

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 Tuesday 10 September 2019 at the Buddhist Society, 58 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1PH. 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 Darcy Biddulph		Buddhist Faith Representative
Mr Laurence Julius		Jewish Faith Representative
Karen Wyatt		Catholic Representative

Representing the Church of England

Mrs Kathryn Kane	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.

Councillor David Lindsay	
Mrs Lucy Nutt	Principal Lead Adviser

In attendance

Emily Norman	Chair of the WCC SACRE
Lesley Prior	Consultant to the SACRE

Ms Julie Farmer	Clerk
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1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Ms Susan Jaff, Mr Javid Djalili and Ken Persaud.

1.2 In the absence of both the Chair and the Vice-Chair, Laurence Julius kindly agreed to take the Chair for the meeting.

1.3 As its first item the SACRE took great delight in welcoming back Lesley Prior.

1.4 Emily Norman, Chair of the Westminster SACRE was welcomed to the meeting.

2. Membership Update.

- 2.1 It was noted that the appointing body is still waiting a completed nomination form from Caitlin McIntosh's teaching union and this is being chased. CM is a teacher at Marlborough Primary School. It was noted that as meetings are public, prospective new members can attend meetings prior to formal appointment.
- 2.2 The Clerk has again been in contact with the LDBS and Diocesan Board to seek further representatives to fill long-standing vacancies on the SACRE. The Humanist UK has also contacted the clerk about a possible nominee.

3. Notes of the last meeting held on 4 June 2019 and matters arising.

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting were circulated with the agenda.
- 3.2 The minutes of the meetings were AGREED as a correct record of the meetings and were signed by the Acting Chairman.

Matters Arising and items not elsewhere on the agenda –

- 3.3 **Agreed Syllabus Review** (paragraph 5.2 refers) in response to a query from DB about SACRE members on the ASC (Agreed Syllabus Conference), LP clarified that SACRE members aren't precluded from membership. The nomination body of members would need to agree their membership.

Action Clerk to prepare report on membership for the LA. Membership of the ASC to include the SACRE members. (Info with LN)

- 3.4 **Legal requirement to teach RE** - noted that there had not been enough time to send out the letters. The letters referred to had not yet been sent.

Action – in progress. Clerk to provide letterhead for letters prior to distribution.

- 3.5 **Colville Primary School – School Visit** Monday 17th June 2019. On behalf of the SACRE the Chairman thanked Celia for organising their visit. It had been a wonderful and informative experience.

4. Update from the Chair

- 4.1 No update made

(Cllr David Lindsay arrived at the meeting).

5 Update from the SACRE Consultant

- 5.1 LP reported on the joint meeting in July of the All-Party Parliamentary Groups for Faith and Society and Religious Education, which members of the NASACRE Executive attended. There has been mention of the potential of SACREs to be a safe- space for bringing together religious communities, educators and the authority to discuss issues such as SRE.
- 5.2 **Legal requirement to teach RE** - LP also reported on the issue for SACRE and its limited remit and potential to respond and help if RE teaching in schools is inadequate or not being delivered at all.
- 5.3 She stated that a question posed to Ofsted was 'Can a school which is not delivering RE still get an "Outstanding" judgement?'. It was stated the RE, unlike PSHE, is not a deal breaker. It is a best fit approach. So, what can the SACRE do she asked? The SACRE is asked to 'police' what is happening – but does not have the authority or personnel to respond - the SACRE has an advisory capacity. The SACRE can report back to the DfE – but Nick Gibb M.P. (Minister for School Standards) has said that the DfE has limited capacity to investigate. The SACRE has no power or teeth.
- 5.4 The Secretary of State for Education - Gavin Williamson's letter to Paul Smalley (Chair of NASACRE) circulated at the meeting. (see letter attached below) -



Letter from Gavin
Williamson.pdf

- 5.5 LP went through the letter it refers to issues such as SACRE funding and that officials having been asked to explore the current role SACREs play in supporting the delivery of RSE and health education locally and how they could support future implementation. Discussions followed, and it was noted that the LA has been good at resourcing the SACRE. KW added that she would be uncomfortable with non-teachers passing judgement on the teaching of RE, she felt that Gavin Williamson's suggestion about the remit of the SACRE lacked an understanding of the SACREs' role and their current remit.
- 5.6 LP and EM explained that most SACRE members are volunteers and being asked to monitor RE is outside their scope – given that most aren't teaching professionally. The role of the SACRE is largely advisory and supportive.
- 5.7 Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) – noted Relationships Education would become compulsory in all primary schools from September 2020 and Relationships and Sex Education in secondary schools. KW explained that

often in Church schools PSHE is taught by the RE teachers and Church teaching will underpin the teaching of RSE.

Celia added that at Colville the school is clear what is being taught in PSHE and literature and books are used to explain different family groups.

- 5.8 LP explained that although parents have the right to withdraw pupils from RE. RSE and Sex Education will be compulsory and although the DfE has passed legislation they have yet to provide advice and guidance to schools.

Post meeting clarification was sought from Becky Casey PSHE and Wellbeing Adviser – who states that from September 2020 all primary schools will have to teach relationships and health education and are recommended to teach sex education in addition to the science curriculum. All secondary schools will have to teach relationships and sex education and health education. Parents can withdraw their child from sex education at both primary and secondary schools which sits outside of the science curriculum. Parents cannot withdraw their child from relationships or health education at both primary and secondary from September 2020.

6. Initiation of the Agreed Syllabus Review.

- 6.1 Agreed Syllabus Review – briefing paper from LP was circulated at the meeting



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agreed syllabus confe

- 6.2 LN has invited Emily Norman, the Chair of the WCC SACRE and Emily was welcomed to the meeting.
- 6.3 **Process of adapting the Hampshire AS** - EN – explained that the WCC AS is an adaptation of the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus 'The Living Difference'. The Hampshire updated document didn't quite fit the needs for Westminster. WCC wanted it to represent the 6 major faiths and Humanism and to cover Early Year – KS4. There had been work with Hampshire to develop material which would be appropriate for an AS for an urban authority. EN explained that each faith group had looked at content which was particular to their Faith group. LP in developing the Hampshire Syllabus. LP added that information had also been looked at by National Bodies as well as local Faith representatives.
- 6.4 EN went on to state that there had been a robust review by Hampshire and WCC and teachers not on the WCC SACRE were invited to attend the review. As a result, more teachers were interested in and are now partaking in the work of the WCC SACRE. However, she agreed that the SACRE would not be complete agreement on everything in the document. She added that the

SACRE would also need to produce a forward for the document and it can add information to the local and national context to the document too.

- 6.5 **Training** – noted that this had been provided by Hampshire. With further material on the WCC SACRE website. If the AS is purchased there is also on-line training and resources available (at a cost).
- 6.6 LP stated that options available to the SACRE include - review of the current AS or adapt a syllabus from another LA. However, it should be noted that WCC and RBKC are similar Boroughs. In response to a question from DB, LP replied that Hampshire are happy to sell their AS. The SACRE should look at an adaptation and adoption of the London Borough version of the 'Living Difference' document. The Hampshire document is also being used by Camden and Hammersmith & Fulham.
- 6.7 **How to proceed** – LP explained that an Agreed Syllabus Conference will need to be convened and the nomination body would need to be consulted to see that they are happy with its membership.
- 6.8 If agreed the new Syllabus could be launched in the Summer with training for a September 2020 implementation
- 6.9 Training – CR stated that there needed to be adequate training for teaching staff. As well as training for RBKC - there could be joint session with WCC as well.
- 6.10 The SACRE was supportive of the approach suggested by LP. It would be cost effective and avoid time and cost re-inventing the wheel.

Action LP before the meeting on 19 November 2019 – to contact Hampshire and get information on costs, materials provide and additional resources available

7. **Compilation of the SACRE Annual Report**

- item request from previous meeting – SACRE members asked to provide pen portraits for inclusion in the report.

Action SACRE members to provide approx. 200-word pen portrait for inclusion in the Annual report. As soon as possible

8. **Ramadan Guidance**

- 8.1 Ramadan 2020 in the UK will begin Thursday, 23 April 2020 and ends in the evening of Saturday, 23 May 2020. It was noted that there had been eight drafts made before the guidance was updated.

Action Draft for 2020 to be sent to Clerk in word format if possible and members to contact Naif with any changes for the 2020 Guidance document. It was noted that copies of the current guidance had been circulated with the agenda.

9. Freedom of Information requests.

9.1 None.

10. Any other Business.

10.1 None.

11. Date of next meeting.

11.1 Tuesday 19 November 2019 - Kensington Town Hall

Julie Farmer
Town Hall – Horton Street
London
W8 7NX
Tel no; 0207 598 4781
Julie.farmer@rbkc.gov.uk

The meeting ended at 6.20 pm.