

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 Thursday 21 January 2021. The meeting was a virtual and took place on Microsoft teams. The meeting began at 5.00pm.

Representing Christian and other religious denominations

Ms Susan Jaff	Islamic Faith Representative
Mr Naif Sheikh	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

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 No apologies were received.

2. Membership Update

2.1 Ms Darcy Biddulph resignation was received prior to the meeting. The Chair asked that the SACREs recognition for all her efforts be recorded and that a letter of thanks be sent on the SACREs behalf.

ACTION – Letter sent by JS

2.2 The Clerk advised that there are no new appointments. The Clerk is liaising with the LDBS and the Diocese of Westminster regarding the relevant vacancies on groups A & B. The Clerk was asked to approach the Buddhist Society to ask for a representative. SJ asked if the figures from the last census could be looked at and to approach faith groups about possible nominations? LP reminded members that membership is set and agreed by the LA and not the SACRE. The LA will approach nominating bodies - who will make nominations. SJ asked that the LA do this. JS replied that she had taken members comments onboard and she asked if anyone had any nomination to make, they should let her know. LP added that the NASACRE is working on a project re. national nominating bodies.

2.3 There followed discussion on the efforts that had been made to attract new members. Celia stated that she looks to attract teachers to the SACRE at RE network meetings. It was noted that Teacher representation could be widened beyond those nominated by unions to also include teaching staff at the Museums.

The clerk stated that current vacancies in each group are as follows -

- Group A - 3 Roman Catholic reps; 2 reps of Christian Faiths outside the CE or Catholic Church; 1 representative of other non-Christian Faith
- Group B - 5 representing the Church of England
- Group C – 7 teaching representatives
- Group D – 3 members representing the Royal Borough

2.4 LP added that the SACRE could look to fill existing vacancies and to extend membership. If someone approaches the LA about membership the LA needs clear determined criteria. May be Faith groups in the AS should be represented on the SACRE?

2.5 Following discussions on membership, and the difficulties in recruiting new members. The next steps were summarised by the Chair. It was AGREED that approaches should be made to recognised nomination bodies of the Hindu Faith, Sikh Faith and Humanists at the same time, stating that there is one vacancy. It may be that there are no responses or there may be the possibility of three future nominations. Any appointment would be set out in a report to the LA by Jackie Saddington. JS added that there should be an item for the next meeting to set out the criteria and rationale for expanding membership.

- Action**
- (i) SACRE members to send any proposed nominations to Jackie Saddington.
 - (ii) LP to provide the clerk with contact details for nationally recognised nomination bodies for the three groups named in paragraph 2.5.
 - (iii) Agenda item for the next meeting to discuss (set out) the criteria and rationale for the SACRE requesting the LA expanding membership

- 2.6 In response to a query from a SACRE member about DBs requests for amendments to be made to the Agreed Syllabus. LP explained that the current AS could not be amended. When adopted it was adopted as seen. However, improvements are always being made. Currently Hampshire are updating the parent document and they are liaising directly with the Buddhist Society. The SACRE could recommend and the LA might at a later date adopt the updated syllabus. SJ asked about the review of the Islamic Faith and added that she would be like to know which Faith leaders Hampshire are liaising with for the review.
- 2.7 LP replied that she did not know who they are consulting with from each Faith group. She explained that the review would take place later this year- if it was then the will of the SACRE she could bring the amended document to them – the SACRE could then, if it wished, ask for a review before the 5 years had lapsed, since the previous review. The SACRE could continue with its current AS or adopt the revised AS from Hampshire. However, she made it clear that the SACRE could not adopt the new version and ask for changes to be made to it. The SACRE would have to be mindful of that in its deliberations. JS confirmed that intellectual copyright for the Agreed Syllabus remains with Hampshire.

3. Notes of meetings held on 12 November 2020 and 16 December 2020 (previously circulated to members for comments)

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2020 were AGREED as a correct record of the meeting.

It was RESOLVED –

that the minutes be agreed and signed at a later date.

- 3.2 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December were AGREED as a correct record of the meeting.

It was RESOLVED –

that the minutes be agreed and signed at a later date.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

- 4.1 **Budget** – JS explained that there had been a FOI request received from NASACRE – she would provide the info to SACRE members when the answer was collated. She stated that the LA did not provide the SACRE with a budget as such – but did cover the costs of an Advisor, clerking support and a venue. SJ asked about the cost of the current Agreed Syllabus. JS replied that the cost was approximately £5,000, the figure also included a training session for teachers. JF confirmed the exact figure was £5,750. This figure would reduce if the LA renewed the AS. The cost of an Agreed Syllabus varied from £1,000 to renew and up to £40,000 for a bespoke document created from scratch. In response to a question from SJ, it was explained that the cost of renewal would be cheaper than the initial purchase. LP

added that among many other considerations when authorising a new syllabus, the LA would surely wish to be mindful of the costs involved given that it is spending public money. The Syllabus purchased from Hampshire is well regarded by many and is widely used - it is also good value for money.

4.2 **Agreed Syllabus** - item considered elsewhere on the agenda.

4.3 **Recording of SACRE Meetings** – JS explained that recording of meetings would require the agreement of all SACRE members and she would investigate further if required to do so. The Chair asked SACRE members what they felt about having meetings recorded. KQ replied that she would question the necessity of recording meetings, the minutes are circulated and they are a sufficient record of proceedings. SJ stated that she would be ok with recording meetings. GM added that he wasn't sure that all meetings needed to be recorded, meeting notes are detailed, he suggested keeping things simple. KK added that she agreed with GM and that the minutes are a sufficient record of proceedings. The Chair summarised that the conclusion is that there is no strong desire to record meetings – so it should be removed from the agenda

It was AGREED – that SACRE meetings would not be recorded.

4.3 **Code of conduct** – the Code of Conduct was AGREED - the clerk was asked to add the current date to the final document.

Action – Clerk to add finalised code of conduct to the SACRE area of the Borough's website.

5. Update from Chair

5.1 **NASACRE AGM Monday 24 May 2021**- it would be an online event NS and SJ both put forward their names to attend

Action - Clerk to book places for NS and SJ when the opportunity to book arises.

6. Update from the SACRE Consultant

6.1 NASACRE Update Briefing – the circulated report was received and noted.

7. SACRE Development Working-Party

7.1 JS reported that only 2 members had put themselves forward to join the working-party. One of the nominees had since resigned from the SACRE. It was AGREED that SACRE development would be considered by the whole SACRE group rather than delegated to a working-party to report back.

8. Good Practice Network

- 8.1 LP reported that the next meeting is to take place on 4 March 2021 – the focus will be on assessment in RE.

9. SACRE Annual Report 2019/20

- 9.1 Draft report received and noted.

ACTION – the Annual Report to be finalised and submitted to the DfE and NASACRE by the Clerk

10. Ramadan Guidance and EID Guidance

- 10.1 NS to send updated document to the Clerk for distribution in the Schools Circular – it was noted that Ramadan is to begin on 13th April 2021, NS asked that if any teachers have any questions they could be put in touch with him. Further information on a Q&A session could go out with the Ramadan guidance.

ACTION – Information on a proposed Q&A was included in the Schools Circular w/c 25 January 2021. Teachers were asked to register an interest in a session with the clerk. It also stated that Ramadan Guidance would be going out shortly – Clerk

ACTION – NS to provide clerk with updated Ramadan Guidance for circulation to schools and any further information about a Q&A session. All the information would then be sent out in a future Schools Circular by the Clerk .

- 11. Freedom of Information requests.** No further FOI received.

12. Any other Business.

- 12.1 **Record of Thanks** – the Chair and SACRE members asked that the minutes should record their support for school staff and they have asked that their thanks for all your hard work is recognised and is appreciated. SACRE members would like all school staff to know that they are in their thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

ACTION - the SACREs thanks were added as an item to the RBKC Schools Circular w/c 25 January 2021 by the Clerk,

13. Date of next meeting

- 13.1 Thursday 27 May 2021

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

The meeting ended at 6.46pm.