

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 19 November 2019 at Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London. W8 7NX. Pre-meetings at 4.30pm and 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 Susan Jaff		Muslim Faith representative
Ken Persaud		Notting Hill Community Church
Karen Wyatt		Catholic Representative

Representing the Church of England

Mrs Katrina Quinton	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
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Representatives from the LA, including Councillors and RE advisors.

Councillor David Lindsay	
Mrs Lucy Nutt	Principal Lead Adviser

In attendance

Lesley Prior	Consultant to the SACRE
Ms Julie Farmer	Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Ms Darcy Biddulph Ms Susan Jaff, Mr Javid Djalili and Mr Laurence Julius, Mr Graham Marriner, Mrs Kathryn Kane and Ken Persaud.

1.2 Cllr David Lindsay kindly agreed to take the Chair for the meeting.

2. Membership Update.

2.1 No update. Clerk trying to seek nominations for long standing vacancies including teaching including the LDBS and Diocesan Board

3. Notes of the last meeting held on 10 September 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 meeting.

Matters Arising and items not elsewhere on the agenda –

3.3 **Legal requirement to teach RE** (paragraph 3.4 refers) - the clerk reported that the letters referred to had been sent to Holland Park School and Kensington Aldridge Academy on behalf of the Chair. Signed pp by the clerk.

4. Update from the Chair

4.1 No update made

5 Update from the SACRE Consultant

5.1 New Ofsted Framework – LP explained that RE is under the Ofsted spotlight as part of a balance curriculum. Under the new framework different curriculum areas are focused on as part of a 'deep dive' RE can be one of the subject areas which will be looked at. NASACRE is monitoring Ofsted Inspection reports to see if RE is being looked at.

5.2 LN added that Faith School come under Section 48 Inspections for RE and it is possible that RE may be part of a deep dice but not subsequently referred to in the Ofsted Inspection report. She added that the reports are now written in a format which talks to parents rather than the school.

5.3 LP added that of RE is mentioned - some SACRES may want to see the report and offer help and support. LN added that so far only one school in the Borough had been inspected under the new regime and it was a nursery school - where RE isn't covered.

Action – LN to bring Inspection reports to the attention of the SACRE if required.

5.4 Also noted that Ofsted are appointing RE responsible officers. KW asked information would go the RE network leaders. LP replied that the meeting had been too early in the term.

6. SACRE Annual Report 18-19

6.1 SACRE members who have not yet sent pen portraits are asked to send them as soon as possible for inclusion in the report. Information had been received from CR JD, KW and LJ.

7. Freedom of Information requests.

7.1. Two requests received. Information of the requests is given below -

- September 2019

1. How many schools in your area have applied for a determination to alter the character of collective worship?
2. How many applications have been successful?

- November 2019

1. At the time of receiving this enquiry does your SACRE have a procedure in place for determining school applications to lift or modify the requirement for collective worship of a broadly Christian nature?
2. If your SACRE does have a determination procedure in place is it freely accessible (e.g. online or contained within school guidance) or by request only?
3. If you do have a determination procedure in place please attach it and any accompanying guidance to your reply.

7.2 The requests were noted.

7.3 It was also explained that SACRE meetings are held in public – information about meeting dates, minutes and copies of the annual report etc are on the SACRE area of the Borough’s website. The process of applying for a determination is explained in the Annual report. It was also noted that requests for determination for Free Schools and Academies go to the DfE rather than the LA

8. AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

8.1 **Presentation of updated Hampshire Syllabus** – Lesley Prior

8.2 A link to the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus Living Difference III – is attached. Copies of the Westminster AS and the Hampshire AS were available at the meeting.

https://re.hias.hants.gov.uk/pluginfile.php/2464/mod_resource/content/1/Living%20Difference%20III%20pdf.pdf

8.3 LP reiterated the options available to SACRE members who are also the members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). LP report to the previous meeting, which was tabled again at the meeting, is attached for information.



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agreed syllabus confe

- Consider formal adoption.
 - The implementation process and
 - Associated events and/or training.
- 8.4 LP explained that if the LA was to set aside its existing syllabus and adopt a **version** of the Hampshire Syllabus, the version before the members which would be adapted for London but would have the same pedagogical approach. She explained that the ASC would not be able to make substantial changes to the text. Hampshire want to keep the integrity of their original document. It was noted that a similar London version of the AS has been adopted in Camden, Ealing, Westminster and that Hammersmith & Fulham are also looking to adopt the London version of the Hampshire AS. LN added that Hampshire have a fully resourced RE centre with advisory teachers. The LA would be able to adopt the syllabus for a licence fee.
- 8.5 In response to a query from Celia about training LN added that the LA would also look to include the minimum mandatory training costs. The cost of the total package would be based on the number of schools in the LA and would be approximately £5,000. Teachers will need training, support and additional materials. Schools could purchase additional materials at a cost of £185. Celia added that she would support the adoption given that a suitable support network would be in place.
- 8.6 **Timescales** – if adopted training would take place in the spring/summer with the new Syllabus being implemented from the start of the Autumn term 2020.
- 8.7 SJ asked if enough changes could be made for the LA to accept the AS. LP replied that the LA could add its own logo, front cover and forward. The forward could be written by the Chair of the SACRE or the Lead Cabinet Member. The documents would then be available for schools and it would be for the LA to choose if it should be available publicly or via a pay wall. If the ASC voted in favour to adopt the Hampshire Syllabus teacher could have access to on-line materials if the LA chose to subscribe to the on-line service.
- 8.8 In response to questions about the experts used SJ asked if the Muslim advisors had been Sunni or Shia, LP went through the list of specialist consultants listed in the document. LN added that when reviewing the document Westminster SACRE had felt that the document gave a good basis information on religions. She explained that the AS is a document that can be built on with additional materials, rather than being the stand-alone definitive teaching document for RE across the year groups. LP added that the document would be fleshed out with training materials and Pat and Justine from Hampshire could come and offer training too. There would need to be further discussions on the training and launch of the launch event for the new Agreed Syllabus.
- 8.9 During discussions on the document SJ and JA referred to definition of *Shirk* given in an exemplar table (page 55 refers) the definition given is incorrect and is a fundamental error.

8.10 In summary of the discussions the members of the ASC were unable to unanimously support the AS as it stood. It was agreed that LP would contact Hampshire about the error referred to above. Members asked were asked to read through the document and contact LP and the clerk if they see any major errors in the AS as soon as possible. In the meantime, LP will raise with Hampshire the definition of *Shirk* given in the Hampshire AS document.

Action – LP will raise the matters referred to above with Hampshire. Subsequent, to the meeting an email was sent to ASC members on 20 November 2019 stating that if members have any feedback with regards to any major theological errors in the document to let LP know by **noon on 29 November 2019**.

9. Any other Business.

9.1 Farmington Fellowships for Teachers of Religious Education and Headteachers Academic Year 2019/2020. A copy of the leaflet and the schools' circular which had gone out to schools was circulated at the meeting.

9.2 A meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) will take place in January 2020 - details to follow later. Please note that for any decisions to be agreed by the ASC, the meeting will have to be quorate. KW kindly offered her school as a venue for the meeting.

10. Date of future SACRE meetings.

- Additional ASC meeting proposed dates - 15 or 16 January 2020 or 22 or 23 January 2020 at 5.00pm.
- Thursday 12 March 2020 – venue – tbc
- Tuesday 16 June 2020 – venue - tbc

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The meeting ended at 6.20 pm.