

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 27 May 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 Laurence Julius (Chair)	Jewish Faith Representative

Representing the Church of England

Mrs Katrina Quinton

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 Apologies were received from Mrs Kathryn Kane, Mr Graham Marriner and Naif Sheikh.

2. Membership Update

- 2.1 The Clerk updated Members on effort to find new members and to fill vacancies of the SACRE. She is liaising with the LDBS and the Diocese of Westminster and had sent reminders. As requested, following the previous meeting, the Clerk made approaches to the recognised nomination bodies of the Hindu Faith, Sikh Faith, Buddhist Faith and Humanists. Reminders to possible appointing bodies had been sent prior to the meeting.
- 2.2 It was noted that to date one individual had come forward - Lady Kanwaljit Kaur Singh has a background in local government. She is Deputy Director (Education) of Network of Sikh Organisations UK and a member of the Lambeth SACRE. A

nomination from has been sent to the Network of Sikh Organisations – so that the nomination can be progressed.

- 2.3 Following further discussions and a query from LP it was agreed that information should be sought on a proposed Baha'i Faith Representative Gillian Berg.

Action - Clerk to follow up on nominations

3. Notes of meeting held on 21 January 2021

- 3.1 Notes of meeting held have previously been circulated to members for comments. The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2021 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 **Ramadan Guidance** – the Clerk explained that in spite of reminders having been sent NS had not provide her with updated Ramadan Guidance for circulation to schools. It was noted that the Council had provided staff with guidance on Ramadan from the Muslim Council of Britain.

It was agreed that there would be an action item in the autumn meeting to review the guidance and to put in place a plan to cover its roll out in 2022.

5. Update from Chair

- 5.1 No update

6. Update from the SACRE Consultant

- 6.1 **NASACRE AGM Monday 24 May 2021**- it had been an online event NS and SJ both put forward their names to attend.
- 6.2 Susan Jaff gave a verbal report she stated she had been disappointed; information had not been received on possible candidates that they had been asked to vote on. She would have liked to see information on candidates beforehand. IT issues on the day had meant there was a lot of waiting and a workshop on Sacred texts, by the British Library, had been cut short.
- 6.3 LP replied that she was sorry that the conference had not met with Susan's expectations and that she would raise the issues discussed with organisers. Brief biographies on the candidates had been sent out prior to the conference and she thought that she recalled being asked by NS and SJ about which candidates they

should vote for, however, she would raise the matters she had raised with the Executive.

6.4 LP reported further on the event, there had been two keynote speakers are Dr Richard Kueh and Professor Denise Cush. Professor Denise Cush - is currently an emeritus Professor of Religion and Education at Bath Spa University and she is a leading authority on RE. Dr Richard Kueh is a trained teacher and is Ofsted's subject lead for religious education. She gave a summary of their presentations – but added that she would circulate her notes and would have an item in the next RE newsletter.

- Ofsted publication released 12 May 21 – was circulated with the agenda.

6.5 The report was received and noted

6.6 **RE Primary Newsletter Summer 2021** – a copy of the previous newsletter was circulated with the agenda. It was noted that the Newsletter had been sent out to Schools via the schools 'circular.

7. **NASACRE – SACRE Briefing no 28**

7.1 A copy of the March 21 briefing circulated for information

8. **Agenda Items raised by SACRE members**

NASACRE report on SACRE Funding in England 2021 – LJ

- NASACRE report – circulated
- FOI request to NASACRE on funding - circulated

8.1 The NASACRE's report into SACRE funding in England, was published on 17 May 2021. The report is the first ever national survey of LAs to assess SACRE funding. It is based on responses to a Freedom of Information request sent in November 2020 to all LAs.

8.2 It was noted that verbal feedback on the FOI request was given to the SACRE at its Jan 2021 meeting. LP added that the Borough's Agreed Syllabus was very good value for money. It was noted that some SACRE had paid up to £40k for bespoke Agreed Syllabus documents.

- Follow up on the school questionnaire – SJ
- Follow up on Hampshire's editing of the Islamic Section of the current Syllabus. (Which religious experts are being consulted) – SJ

8.3 LP reported that work is ongoing updating of the Hampshire (Living Difference) Agreed Syllabus. Work has been carried out by Dr Farah Ahmed a research fellow in Education (University of Cambridge) and Basma El Shayyal who is the Chair of the Brent SACRE – she has an Academic background and is also a school governor.

(Cllr Lindsay joined the meeting)

8.4 SJ explained that her main issue is that the current Islamic section feels that it was written by a 'sect' and that it had not been proof-read. LP assured her that it is being reworked. LP added that she would contact Pat Hanhan (Hampshire) about the on-going work. A future Agreed Syllabus Conference could decide what they would want to do next.

9. Freedom of Information requests - Standing item

9.1 The Clerk reported that there had not been any requests made since the previous meeting.

10. Any other Business

The Chair reported that this would be Julie Farmer's last meeting. The Chair and the SACRE members asked that their thanks for all her hard work be recorded. JF thanked SACRE members for their kind words.

11. Dates for meetings in 2021/22

11.1 The Clerk explained that there are usually three meetings a year one a term.

Action Jackie Saddington to provide SACRE members with proposed meeting dates for the Academic Year 2021/22 in due course.

The meeting ended at 6.10pm