

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

MINUTES

Meeting : RBKC SACRE

Date: 11th November 2021

Time of meeting Venue: Virtual meeting
via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Committee A (Faiths and Denominations):

- Jane Griffiths (JG), Diocese of Westminster
- Kanwaljit Kaur (KK), Network of Sikh Organisations
- Laurence Julius (LJ), Board of Deputies of British Jews (Chair)
- Rev Ken Persaud (KP), Notting Hill Community Church
- Susan Jaff (SJ), Islamic Faith

Committee B (Church of England):

- Graham Marriner (GM), London Diocesan Board for Schools
- Kathryn Kane (KK), London Diocesan Board for Schools
- Katrina Quinton (KQ) (*joined at 5.57pm*)

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)

Item Number	Minute Content
Item 1: Welcome and apologies	Chair LJ welcomed everyone to the meeting, and everyone introduced themselves. Clerk NS informed that no formal apologies had been received before the meeting. However, KQ had advised that she may join slightly later due to work commitments.

	<p>Clerk NS confirmed that the meeting was quorate.</p>
<p>Item 2: Membership Update</p>	<p>Chair LJ gave a warm welcome to JG, KK and JB, new members, who joined the Group A on the SACRE to represent the Diocese of Westminster, the Network of Sikh Organisations, and Kensington and Chelsea Baha'i Community respectively.</p> <p>Clerk NS informed the members that she had received an application from GB for a position on the SACRE. However, there were no vacancies on Group A. Therefore, it was proposed that the SACRE appointed GB as a co-opted member in accordance with the constitution.</p> <p>Chair LJ asked if there were any objections to the proposal. As there was none, GB was co-opted to the SACRE for one year.</p> <p>Clerk NS added that, since the start of the term, attempts had been made to find new members for Group A. A communication had also gone 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. However, no nominations or expressions of interest had yet been received. NS would continue this work during the year.</p>
<p>Item 3: Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</p>	<p>Minutes of the previous SACRE meeting in May 2021 were reviewed and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting subject to the following correction to the attendance list on page 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Katrina Quinton represents the Church of England, not the LDBS within Group B. <p style="text-align: right;">→ Clerk NS to upload the minutes of the meeting in May to RBKC SACRE <u>website</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramadan Guidance 2022 <p>Chair LJ asked SJ to provide an update on the arrangements for Ramadan Guidance 2022.</p> <p>SJ reported that she had been in touch with Naif Sheikh, the other Muslim member on the SACRE. He gave apologies for the meeting due to personal circumstances but informed that the Ramadan Guidance 2022 was ready, and it just needed to be confirmed when it could be sent out to schools. Closer to that time, SJ would send it through with a brief note providing some extra information around fasting should one be ill with Covid or any other advice that may be relevant at the time.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">→ SJ to share the Ramadan Guidance 2022 and its accompanying briefing note ahead of the SACRE's spring term meeting on 17th March and for the SACRE to then approve it at that meeting.</p>

	<p>→ NS to then arrange for the Ramadan Guidance to be shared with schools on the following Monday as part of schools' weekly Circular. NS to also upload it to the SACRE's website.</p>
<p>Item 4: Update from Chair</p>	<p>Chair LJ raised the following two points for discussion:</p> <p>1) Timeline of key dates</p> <p>LJ suggested having a list of key dates that the SACRE members would need to be aware of. These could include, for example, when the Agreed Syllabus would be due for review next, when Hampshire would be due to revise their parent Syllabus, when the SACRE Annual Report would need to be submitted, etc.</p> <p>JS suggested that the SACRE could devise a work plan and any such key dates could be incorporated into it.</p> <p>All members were in agreement with the above ideas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ NS, JS and LJ to follow this up for the next meeting.</p> <p>2) What can SACRE do to support teachers better?</p> <p>As a way of approaching this, Chair LJ suggested that it would be helpful for CP, the teacher representative on the SACRE, to speak at the following SACRE meeting to share thoughts on what the SACRE could do further to support her and other peer teachers in teaching RE.</p> <p>CP advised that she felt there was already plenty of support from the SACRE available. This includes the SACRE webpage which is kept updated, the information available on the webpage for the Agreed Syllabus, support available to schools with assemblies, visits to places of worship, RE Good Practice Network meetings run by LP, etc. CP further added that the issue could be with confidence levels of individual teachers and with the support provided to RE teachers by their leadership teams in schools, e.g., around suitable timetabling or access to resources.</p> <p>LP added to the above that, in addition to the RE Good Practice Network meetings that she ran termly, she also produced a half-termly Primary RE Newsletter for schools. Some SACREs have arranged for LP to attend their heads' briefings to remind schools of their statutory obligation to teacher RE, to speak about the work of SACREs and to encourage more teacher representatives. A similar move could be explored in RBKC too.</p> <p>JS added that the SACRE could consider promoting its work and the importance of RE to governors. This could be done via the termly governors' newsletter, Governorhub database system, a special stand-alone briefing for governors</p>

	<p>with a focus on RE, or via the termly Chairs’ Forum which LP could attend to present to schools’ chairs of governors.</p> <p>GM highlighted that it was important to also look at the bigger picture whereby schools had taken on unprecedented challenges and worked incredibly hard over the pandemic. As a result, there is a lot of exhaustion amongst school leaders and staff, which is being added to by Ofsted inspections which have now resumed. It may be a helpful idea for the SACRE, as a forum, to thank the schools in recognition of the hard work they have been doing for the children in their care.</p> <p>JG added that she was a member of the Heads’ Consultative and could bring up the SACRE’s request for more teacher members there. JG was also a member of Primary Heads’ Executive, and she could bring this up at their next meeting with a view to proposing it for the following Heads’ Briefing. JG further suggested that headteachers and schools may better engage with information or sessions that had some linkage with Ofsted. For example, an information session on how to prepare to an Ofsted deep-dive in RE could see better take-up, and, as part of that, the SACRE could promote other elements of its work.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ JG to raise LP’s attendance at a future Heads’ Briefing at the next Heads’ Executive and NS to follow up accordingly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ LP to write a little piece on things that the SACRE would like to remind schools of. It will then be shared with all SACRE members for their contributions. Once it is finalised, JS to share it with school governors as a stand-alone briefing.</p>
<p>Item 5: NASACRE/RE Updates – Lesley Prior</p>	<p>LP gave the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The autumn term’s first edition of LP’s Primary RE Newsletter is about to go out to schools as well as the SACRE members for their information. The second edition of the newsletter is in the process of being put together as well. • NASACRE Briefing, Issue 29 (September 2021) came out with a number of updates. All SACRE members were sent a copy of it. • NASACRE Training Offer is available for SACRE members to support them in their role. <p>Both Chair LJ and SJ advised that they found the NASACRE training session focusing on worldviews beneficial and interesting and made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SJ added that one of the points the trainer made was that a lot of teachers did not know how to teach RE because they did not believe themselves. If teachers were introduced to the concept of worldviews as a mixture of history, ethical studies and modern thinking, they may find teaching RE easier then.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SJ also felt that a lot of information provided at the training was based around someone’s point of view and could be easily challenged. - LJ added that good points were made at the training with regards to cultural awareness. <p>LJ reminded the members that RBKC had paid for the annual training subscription with NASACRE, and so members could attend any of the training courses over the year free of charge, which LJ recommended to the SACRE members to consider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NASACRE Conference and AGM 2022 is booked for Monday 23 May 2022, and it is hoped it will be held face to face at the Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Birmingham. One of the key speakers at the Conference will again be Dr Richard Kueh, Chief Inspector for RE at Ofsted. Ofsted is going to publish another major report on RE next summer, and Dr Kueh will be giving some headlines from that report at the Conference before it is issued. Members from the RBKC SACRE are encouraged to attend this with a view to then giving a verbal or written report to the SACRE members and possibly schools too. <p>NS reminded that RBKC would fund for two members of the SACRE to attend the Conference.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ Members to let NS know if they would like to attend the Conference and for NS to make relevant arrangements.</p> <p>LJ added that he would attend the Conference if nobody else wanted to but as he had attended previously, he would encourage other members, including new members, to do so in 2022.</p>
<p>Item 6: SACRE Annual Report 2020/21</p>	<p>Both Chair LJ and LP thanked NS for producing a draft of the SACRE Annual Report for 2020/21. A copy of it was shared with all members ahead of the meeting. The report was compiled with the new annual report template in mind, which had been created by NASACRE.</p> <p>LJ invited feedback from the members on the draft report. No comments were made, and the report was approved.</p> <p>JS highlighted that, in producing the draft report, NS was not able to incorporate all elements of the new template as some of them seemed to require input from LP and other members. For example, the report is meant to inter-link with the SACRE’s self-evaluation, and it would not be appropriate to expect the Clerk to do it.</p> <p>LJ suggested revisiting the process in the summer term, which would assist with the report writing in the summer term 2022.</p>

	<p>→ NS to share the final copy of the Annual Report 2020/21 with the SACRE members, schools (via the Schools Circular), NASACRE and DfE.</p> <p>→ NS to add looking at the annual report template to the agenda for the summer term meeting.</p>
Item 7: Freedom of Information Requests	NS confirmed that no freedom of information requests had been received.
Item 7: Dates and Venues of 2021-22 Meetings	<p>The future dates were confirmed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, 17th March 2022, 4:30pm • Thursday, 9th June 2022, 5pm <p>Due to members' availability, it was confirmed that the spring term meeting would be virtual and the summer term meeting would be attempted to be held in person.</p>
Item 8: AOB	<p>Chair LJ went through the following points that had been put on the agenda for the members to be aware of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Data for RE in State-funded Secondary Schools • Inter Faith Week: 14-21 November 2021 - www.interfaithweek.org <p>LP added that she included an item on the Inter Faith Week in her recent Primary RE Newsletter.</p> <p>KK informed that 14th November was the birthday of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism.</p>