

**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 14 March 2019 at Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London. W8 7NX. The meeting began at 5.00pm.

**Representing Christian and other religious denominations**

Ms Susan Jaff (V-C)	Islamic Faith Representative
Mr Javid Djalili (C)	Baha'i Faith Representative
Ms Darcy Biddulph	Buddhist Faith Representative
Mr Laurence Julius	Jewish Faith Representative

**Representing the Church of England**

Mrs Kathryn Kane	London Diocesan Board for Schools
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**Representing teachers (including teachers of RE) and teachers' associations**

Ms Celia Garth Rodriguez Teacher Colville Primary School

**Representatives from the LA, including Councillors and RE advisors.**

Mrs Lucy Nutt	Principal Lead Adviser
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**In attendance**

Mr Roger Butler	Consultant to the SACRE
Ms Julie Farmer	Clerk

Mr Paul Fairbrass RE teacher EPIC

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Rev K. Persaud, Mrs Katrina Quinton Apologies were received after the meeting from Karen Wyatt, she was involved in a Section 48 at St Thomas' School (an inspection of schools with a religious character).

## **2. Membership –**

- it was noted that Cllr Robert Thompson had stood down as a Councillor and was no longer a member of the SACRE. Lucy Nutt has approached Cllr Emma Will, the Lead Member for Families, Children and Schools for a new Councillor to sit on the SACRE.
- Mr Philip Boothroyd has left his post at Marlborough Primary School and therefore no longer a member of SACRE.
- Clerk has contacted 6 teaching unions to ask for a teacher representative on the SACRE and is chasing up.
- Clerk has contacted the LDBS to ask for further representatives.

## **3. Notes of the last meeting held on 27 September 2019 and matters arising.**

- 3.1 The minutes of the quorate meeting had been circulated with the agenda and were received and noted.
- 3.2 Introductions - Roger Butler explained that he had been a RE teacher in several ILEA schools, he had then worked as a lecturer and for Ealing Council. Since 2004 he had made a living as a RE consultant. He was welcomed to the meeting in place of Lesley Prior. The SACRE also welcomed Paul Fairbrass, a possible teaching union representative, to the meeting

### **Matters Arising -**

- 3.3 Agreed Syllabus - in response to a query from DB, Roger explained that the Local Authority (LA) has to consider a review of its Agreed Syllabus every five years. The LA will convene an agreed syllabus conference to review its syllabus. The conference could include members of the SACRE, if their nomination is agreed by the LA. Lucy Nutt added that the hope is that the SACRE would adapt and adopt a version of the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus, which has also been adopted by Westminster City Council. It was noted, by members, that the current Syllabus for each LA could be viewed on the SACRE areas of each Borough's website. The links to both sites are given below for ease. Susan Jaff added that, as she recalled, there is a lot of work on changes to the Agreed Syllabus.

WCC - <http://webfronter.com/westminster/RE/index.html>

RBKC - <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/children-and-education/schools/school/sacre>

- 3.4 Paragraph 11.1 refers - the letter to schools that appear not to be meeting their legal responsibility to teach RE had been redrafted and sent to schools by Katrina Quinton. It had been noted, at the previous meeting, that there had been no responses received and KQ had undertaken to resend the letters with a covering note. Any responses should be sent to the Clerk to the SACRE

**Action** Chair to check with KQ to see that the letter had been sent. Members were reminded that there are only two secondary schools in the LA which aren't faith schools, they are Kensington Aldridge and Holland Park – both of which are Academy schools.

- 3.5 In response to a query from Susan Jaff - Celia stated that it would be nigh on impossible to keep records on school RE co-ordinators up to date.

#### **4. Update from the Chair**

- 4.1 The Chair stated that he had been in contact with Lesley Prior and that she was responding well to treatment. It was AGREED that the Clerk would send flowers to Lesley on the SACRE's behalf.

**Action** Flowers to be sent to LP by the Clerk.

#### **5 Update from the SACRE Consultant**

- 5.1 As part of his update Roger went through the NASACRE newsletter in detail.

- 5.2 Future Funding (SACRE Briefing issue 21 refers) – Roger explained that SACRE funding would, in future, be the Central School Services block. NASACRE are asking about the percentage of funding that LAs are setting aside for SACRE – responses received by NASACRE so far show that allocation is between 2.76% and 0.01%. Lucy Nutt added that the funding change will be from 2018/19. The LA has met and covered all the costs of meetings for the Borough's SACRE. In response to a question from Laurence Julius she explained that there isn't a specific budget pot – it is a loose arrangement, but the LA does support and finance RE best practice in the Borough.

Note - Westhill NASACRE Awards are funded by generous grants from the Westhill Foundation and are managed and coordinated by NASACRE. Each year grants of up to £4,000 have been awarded to support suitable projects submitted by schools through their SACREs. The closing date for applications is usually around the end of March).

**Action** – SACRE funding - item for next meeting.

- 5.3 Ofsted 2019 Consultation – Roger explained that Ofsted is currently consulting on its draft framework for 2019. The explicit mention of RE as a subject which must be taught, making it clear that this is a statutory expectation was noted. School’s might want to ensure that they have someone to oversee RE and Spiritual development. It was noted that Damien Hinds had reiterated that “It is mandatory for all state funded schools to teach RE and it is important that they do this well”.

The consultation can be responded to in two different ways:

- Complete the online questionnaire – <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/EIFConsultation/>
- Email Ofsted directly: [inspection.consultation@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:inspection.consultation@ofsted.gov.uk)

Deadline for responses is 5th April 2019.

- 5.4 In response to a query for the Chair about Schools which might minimise the teaching of RE. Lucy explained that it would be for Ofsted to look at and address the issue.
- 5.5 Feedback from REC - Religious Education Council for England and Wales – Roger explained that it is an umbrella organisation and represents the collective interests of a wide variety of professional associations and faith communities. A recent member is the United Synagogue.

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

- 5.6 Items for your Spring term SACRE meetings – in discussing this item Roger explained that the SACRE can enquire about the teaching of RE and offer help and support. This could include information on places to visit for a new RE co-ordinator. RE is not a National Curriculum subject and its teaching can get lost in the (eleven national curriculum) subjects which are taught in primary schools, particularly since many teachers do not have a background in and have had little training for teaching RE. It can be difficult for teachers to know what to do. Then at secondary level – schools can sometimes avoid teaching the subject if it isn’t being taught for GCSE. Lucy Nutt referred to the Ofsted consultation and she explained that all the Ofsted reports can be found on the Ofsted website. Over the last few years the number of comments about RE had increased. She asked if any SACRE members wished to respond directly to the consultation. She added that the LA had a high percentage of Church schools in both sectors. She explained that all Church schools would have a Section 48 Inspection in addition to the Ofsted RE Inspection.
- 5.7 It was also reported that Colville School had recently been inspected and had been judged ‘Outstanding’. SACRE members asked that their congratulations to Celia and the school be recorded. In response to a query from SJ – Celia

replied that teachers should be targeted via the good practice network, Lucy added that information isn't sent directly to schools by the LA - but that information is sent out in the weekly schools' bulletin. Information from the SACRE would be sent out to schools via the bulletin.

Ofsted link - <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>

**Action** – LJ asked that Roger prepare a short briefing note for SACRE members about how and what they should be looking for in Ofsted reports.

## **6. Colville Primary School**

6.1 Summer term visit to observe teaching of RE - Monday 17th June 2019 Celia asked members to keep the date in their diaries.

**Action** – clerk to send out invite later in the term.

## **7. Ramadan Guidance**

7.1 Last year's booklet and school's circular were circulated with the agenda for information. If updates to the booklet are required these are made by Mr Narif Sheikh.

7.2 Ramadan 2019 in United Kingdom will begin in the evening of Sunday 5 May 2019 and ends in the evening of Tuesday 4 June 2019.

7.3 It was noted that the clerk only has the guidance as a PDF. Members were asked to liaise directly with NS. The document would need to be circulated to schools' w/c 23 April 2019.

**Action** – comments/amendment to be sent to NS by SJ and RB. Final document to be submitted to the clerk by noon 28 March 2019.

(LJ and CGR left the meeting).

## **8. NASACRE AGM Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships; RE near and far (local, national, global)**

8.1 Wednesday May 22nd 2019. Venue: DoubleTree by Hilton, Manchester. 1 Piccadilly Place, 1 Auburn Street, Manchester M1 3DG. To start at 11.00 am and close by 4.15pm. SACRE members who attended will need to prepare a report back to the June 2019 SACRE meeting. KK agreed to attend on the SACRE's behalf.

**Action** – Clerk to liaise with KK regarding attendance and purchase of train ticket.

## **9 Places of Worship**

9.1 Item originally considered at the last meeting – if members report back with updates. The clerk can format the information and add it to the SACRE area of the Council website.

- SACRE area –

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/children-and-education/schools/school/sacre>

- Places of worship info RBKC website -

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

Items circulated at previous meeting -

Faith Organisations with Religious Provision (RBKC map had been previously circulated)

Faith Organisations Directory (Table had been previously circulated)

**Action** – SACRE members to let the clerk have any additional information on places to visit or contact details.

## **10. NASACRE Briefing**

10.1 NASACRE 21 – January 2019 Roger went through the NASACRE newsletter which had been circulated with the agenda in his update.

## **11. Annual Report 17/18**

11.1 A copy of the final report was circulated with the agenda it has been sent to the DfE and NASACRE. It has also been circulated in the schools' bulletin and a copy of the latest report is always on the SACRE area of the Borough's website.

The report was received and noted

## **12. Freedom of Information requests.**

12.1 None.

## **13. Any other Business.**

13.1 Paul Fairbrass – explained that he works at Epic which is an Alternative Provision (AP) unit. It takes students who are not in main-stream education.

Issues that students are dealing with include ADHD and anxiety issues. A limited range of subjects, including Maths, English RE and PSHE at KS4 and GCSE.

13.2 It was noted that Sion Manning Girls School has reopened as All Saints Catholic College and is now a mixed school.

13.3 Darcy Biddulph reported that His Eminence Rinpoche is a speaker at Kensington Town Hall on Easter Monday, 22nd April 2019

13.4 Flowers - RB to provide the clerk with contact details for Lesley Prior – so that flowers can be sent on behalf of the SACRE.

**14. Date of next meeting.**

14.1 Thursday 4 June 2019.

The meeting ended at 6.23 pm.