

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

MINUTES

Meeting RBKC SACRE
 Date 21 March 2023
 Time of meeting 5:15-6:15pm
 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)
- Lady Singh (LS) (Kanwaljit Kaur), Network of Sikh Organisations
- Susan Jaff (SJ) (Vice-Chair), Islamic Faith
- Jahed Ahmed (JA), Discover Islam (covering for Naif Sheikh)

Committee B (Church of England): Katrina Quinton (KQ)

Committee C (Teachers): Celia Platt (CP), National Education Union

Committee D (Local Education Authority): Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz (RWS)

Co-opted Members: Gillian Berg (GB), Kensington and Chelsea Baha'i Community

Local Authority Servicing Officers:

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

RE Consultant Adviser: N/A

Item Number	Minute Content
<p>Item 1: Welcome and apologies</p>	<p>Chair LJ welcomed everyone to the meeting. LJ gave a special welcome to Cllr RWS, a new member on the SACRE representing the Local Authority.</p> <p>LJ also welcomed Mo O'Donoghue, a new member on the SACRE representing the Diocese of Westminster; however, Mo was not present at the meeting.</p> <p>Clerk NS informed that, prior to the meeting, formal apologies had been received from Jo Backus. Jo had been invited to attend the meeting as an observer until the SACRE considered co-opting her to represent the Network of Buddhist Organisations (NBO).</p> <p>Clerk NS confirmed that the meeting was quorate.</p> <p>Chair LJ also informed that, sadly, Lesley Prior, RE Adviser on the SACRE, had to go on medical leave and so would not be available to support the work of the</p>

	<p>SACRE until further notice. On behalf of the SACRE, LJ wished Lesley all the very best in her journey to recovery.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>After the meeting, Clerk NS received retrospective apologies from Ken Persaud (Committee A) and Kathryn Kane (Committee B).</p>
<p>Item 2: Membership Update</p>	<p><u>New Members</u></p> <p>Chair LJ already introduced Cllr RWS and Mo O’Donoghue as new members on the SACRE under Item 1 above.</p> <p><u>Co-option of Jo Backus, representing the NBO</u></p> <p>Jo’s profile had been shared with the SACRE members as part of the meeting papers.</p> <p>Clerk NS reminded that although the Buddhist Society had historically nominated members for the RBKC SACRE, they did not respond to several requests that NS made to them for a replacement member.</p> <p>KQ found Lesley Prior’s approval of Jo’s expertise and experience important.</p> <p>Chair LJ referred to the past challenges that the SACRE had with the Locally Agreed Syllabus review and highlighted the importance of having a Buddhist representative.</p> <p>The SACRE unanimously agreed to co-opt Jo Backus to represent the Network of Buddhist Associations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">→ NS to inform Jo Backus accordingly and update the SACRE Composition document.</p> <p><u>Census 2021 Data Update</u></p> <p>Chair LJ referred to the published Census 2021 results and advised that, for RBKC, the data had not changed significantly since the previous Census. In view of this, he suggested that the SACRE’s composition should stay unchanged, which JS also supported.</p> <p>The SACRE unanimously agreed for no changes to be made to their constitution.</p>
<p>Item 3: Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</p>	<p>Minutes of the summer term SACRE meeting in June 2022 and of the autumn term SACRE meeting in September 2022 were reviewed and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>

	<p style="text-align: right;">→ Clerk NS to upload the minutes of both meetings to the RBKC SACRE website.</p> <p><u>Ramadan Guidance 2023</u></p> <p>JA advised that Ramadan had just been confirmed to start on Thursday, 23rd March. Discover Islam will update their Ramadan Guide for Schools with the new dates and email it over to the SACRE.</p> <p>The SACRE agreed for the updated Guide to be shared with schools and be uploaded on the RBKC SACRE website once received from Discover Islam.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ Discover Islam to provide an updated copy of their Ramadan Guide for Schools 2023, and NS to arrange for it to be shared with schools.</p> <p><u>Approval of SACRE Annual Report 2021-22</u></p> <p>The draft report was presented to the SACRE in the autumn term; however, as the meeting was not quorate, it was not approved then.</p> <p>Clerk NS informed that she had been liaising with the Education Data Team regarding KS4 and KS5 subject specific exam results from 2022. These results have not yet been published by the DfE, which has been reflected in the report.</p> <p>The SACRE members made no comments regarding the report. The SACRE Annual Report 2021-22 was approved.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ NS to share the final copy of the Annual Report 2020/21 with the SACRE members, schools (via the Schools Circular), NASACRE and DfE.</p>
<p>Item 4: Locally Agreed Syllabus</p>	<p>JS suggested that, having taken advice, it may be a good idea to postpone further discussions in relation to the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus until a replacement RE Adviser was secured to support the RBKC SACRE.</p> <p>The SACRE agreed to review the situation at the summer term meeting as part of this standing item.</p> <p>In answer to KQ’s question, JS also informed that although the Schools Bill had been put on hold, academisation of schools still seemed to be on the Government’s agenda. However, there has been no further update on this.</p>
<p>Item 5: NASACRE/RE Updates</p>	<p>JS informed that she had been in touch with RE Today and LDBS in considering options for cover arrangements for the role of RE Adviser following the news about Lesley Prior. The recommendation is to first look at a shorter term cover for the summer term and for a longer-term cover for the next academic year. JS said that the SACRE members would be updated on the developments in this area as more news was known.</p>

	<p>Chair LJ felt it would be helpful if the SACRE members could be engaged in the selection process.</p> <p><u>2023 NASACRE Conference and AGM</u> – 22 May 2023, 10:30am-3:30pm, Fishmongers’ Hall, London</p> <p>Clerk NS informed that the Local Authority had traditionally funded for two SACRE members to attend this Conference in person.</p> <p>SJ confirmed that she would like to attend the Conference on behalf of the SACRE. Cllr RWS also expressed a wish to attend it subject to his availability. Chair LJ advised that he would attend if there was no representation of the RBKC SACRE put forward.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ NS to confirm Cllr RWS’s availability on 22nd May after the meeting and make the bookings accordingly.</p> <p><u>NASACRE Training Programme</u></p> <p>Clerk NS reminded the SACRE members of the training offer by NASACRE for the current academic year. With the member log-in details, it is also possible to view recordings of the previous sessions held earlier in the year.</p>
<p>Item 6: Update from Chair</p>	<p><u>NASACRE Awards</u></p> <p>Chair LJ suggested nominating CP for NASACRE awards as a long-standing SACRE member representing teachers and as a dedicated RE teacher. The SACRE members agreed with the suggestion, and CP thanked all for this honour.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ Chair LJ to submit the nomination to NASACRE.</p> <p><u>NASACRE/Westhill Awards for 2023-24 (closing date 31 March 2023)</u></p> <p>Chair LJ suggested applying for the Awards and suggested that lights and candles across the faiths could be a possible theme for a project. He welcomed other ideas, and below is what the SACRE members collectively suggested as possible interfaith themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food - Prayers/giving good wishes - Charity - Coronation - Arts and crafts - Music - Faith tree - Colours - Objects and/or shapes - Symbols

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Books - Museum trip – for example, V&A Museum which has an education department and a music room <p>The SACRE agreed to have a more focused discussion at the summer term meeting with a view to identifying a theme to work on to apply for the Awards in the 2023/24 academic year.</p> <p>Information on the Awards and the application process can be found here: Awards 2023-24 - NASACRE.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➔ Members to discuss the Westhill Awards at the summer term meeting. NS to add to the agenda accordingly.</p>
Item 11: Freedom of Information Requests	<p>Clerk NS informed that one freedom of information request had been received earlier in the term. It was from NASACRE and in relation to the SACRE’s funding. The Local Authority responded to it by the given deadline.</p>
Item 12: Date and Venue of Future Meeting	<p>The future meeting date is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8th June (Thursday) <p>CP offered Colville Primary as a venue and advised that a hybrid meeting would be possible. The SACRE agreed, however, for the meeting to be held at Kensington Town Hall and for a separate time to be arranged for interested members to visit Colville Primary to observe an RE lesson by CP.</p> <p>The SACRE also agreed to start the meeting at 5:30pm to allow some members extra time to get to it after work.</p>
Item 10: AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr RWS advised that he knew of a teacher who seemed interested in being on the SACRE and also asked if there was any statistical information available on the shortage of RE teachers. <p style="text-align: center;">➔ NS to email Cllr RWS a copy of the nomination form which would need to be completed by a nominating body and sent back to the Clerk for consideration by the Local Authority.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➔ JS to make enquiries regarding the shortage of RE teachers in the Borough.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GB informed that 21st March was Bahá’í New Year. • LS informed that on 14th April an important festival for the Sikh community would be taking place. It marks the beginning of the harvesting season, and some schools talk about it in their assembly. <p>Chair LJ wished all happy holidays being or to be celebrated by the different communities and closed the meeting.</p>

