

**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 September 2018 at Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London. W8 7NX. The meeting began at 5.00pm.

Representing Christian and other religious denominations

Mr Jad Ahamd (attended in Mr Naif Sheikh's place) Muslim Faith representative
Ms Ruth Finkel (attending in Mr Laurence Julius' place) Jewish Faith representative

Representing the Church of England

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

Mrs Lucy Nutt	Principal Lead Adviser
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In attendance

Ms Lesley Prior	Consultant to the SACRE
Ms Julie Farmer	Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Ms Darcy Biddulph, Mr Javid Djalili, Rev Gillean Craig, Ms Susan Jaff, Mr Laurence Julius, Ms Karen Wyatt.

1.2 It was noted that the meeting was quorate.

In the absence of the Chair and the Vice-Chair the meeting was chaired by Mrs Katrina Quinton.

Membership -

Autumn Term

- Noted that Rev Gillian Craig is to retire shortly.
- Clerk to check on the membership of Mr Philip Boothroyd - Teacher Marlborough Primary School.

- Clerk has recently contacted 6 teaching unions to ask for a teacher representative on the SACRE.

2. Notes of the last meeting held on 5 June 2018 and matters arising.

- 2.1 The minutes of the inquorate meeting had been circulated with the agenda and were received and noted.

Matters Arising -

Ms Lucy Nutt reported that she had attended the Mass of healing, justice and peace at St Clements Church, Notting Dale on Sunday 10 June 2018.

3. Update from the Chair

- 3.1 No update

4 Update from the SACRE Consultant

- 4.1 Lesley Prior noted two significant reports -

- **RE Commission's Interim Report on RE** –The final report is to be published on 12 September 2018 (link below) - The NASACRE Executive had met on 13 September to prepare and release a briefing for SACREs.

<https://www.commissiononre.org.uk>

- 4.2 Also circulated with the agenda was a statement by Paul Smalley, Chair of the National Association of SACREs which constitutes his own personal response to the Commission's proposals.

- Charles Clarke and Linda Woodhead have now published the updated version of their booklet on religion and belief in schools. The first edition was considered by SACRE in 2015. The 2018 version can be found via the web link below -:

<http://faithdebates.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Clarke-Woodhead-A-New-Settlement-Revised.pdf>

See also:

<http://faithdebates.org.uk/education/a-new-settlement-revised/>

- 4.3 The summary from the Interim document was circulated with the agenda. Lesley stated that the reports are making recommendations that would require changes in legislation. She provided a quick summary of both reports to members.

- LP explained that both reports note the right to withdraw and both advocate removal of that right. However, she thought it unlikely that that would happen.

- Both suggest different names for the teaching of RE in schools '*Religion, - Beliefs and Values*' (Clarke/Woodhead)
Religion and World Views (RE Commission)

4.4 LP added that a future school's bulletin could contain information on what school's should do. She asked SACRE members what they thought of the suggested names. Is the name important? The Chair replied that the title should include 'Religion'.

4.5 Ruth Finkel added that she had been briefed by Laurence Julius who had felt that –

'while the principal of greater resources sounds great, the time likely to be devoted to RE is unlikely to grow.

Also Children learn little enough of the world's main religions as it is. To expand the curriculum to cover "world views" will further dilute and possibly politicise the subject. Religion is the main source of moral values.

After Grenfell – the strength of the faith community was amazing – and it was a gelling factor for the community.

The education system should reinforce and not dilute this.'

Faith Schools – Laurence Julius stated that

'I know we have no Jewish schools in the borough – but the demand for places at schools like JFS and Hasmonian far outstrips the number of places and to propose allowing more children of other faiths be admitted would make a scarce resource even scarcer – so I do not agree with this recommendation.'

4.6 In response to his second point regarding Faith Schools LP replied that this wasn't within the remit of the SACRE but that his remarks would be noted. She added that the Commission's proposed that all schools should sign up to a National Entitlement for RE – again the SACRE may have a view on this, but again it falls outside of the SACRE remit.

4.7 Ruth added that in her opinion '*Religion, - Beliefs and Values*' is the better title 'World Views' is the study of politics. Generally, it was felt that a subject with World Views gave too much scope to distract from the teaching of Religions. Also noted that the role of Faith Communities following the Grenfell fire had inspirational. RF and others added that all religions teach about love for fellow human beings and the local communities had come together in a religious and humanitarian response.

(Graham Marriner arrived at the meeting)

ACTION – LP documents, referred to above, to be kept to hand and returned to at the Spring/Summer term. JD and LP to draft a circular item for schools on their current legal obligations.

- 4.8 **Newsletter for RE Coordinators/Subject Leaders in Community Primary Schools** - A copy of the newsletter which had been sent out is the Schools Circular was circulated with the agenda.

The newsletter was received and noted.

- 4.9 **Agreed Syllabus** – noted that arrangements to review the current syllabus would need to begin in the Autumn term. It was also noted that the reports above would shape the Syllabus when it is revised. Agreed Syllabus – to be a reminder item for the Summer term - but to be a more substantive item in the Autumn term 2019 meeting of the SACRE.
- 4.10 **Determination at Academy Schools** - In response to a query Lucy Nutt stated that with regards to determinations at an Academy School it would be for the DfE to respond.
- 4.11 **RE Community School Newsletter** - Primary Autumn term 2018. Copies of the newsletter which had been sent out to schools in the schools' circular and had been distributed with the agenda for information. It was noted that the next RE co-ordinators meeting is to take place on 16 October 2018.

5. Places of Worship

- 5.1 Item referred to in the minutes of the last meeting. The information which had been circulated at the meeting can be found on the Borough's website via the link given below/

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/community-and-local-life/communityengagement/faith-communities>

- Faith Organisations with Religious Provision (RBKC map circulated with the agenda)
 - Faith Organisations Directory (Table circulated with the agenda)
- 5.2 The Clerk explained that Ruby Jackson (Community & Third Sector Support Officer) had told her that the information is up to date and that it would be a good starting point for the Royal Borough's SACRE.
- 5.3 It was stated that in addition the document could include information on Buddhism from DB and info on the Jewish Museum in Camden. Once updated and finalised the information could go out in a bulletin to schools. LN added that it would be useful to check about sites/venues etc. in Westminster too – since many RBKC schools are so close to the neighbouring borough. RF added that the Westminster Synagogue has the Czech Memorial Scrolls a 15th Century marrying purse. Additional Buddhist information can also be added by DB
- 5.4 LP added that it would need to be made clear that the places detailed had not been 'tried and tested'.

Action – SACRE members to get back to the clerk with additional items - so that a more extensive list can be compiled.

6. NASACRE Briefing Issue :19

- 6.1 June 2018 – a copy of the latest issue was circulated to SAC|RE members. It was noted that the Briefing is on the NASACRE website and that all of the SACRE members have access to the Members area of the NASACRE website. Current log-on details are always given on the SACRE agenda.

7. Interfaith Week 2018

- 7.1 **Sunday 11- 18 November 2018.** Item has been circulated in the Schools circular during the Summer term and again at the start of the Autumn term. A copy of the Schools Circular was circulated with the agenda. It was noted that the start of interfaith week coincided with the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War.

The circular which had been sent to schools was received and noted.

8. SACRE Autumn 2018 update

- 8.1 A copy of the newsletter which was circulated to schools at the start of the Autumn term is attached.

9. Draft Annual Report 17/18

- 9.1 The annual report is usually produced for the November meeting. A copy of the draft report will be circulated after half-term. Please let the clerk know of additions/suggestions you wish to make for the report. It was noted that the copies of the finalised report are sent to the DfE and NASACRE. A request for the Ramadan Guidance link to be added to the report was noted

Action - SACRE members to contact the clerk with additional items for the annual SACRE report. Draft to be circulated to members before it's submission which would be at the end of the year.

10. Freedom of Information requests.

- 10.1 None.

11. Any other Business.

- 11.1 **Spring term 2018 item - Members recalled that a suggested** letter to schools that appear not to be meeting their legal responsibility to teach RE had been circulated with the agenda and had been discussed at the last meeting. Katrina Quinton had stated that she was happy to redraft the letter in a more positive and constructive light. Since there had been no response the Chair stated that she would be happy to send it again, with a covering note. Any responses should be sent to the Clerk to the SACRE

Action - letter to be resent

- 11.2 In reference to the paragraph above it also previously been noted that there are only two secondary schools in the LA which aren't faith schools (at faith schools Section 48 information would be available), the two schools being Kensington Aldridge and Holland Park – both of which are Academy schools. LP added that nationally statistics stated that RE is not being taught sufficiently, however, the information in the report may not be watertight, but that the letter should still go out asking schools to the two seconder schools asking for the information requested. In response to a query LN stated that if Javid drew up an email it could be sent out to Headteachers on his behalf.
- 11.3 Mr Jad Ahamd asked about a pupil's withdrawal from Collective Worship at a school in Hertfordshire. It was explained that it is an issue that should be raised with the Hertfordshire SACRE – the SACRE may have guidance on Collective Worship. However, in the first instance the parents should talk to the school. It would be inappropriate for the RBKC SACRE to advise another local authority. It was explained that the law makes a clear distinction between assembly and the act of Collective Worship. A pupil can be withdrawn from Collective Worship but not from assembly. If the two events are taking place simultaneously - then there should be a marker between the two, such as, lighting a candle etc.
- 11.4 It was noted that pupils can also be withdrawn from teaching on Sex and Relationships –Celia added that these classes are often part of PSHE – but are highlighted beforehand and parents are made aware of the sessions and what will be discussed. Often books are provided for pupils, so that they are made aware of and understand the different family types
- 11.5 **Schools Visit** – Colville Primary School in the Spring term
- 12. Date of next meeting.**
- 12.1 Thursday 14 March 2019.

The meeting ended at 6.10 pm.