

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

MINUTES

Meeting RBKC SACRE
Date 26th September 2024
Time of meeting 5:30-7pm
Venue Committee Room 5, Kensington Town Hall / Microsoft Teams (hybrid meeting)

Present:

Committee A (Faiths and Denominations):

- Laurence Julius (LJ), Board of Deputies of British Jews (Chair)
- Susan Jaff (SJ), Islamic Faith (*left at 6:20pm*)
- Claire Bruce-Lamblin (CBL), Diocese of Westminster (*left at 5:51pm*)

Committee B (Church of England):

- Katrina Quinton (KQ) (*joined at 5:41pm*)
- Fr Evan McWilliams (EM)

Committee C (Teachers): N/A

Committee D (Local Education Authority):

- Cllr David Lindsay (DL) (*left at 6:08pm*)
- Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz (RWS) (*left at 6:08pm*)

Co-opted Members:

- Jo Backus (JB), Network of Buddhist Organisations

Local Authority Servicing Officers:

- Natalija Sorokina (NS) (Clerk)
- Jackie Saddington (JS)


RE Consultant Adviser: Ian Nicholson (IN), RE Today

Item Number	Minute Content
Item 1: Welcome and apologies	Chair LJ welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Gillian Berg and Zoe Barton (Celia Platt's substitute). KQ had advised before the meeting that she would arrive late. Clerk NS confirmed that the meeting was not quorate as Committee C for Teachers was not represented.
Item 2: Membership Update	Chair LJ gave a special welcome to Cllr LD who had previously served on the SACRE, and to Fr EM who now was in attendance as a full member appointed by the Local Authority.

	<p>JS informed that she had made a request to teachers and headteachers to come forward if they would like to join the SACRE under Committee C for teachers.</p>
<p>Item 3: Minutes of three previous meetings and matters arising</p>	<p>The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the respective meetings by all members present. However, as the meeting was not quorate, the SACRE were unable to sign them off.</p> <p>JS suggested that the members in attendance could approve the minutes in principle subject to the approval of the teacher representative. Their approval could be sought by the Clerk outside of the meeting. All agreed with the suggestion, and it was agreed to apply the same principle to any other decisions/approvals required in the course of the meeting.</p> <p>JS further suggested that the SACRE could choose to review/revise the SACRE's Constitution to formally include the above solution to provide for situations of several consecutive inquorate meetings resulting in the SACRE's inability to move forward with important decisions. All agreed with the suggestion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Clerk NS to seek approval of the three sets of minutes from 2023/24 from Committee C member. ➔ If approved by Committee C member, Clerk NS to communicate this to the group and upload the minutes on the SACRE's webpage. ➔ Clerk NS to put 'Review of SACRE Constitution' on the agenda for next meeting. <p><u>Westhill Awards</u></p> <p>Chair LJ informed that the members of the Westhill Awards working group visited the V&A Museum in July and selected a proposed list of five objects per religion. The chosen items are either of religious use or associated directly with place or act of worship. The list was shared with the SACRE members via email for feedback, and no feedback was received. No further comments were made by the members present.</p> <p>LJ suggested writing a few points on each object as an aid to teachers, and Fr EM agreed to work on the first draft to then be shared with everyone for feedback.</p> <p>LJ thanked Fr EM for his input that made their visit to the Museum so worthwhile.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Fr EM to draft a brief narrative for each item and share with the members for their comments by 10th November. ➔ LJ to send the slides with the selected objects to Cllr DL.

<p>Item 4: Locally Agreed Syllabus – due for renewal in June 2025</p> <p>Vote for a recommendation to the LA to establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference</p>	<p>All present members agreed in principle to recommend to the LA to establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference, subject to the agreement of the Committee C member outside of the meeting.</p> <p>Chair LJ reminded that, in adopting Hampshire's <i>Living Difference IV</i> syllabus, no changes to the Syllabus would be possible; however, any additional information/clarification that the members would like to highlight from the point of view of their faith could go in the personalised Foreword. At the previous meeting, JB had some comments in relation to Buddhism, and it was suggested that they could be summarised in the Foreword. JB advised she had not been able to write her piece yet, but she would write it.</p> <p>JS added that discussions around what could be included in the Foreword could be part of the Agreed Syllabus Conference when it was convened.</p> <p>LJ advised that he would be keen for any feedback to also be passed to Hampshire for their consideration. JS pointed out this should be done on behalf of the SACRE rather than individual members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Clerk NS to seek a vote on the SACRE's recommendation to the LA to establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference from Committee C member. ➔ If approved by Committee C member, JS to seek agreement of the Local Authority for the ASC to be convened, to confirm membership and NS to organise the date of the first ASC meeting. ➔ Clerk NS to write to members' nominating bodies to confirm with them that they would be happy to be represented on the ASC by their current representatives. ➔ JB to write a piece for the Foreword to draw attention to the points that she mentioned at the SACRE meeting in June that would require additional unpicking by the ASC (see minutes from 06/06/24 for reference).
<p>Item 5: Draft SACRE Annual Report 2023-24</p>	<p>The draft SACRE Annual Report 2023-24 had been put together by Clerk NS and shared with everyone as part of the meeting papers.</p> <p>NS advised that the report should have KS4 and KS5 exam results data; however, no such information had yet been published by the DfE. The LA's Business Intelligence Team are expecting to see the examination data published in October.</p> <p>The members suggested aiming at submitting the report to NASACRE and DfE by NASACRE's recommended deadline on 31st December. The final report will need to be shared with schools, NASACRE and the DfE.</p> <p>The SACRE members present made no comments regarding the report and agreed to approve the report in principle, subject to the approval of the Committee C member outside of the meeting.</p>

	<p>→ Clerk NS to seek approval of the draft SACRE Annual Report 2023-24 from Committee C member.</p> <p>→ NS to continue checking regarding KS4 and KS5 exam results data for Religious Studies.</p>
Item 6: Ramadan Guidance 2025	<p>SJ advised that no new changes were being expected in terms of the Ramadan guidance for 2025, except for the new date.</p> <p>The SACRE members present agreed in principle for the existing guidance on Ramadan to remain the same as in the previous year, subject to the agreement of the Committee C member outside of the meeting.</p> <p>→ Clerk NS to seek agreement from Committee C member for the existing Ramadan guidance to remain the same.</p>
Item 7: RE Updates by RE Adviser – by IN	<p><u>Curriculum and Assessment Review – a call for evidence by the DfE</u></p> <p>The DfE are inviting stakeholders to submit proposals on improving the curriculum and assessment system. This is important for the review process as the gathered feedback will aid the panel in making its first recommendations next year. The call, opened on 25th September, is to find out what currently works, what does not and to receive suggestions for possible improvements. The deadline for responses is 22nd November 2024, and the Curriculum and Assessment Review panel is due to report in mid-2025.</p> <p>It may be useful to send the SACRE Annual Report with the exam data to the DfE during the window of this call for evidence.</p> <p>Other headlines included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GCSE entries for Religious Studies remained steady this year; however, the numbers of RE teachers have plateaued across the country in the last 13 years. This year, teacher training institutions in England have filled their places for RE training for the first time in those years. The introduction of the teacher training bursaries of £10k has had an impact, though it is acknowledged also that some institutions have removed PGCE RE courses. Data is being collected on the demographics to see who is entering the PGCE courses, and it is hoped it will be possible to report on this at the SACRE's spring term meeting. - In October, the DfE should also release data on time that RE is taught in each school per LA. This information will be useful for the SACRE to look at. - There are more students in London studying RE at A level than there are nationally, and there has been a slight increase in these figures, which suggests that A level RE in England is slightly improving. - Interfaith Week will be taking place from 10th – 17th November 2024. The new Interfaith Week for Schools website will be launched on 10th October, a month before the Week.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new Religion, belief and worldviews hub has been set up for school teachers by Open University. It provides resources for schools and educational settings to support the delivery of RE in classrooms from Early Years to post-16 education. <p>Full details on the above and more, including some information on training opportunities, can be found in IN's updates attached below:</p> <p> RBKC SACRE Update Autumn 2024.docx</p>
Item 8: Update from Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NASACRE has now been registered as a CIO. - NASACRE Training Programme: Members are reminded to check the training offer by NASACRE.
Item 9: Freedom of Information Requests	Clerk NS informed none had been received since the previous meeting in June 2024.
Item 10: Dates and Venues of 2024/25 Meetings	<p>Currently, the spring and summer term meetings are scheduled as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 26 February 2025 (5:30-7pm), Committee Room 5, Kensington Town Hall - 5 June 2025 (5:30-7pm), Committee Room 5, Kensington Town Hall <p>There has been a request by Celia Platt's substitute member that if the meetings were held earlier, it would be easier for them to attend them. The members present advised they were happy with the existing arrangements but could consider earlier times; however, meetings during daytime would not be a suitable option for many, including for any future teacher members who may be class-based.</p> <p>→ Clerk NS to set up a Doodle poll with alternative start times for 26th February to check everyone's availability before a decision could be made to change the current arrangement.</p> <p>JB advised that she may have difficulties with attending SACRE meetings on Thursdays. It was agreed to keep this in mind for the following year. The meeting in February falls on a Wednesday.</p>
Item 11: AOB	<p><u>Places of worship</u></p> <p>JB mentioned she may be able to get hold of a list of places of worship for different traditions that were in London, which all agreed would be a good resource to share with schools.</p> <p>→ JB to share the list of London based places of worship for different traditions.</p> <p><u>CPD offer for schools</u></p>

	<p>IN advised that instead of termly RE Good Practice Network meetings, RE Today will be offering teachers 9 online training sessions, three per term. They will be on different subjects, and teachers will be free to choose which one(s) they would like to attend. After each session, there will be an opportunity for teachers to review the session in a breakout group. SACRE members are welcome to join these too.</p> <p>➔ Clerk NS to share the RE Today training offer to Bi-borough teachers with SACRE members.</p>
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