to look at the revised Syllabus with other teachers at the following RE Good Practice Network meeting, which LP agreed would be possible to arrange.</li> <li>- Chair LJ felt that the SACRE should follow the views of teachers in making any decisions with regards to reviewing the Syllabus early.</li> </ul> <p>Following the above discussion, the following action was agreed:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">➔ <b>CP and all SACRE members - by the end of the month - to have a look at the <i>Living Difference IV</i> Syllabus and provide feedback on whether an early review of the current Syllabus is worth exploring to reflect the changes in the parent document, or whether adopting the new version, if agreed by the SACRE, would be too disruptive for teachers.</b> In the latter case, it may be better to continue with the current Syllabus and review it at the end of its 5 year period. If it is felt that an early review would be desirable, then it would be helpful to arrange for Hampshire colleagues to speak to the SACRE about their updated Syllabus in more detail.</p>
<p><b>Item 7: Freedom of Information Requests</b></p>	<p>NS confirmed that no freedom of information requests had been received.</p>
<p><b>Item 8: Dates and Venues of 2021-22 Meetings</b></p>	<p>The future date was confirmed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 5pm</li> </ul> <p>All agreed for the summer term meeting to be in person at Kensington Town Hall.</p>
<p><b>Item 9: AOB</b></p>	<p>GB advised that the Baha'i fast was finishing on 21<sup>st</sup> March.</p> <p>Chair LJ informed that school visits had restarted to Holland Park Synagogue.</p> <p>KQ asked about the arrangements for Holland Park School, and Cllr DL clarified that the school was a single academy and a decision on whether it would join a multi-academy trust was being considered by the school's trustees.</p>