

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

**MINUTES**

Meeting RBKC SACRE  
Date 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
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)
- Alex Stacey (AS), Diocese of Westminster (*joined at 6:18pm*)
- Claire Bruce-Lamblin (CBL), Diocese of Westminster
- Lady Singh (Kanwaljit Kaur) (LS), Network of Sikh Organisations

**Committee B** (Church of England):

- Katrina Quinton (KQ)
- Kathryn Kane (KK), LDBS

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

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

**Co-opted Members:**

- Jo Backus (JB), Network of Buddhist Organisations
- Gillian Berg (GB), Kensington and Chelsea Baha'i Community

**Local Authority Servicing Officers:**


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

**RE Consultant Adviser:** Lat Blaylock (LB), RE Today

Item Number	Minute Content
<b>Item 1: Welcome and apologies</b>	Chair LJ welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Chair LJ gave a special welcome to LB, RE Adviser from RE Today.  Clerk NS confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
<b>Item 2: Membership Update</b>	<u>RE Adviser Update</u>  JS advised that she had contacted LDBS for an update on Lesley Prior, the SACRE's long-standing RE Adviser up until last year, and she updated members.

	<p>JS asked for the best wishes to be passed on to Lesley from JS and on behalf of the SACRE.</p> <p>JS further informed that RBKC had commissioned RE Today to provide RE Adviser support to the SACRE for the year. LB was covering the autumn term meeting, and for spring and summer terms it will be Ian Nicholson.</p>
<b>Item 3: Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</b>	<p>Minutes of the summer term SACRE meeting in June 2023 were reviewed and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>➔ <b>Clerk NS to upload the minutes of the summer term 2023 meeting to the RBKC SACRE <a href="#">website</a>.</b></p>
<b>Item 4: Ramadan Guidance 2024</b>	<p>Clerk NS advised that she had chased Naif Sheikh, Discover Islam representative on the SACRE, for an updated version of their Ramadan Guidance; however, she had not received a response.</p> <p>➔ <b>Clerk NS to chase Naif Sheikh again and if a copy of the Guidance is received, to share it with the SACRE members for comments before the next meeting. If nothing is received, the previously available version of the Guidance to be updated with the 2024 Ramadan dates.</b></p>
<b>Item 5: Locally Agreed Syllabus</b>	<p>Below are key points of the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LB referred to the <i>Living Difference</i> syllabus by Hampshire as a popular syllabus adapted by a number of local authorities. If RBKC were to continue with it, the local schools would get the benefit of continuity.</li> <li>- LB informed that RE Today also offered two types of syllabi – a thematic one (taking account of recent developments in ‘worldviews’ and ‘ways of knowing’) and a systematic one (based on core concepts arranged in a spiral curriculum).</li> <li>- LB further named syllabus examples from Norfolk and Lancashire, which had also been adopted by a number of local authorities and which offered a multi-disciplinary and multi-religious approach. All of these syllabi also give space and scope for teaching and learning Humanism and other worldviews.</li> <li>- JS advised that the views from local teachers were that they did not want change for the sake of change.</li> <li>- CP agreed with JS’ comment above. <i>Living Difference III</i>, Hampshire’s syllabus currently adopted in RBKC, is child centred and enquiry led. It is having good results in terms of engaging children and it is working well. The cycle of enquiry principle makes it easy to build and plan lessons.</li> <li>- CP is currently supporting two schools who require support with developing and imbedding the RE curriculum, which indicates that some schools are still struggling with implementing the current syllabus that has already been in place for a couple of years. It can take a few years for schools to be up and running with a syllabus. It</li> </ul>

	<p>would make sense to continue with Hampshire's syllabus so schools could improve and make stronger what they already have in place as opposed to starting something completely new.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CP mentioned that one of the new features of Hampshire's latest version of their syllabus <i>Living Difference IV</i> was that it was based on four 'Golden Threads' concepts. As CP already said in previous meetings, she would like to see what guidance and support Hampshire can offer with regards to teaching these concepts twice per key stage and keeping children engaged with them.</li> <li>- CP further advised that comments made at the RE Good Practice network meetings by teachers in both RBKC and Westminster schools about the <i>Living Difference III</i> syllabus had been more positive over the recent couple of years.</li> <li>- LB suggested that the SACRE should consider organising an online questionnaire for teachers to find out what exactly they find difficult about the syllabus.</li> </ul> <p><b>→ LB to share an example questionnaire for the RBKC SACRE to consider and CP to take the questionnaire to the next RE Good Practice network meeting for teachers to respond to it.</b></p>
<b>Item 6: Draft SACRE Annual Report 2022-23</b>	<p>Chair LJ thanked Clerk NS for putting the draft report together.</p> <p>CBL advised that, as a new member on the SACRE, she found the report very helpful.</p> <p>Clerk NS advised that the report should have KS4 and KS5 exam results data; however, no such information had yet been published by the DfE. NS will continue checking this with the LA's Business Intelligence Team over the next few months and will update the report as necessary.</p> <p>NS also informed that SACREs had a duty to publish an annual report, ideally by the 31<sup>st</sup> December each calendar year but if necessary in the following calendar year.</p> <p>The SACRE members made no further comments regarding the report. The SACRE Annual Report 2022-23 was approved.</p> <p><b>→ NS to continue checking regarding KS4 and KS5 exam results data for Religious Studies. If no data is still available by 31 December, NS to update the report accordingly and share the final copy of it with the SACRE members, schools (via the Schools Circular), NASACRE and DfE.</b></p>
<b>Item 7: Westhill Awards 2024 – confirming a theme for application and</b>	<p>The members referred to the discussion at the previous meeting to confirm that story telling across faiths was chosen as a theme for the application. It was also discussed that it could be matched up with what was available through museums and art galleries. V&amp;A Museum was particularly mentioned as a good local option.</p>

<p>next steps to complete an application form</p>	<p>CP highlighted that NASACRE would be running a training session on Applying for Westhill Awards on 16<sup>th</sup> October and advised that it would be very helpful if a SACRE member could attend it.</p> <p>The members agreed to set up a working group which would get together outside of the main SACRE meetings to work on the application in more detail. CP, LJ, KQ, CBL, GB and JB all agreed to be part of it. Chair LJ advised that it would be helpful for a Muslim member to be part of this group too.</p> <p><b>→ Clerk NS to put the above members in touch via email, with the other members copied in, for them to independently agree on a meeting time and date. KQ to chair this group.</b></p> <p>LB advised that he had supported a couple of SACREs with their bid for the Awards and he highlighted the following helpful points for the members to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In putting the bid together, it is important to focus on how the proposed project would enable children in the Borough to become leaders in RE.</li> <li>- The project needs to be children centred, as opposed to teachers centred.</li> <li>- The funding through the Awards would make £4k. If the LA was able to commit to adding up the same amount to make the total rise up to £8k, this could increase the chances of winning.</li> <li>- It is best to start working on the application early to ensure it is well done as Westhill judges have turned down past applications because they were 'half-baked'.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item 8: RE Updates by RE Adviser</b></p>	<p>Attached below is a compilation of various national updates in relation to religious education (RE) which LB had put together. The document had been shared with the SACRE members as part of the meeting papers.</p> <p></p> <p>RE Today SACRE UPDATE Autumn 2021</p> <p>LB briefly went through all the updates as mentioned in the document above. Some of the highlights included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Open Letter from over 30 Parliamentarians to the Education Secretary highlighting that school pupils receive tokenistic religious education or none.</li> <li>- NATRE provide evidence at Education Select committee enquiry session in relation to recruitment and retention of RE teachers.</li> <li>- Recruitment crisis in teaching of RE, especially in secondary schools</li> <li>- NATRE analysis of GCSE and A Level Religious Studies data</li> <li>- Shortage of RE Teachers</li> </ul>

	<p>The document also had information on a number of training opportunities and resources in relation to RE, with some of them being as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anti-racist RE resources</li> <li>- Global Neighbours accreditation scheme: school awards from Christian Aid</li> <li>- NATRE membership</li> <li>- RE Connect Teacher Fellowship Programme</li> <li>- Philosophy of Religion courses from the Financial Times</li> <li>- BBC Early Years RE resources</li> <li>- RE Hubs</li> <li>- Against Islamophobia: new free resources for schools</li> </ul> <p>LB advised that he was happy for the updates document to be shared with local schools.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>➔ Clerk NS to arrange for the national updates on RE as prepared by LB to go out to schools via the Schools Circular for attention of RE Teachers and Subject Leads.</b></p> <p>LS advised that her husband sat in the House of Lords, and she could ask him to submit a question there on behalf of the RBKC SACRE with regards to supporting RE if this could be well formulated. LB thanked for this opportunity, and they agreed to collaborate outside of the meeting.</p>
<b>Item 9: Update from Chair</b>	<p><u>NASACRE Training Programme</u></p> <p>Chair LJ reminded the SACRE members of <a href="#">the training offer by NASACRE</a>. With the member log-in details, it is also possible to view recordings of the previous sessions held previously.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>➔ Clerk NS to circulate the link to the training schedule to the members.</b></p>
<b>Item 10: Freedom of Information Requests</b>	<p>Clerk NS informed that none had been received since the previous meeting in June 2023.</p>
<b>Item 11: Dates and Venues of Future Meetings</b>	<p>The dates for spring and summer term meeting were confirmed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (5:30-7pm)</li> <li>- 6 June 2024 (5:30-7pm)</li> </ul> <p>The members agreed for the future meetings to continue to be hybrid to maximise attendance.</p>
<b>Item 12: AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interfaith Week – 12-19 November 2023</li> </ul> <p>LB advised that he had a presentation that he was offering to schools for a simple activity for the Inter Faith Week, which he was happy to share with the SACRE members for further distribution to schools.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>➔ LB to share this presentation with the SACRE members via Clerk NS.</b></p>

	<p>➔ Clerk NS to share it with schools via the Schools Circular for attention of all schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holocaust Memorial Day 2023</li> </ul> <p>Chair LJ advised that a new Rabbi was starting at the Synagogue on 18<sup>th</sup> November, and everyone was welcome to attend a service. The Synagogue was also welcoming two school visits per week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching Hours for RE from School Workforce Census collected November 2022, as provided by NATRE</li> </ul> <p>The members had a discussion about this data collection.</p>
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