

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

Notes of the meeting of the SACRE which took place on Wednesday 16 December 2020. The meeting was a virtual and took place on Microsoft teams. The meeting began at 5.00pm.

Representing Christian and other religious denominations

Ms Darcy Biddulph	Buddhist Faith Representative
Ms Susan Jaff	Islamic Faith Representative
Mr Laurence Julius (Chair)	Jewish Faith Representative

Representing the Church of England

Mr Graham Marriner	London Diocesan Board for Schools
Mrs Katrina Quinton	London Diocesan Board for Schools
Mrs Kathryn Kane	London Diocesan Board for Schools

Representing teachers (including teachers of RE) and teachers' associations

Ms Celia Garth Rodriguez	Teacher Colville Primary School
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Representatives from the LA, including Councillors and RE advisors.

Councillor David Lindsay	
Ms Lesley Prior	RE Consultant to the SACRE

In attendance

Jackie Saddington	LA - Head of Governor Services
Julie Farmer	Clerk

Members of the Public in attendance -

Desmond Biddulph

1. Apologies for Absence.

- 1.1 No apologies were received. It was noted that Cllr Lindsay would need to leave the meeting at 6.00pm – after which time the meeting would no longer be quorate.

2. Membership Update

- 2.1 The Clerk advised that there are no new appointments to be reported. The Clerk is liaising with the LDBS and the Diocese of Westminster regarding the relevant vacancies on groups A & B.

3. Notes of meetings held on 16 June 2020 (previously circulated to members for comments)

The following amendments were made to the notes -

- 3.1 Paragraph 3.5 refers - JS asked that the second sentence be amended with the additional statement stating that 'changes had.... *been made that were not accepted.*'
- 3.2 DB asked that any references made to her in paragraph 3.5 be removed from the record of the meeting.

Subject to the above amendments –

The notes of the meeting held on 16 June 2020 were AGREED and would be signed at a later date.

- **Discussions on previous AGREED minutes**

- 3.3 16 Jan 2020 - During the ensuing discussions Desmond Biddulph (observer) was permitted to speak by the chair and referred to the meeting of the Agreed Syllabus conference held in January 2020 – he stated that his vote had been conditional. He added that there are mistakes in the Agreed Syllabus which are fundamental errors, such as Thich Nhat Hanh: 'Theraveda Tradition', which they had asked to be deleted and 'a Zen Master of the Mahayana Tradition' which had been requested to be inserted, as this is an embarrassment. LP explained these corrections were emailed to Hampshire and the Chair in 2020 and she understood that the Buddhist Society had been in touch with Hampshire. The new Syllabus is currently being updated and that input would be welcomed, however, she did not know at what stage discussions had reached. LP asked members to send her their key points so that the issues could be raised with Pat Hannam. It was explained to SACRE members that it would be for the RE Consultant to liaise with Hampshire on their behalf, regarding any factual errors.

Action - Members to forward their amendments/suggestion to LP.

- 3.4 A SACRE member stated that corrections to the syllabus had been requested; she had already tried very hard and is still trying – these are simple requests. She referred to errors on page 50 of the current Agreed Syllabus (AS).

Action - The Chair asked DB to provide her requested changes – so that the information could be appended to the minutes and forwarded to Pat Hannam by LP.

- 3.5 In conclusion to the discussions and on the notes of the previous meeting DB stated her notes of the meeting were offered to the clerk by email of July 28th and a reply from the clerk was received by DB that they were not needed. JS made it clear that the clerks notes form the official record of the meeting. SACRE members could forward to the clerk any addendums they wished to be added to the minutes of the

meeting held on 16 June 2020. The notes and any agreed additions that are added will be public record.

- 3.6 JS made it clear to SACRE members that she was satisfied that the vote held as the Agreed Syllabus Conference meeting in January 2020 had been correctly recorded by the Clerk. She added that the clerk at that meeting was highly experienced and competent. The clerk had spoken with Desmond Biddulph at the conclusion of the meeting, to ensure that a correct record would be made of proceedings.
- **Notes of meetings** - the aim is to have them written up in 14 working days – they are sent to the Chair who will check they are a factual record before being circulated to SACRE members.

Question re. recording of meetings – A member proposed recording future SACRE meetings and a discussion took place. JS confirmed that SACRE meetings at RBKC were not recorded, although she believed some council meetings were now being recorded and she could check the current position. It was agreed that JS would check what the RBKC procedures were for recording SACRE meetings and a vote was deferred until the next meeting when members could have full information before deciding on next steps.

Action - JS to check and report back to the SACRE.

4. Update from Chair

- 4.1 The Chair reported that he had recently attended the virtual EGM for NASACRE. He added that there had been a discussion on the Westhill Awards, *(the awards are funded by the Westhill Foundation and are managed and coordinated by the NASACRE.)* The awards showcased winning entries and how the whole community became immersed in the faith projects. LP added that the SACRE could apply for an award all the materials and information required to do so are on the NASACRE website and information had gone out to schools in her RE newsletter. There was then a brief discussion on the rich resources and places of worship concentrated in the Borough, particularly in the Norland ward for which DL is the local Councillor. Any schools wishing to access places of worship could contact the appropriate SACRE members directly.

5 Update from the SACRE Consultant

- 5.1 LP stated that she did not have a great deal to report back on.
- **SACRE Annual reports** - NASACRE would be asking that all SACRE annual reports be written to the same format – this would allow the NASACRE to analyse and compare the different reports - there is a meeting with the DfE in January 2021.

- **National Census 21 March 2021** – It was hoped that SACRE members would be making their responses – which could now be done on-line. It was noted that there is a question regarding religious affiliation. The data is important for the Council who would use this information to inform and possibly refresh its membership of the SACRE groups. The information in the census would give a sense of the communities represented in the Borough. Some SACRE members stated that they had reservations about stating their religious affiliation in the census. SJ, LJ, and DP and all SACRE minority faith representatives stated they would never put forward their Religion on any census due to historic events and privacy issues.

(Cllr David Lindsay left the meeting)

6. SACRE Development

- Improving ways of working
 - Feedback questionnaire to schools
 - Improving contact between SACRE and Schools
 - What Makes a Good SACRE - NASACRE May 2015 – a report had been circulated with the agenda.
- 6.1 LP explained that there are mechanisms in place for reviewing the work of the SACRE - there should be a separate meeting to discuss the matter. Questionnaire to schools on RE – LP there would need to be a timeframe - she could draft questions for discussion. DB added that she hoped that a meeting could take place sooner rather than later. During discussions around availability the teacher representative said that due to her workload and other commitments she would find it difficult to commit to more than a meeting a term. GM added that he would find it difficult to attend - but that he would contribute if he was able to.
- 6.2 JS suggested that due to members commitments – a small working-party should be established. She would be happy to organise it. She asked members to contact the clerk if they are interested in joining. SJ stated so that the meeting could get straight to the point, could she have information on the laws and regulations governing the SACRE. JS said that she would provide her with information. LP explained that it is the LA and not the SACRE that sets out membership. However, as well as the major world faiths the SACRE would look to representing all the faiths within the Borough. Although it would be for the LA to decide who the nominating bodies are – rather than for membership to be made by self- nomination. JS added that the SACRE is looking to be inclusive; the working group would be looking at best practice.

Action

- (i) JS to provide information on the legislation and regulation re, the SACRE to SJ
- (ii) SACRE members interested in joining the working party to contact the clerk.

7. Agreed Syllabus

- Budget
- Conference review date

7.1 Item deferred to the next meeting

8 Flu Vaccine

8.1 Copy of updated circular for schools was circulated with the agenda for information – it was noted that the flu jab bulletin had already been circulated.

8.2 Link to Public Health England Guidance (2015) Guidance -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/824013/PHE_vaccines_porcine_gelatine.pdf

9. Farmington Fellowships for Teachers of Religious Education and Headteachers Academic Year 2021/22

9.1 The closing date for applications is Sunday 31st January 2021. A copy of the Schools Circular sent out to schools was circulated to members for information.

9.2 The item was received and noted.

10. NASACRE – Briefing no 27 October 2020

10.1 A copy of the briefing was circulated to members for information and was received and noted.

11. SACRE Annual Report 2019/20

11.1 It was noted the annual report are written using the agreed notes of meetings – the notes of the June 2020 meeting had been discussed earlier in the meeting – the clerk would use them to help inform the draft report.

Action Clerk to draft 2019/20 report as item for the next meeting.

12. Freedom of Information requests.

12.1 One request had been received from NASACRE and is being processed .

13. Any other Business.

- **Agreed Syllabus** - SJ had provided a list of links to the clerk immediately prior to the meeting. They would be checked to ensure there is no duplication and would be then be added to the resources area. LP added that it is important that the organisations referred to and materials provided are recognised and come from reliable and established sources. Organisations., such as the Muslim Council of

Britain have materials and information on RE on-line and have been vetted by RE specialists

Action – Clerk to add items to the public access area alongside the Agreed Syllabus.

13.1 Reminders - no action required

- NASCRE Conference and AGM Monday 18 May 2020 -. 2021 Conference will be held on Monday 24 May 2021 and would be a virtual event - Chair to attend.
- For information - attached is a link to a recently released report which may be of interest - <https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/research/2020/10/21/worldviews-in-religious-education>

14. Date of future meetings

- Thursday 21 January 2021 at 5.00pm
- Thursday 27 May 2021

ACTION – Clerk to circulate teams link for next meeting to SACRE members.

The meeting ended at 6.34pm.