

**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 4 June 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
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

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

Councillor David Lindsay	
Mrs Lucy Nutt	Principal Lead Adviser

**In attendance**

Mr Roger Butler	Consultant to the SACRE
Ms Julie Farmer	Clerk

Mr Paul Fairbrass RE teacher EPIC  
Ms Caitlin McIntosh RE teacher Marlborough Primary School

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Karen Wyatt and Graham Marriner.

**2. Membership.**

2.1 Cllr Lindsay and Caitlin McIntosh were welcomed to their first meeting. Introductions were then made around the table.

- 2.2 Cllr David Lindsay, the Lead Member for Families and Children, is the new Councillor representative on the SACRE - he replaces Robert Thompson who stood down as a Councillor.
- 2.3 It was noted that the Clerk has contacted the LDBS and Teaching Unions to ask for further representatives, to fill vacancies on the SACRE.
- 2.4 Teacher representatives - Mr Paul Fairbrass - RE teacher EPIC and Ms Caitlin McIntosh - RE teacher Marlborough Primary School are in attendance at the meeting while nominations are sought from their teaching unions.

**3. Notes of the last meeting held on 14 March 2019 and matters arising.**

- 3.1 The minutes of the inquorate meeting had been circulated with the agenda and subject to the amendment given below were received and noted.
- 3.2 (Paragraph 13.3 refers) - noted that the notes should read 'His Eminence Ling Rinpoche'.

**Matters Arising –**

**Outstanding Action points –not appearing elsewhere on the agenda.**

- 3.3 **Legal requirement to teach RE** - (Paragraph 3.4 refers) – noted that this matter is still in progress. It was noted that KQ had not attended the SACRE meeting held on 14 March 2019 and had therefore not been able to feedback. The Chair had not liaised with her in time following the meeting. Therefore, it was noted that there had not been sufficient time to send out the letters. The letters referred to had not yet been sent.

**Action** – in progress. Chair to liaise with KQ.

- 3.4 **Places of Worship** - information being collated by the clerk. It would be added to the SACRE Annual Report along with brief biographies of SACRE members. Request to be made for the SACRE area to be linked to the faith communities link on the Borough's website.

**Action** – compilation of the annual report to be an item at Autumn term meeting. (Request for link to be made by the Clerk when the information is finally collated.)

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

- 4.1 Javid reported that in his role of SACRE Chair, he had been invited to attend the K&C Faith Communities Partnership held at the Town Hall on 28 January 2019. He had explaining to them the role of SACRE. He had been asked about the teaching of diversity and LGBT+, particularly given the issues in primary schools in Birmingham, where parents had withdrawn their children from lessons. Demonstrators arguing that teaching about the existence of families with same-sex parents is not 'age-appropriate'. During discussions it was noted that this isn't an issue for the SACRE to consider, rather that it's an issue around the PSHE curriculum. However, it was noted that RE could help to teach about respect and to consider other points of view and different sides of an argument.

The Chairman's update was noted.

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

##### **Agreed Syllabus Review**

- 5.1 Following a request at the last meeting Roger Butler gave a brief explanation of the Agreed Syllabus (AS) review process - following agenda item requested by SJ. He explained that it is a legal obligation for the SACRE to review the Agreed Syllabus every 5 years and it was noted that the process in RBKC would need to begin during the Autumn of 2019. An Agreed Syllabus conference (ASC) will need to be set up. He referred SACRE members to the DfE guidance which dated back to 2010.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/religious-education-guidance-in-english-schools-non-statutory-guidance-2010>

- 5.2 During discussions – it was explained by RB that the LA could not assume that the SACRE members would automatically be members of the ASC. Its membership should include teachers. Writing an entirely new AS would be the longest and most expensive option. Schools should be 'happy' with the finalised AS and that the necessary resources should be made available so that the Agreed Syllabus could be used successfully. SJ added that she had had a brief look at the Westminster AS. The RBKC and Westminster syllabus were different, one more detailed than the other. She asked the teachers present if they would prefer that style or a simpler format?
- 5.3 LN explained that WCC, LBHF and other surrounding Boroughs used an adapted version of the Hampshire AS. RB added that the Hampshire AS had undergone many revisions and updates and that Hampshire has a large resource base of people and resources. LN replied that, if the Hampshire

Syllabus was bought in then the resources referred to would be available to teachers in the Borough. London LAs who had taken on the Hampshire AS had amended and adapted it for their local needs and made the syllabus specific to their localities.

- 5.4 In response to questions from the Chair about putting forward a recommendation, LN explained that at present she just wanted to flag up the process and for the SACRE members to think about what they wanted to do. The cost of the Hampshire syllabus would cost approximately £1.000, she added that both the Hampshire and WCC could be looked at.
- 5.5 RB referred to a Westminster training session at which a teacher had asked about resources - they had the document and half-day training - but they still needed help transferring this to a lesson plan. LN replied that they should be looking at the good practice network. Only the Borough's community-maintained schools and Academies would be using the Agreed Syllabus - given the small number of schools involved there is a need to look at the economies of scale to get the best value. In response to a question from KQ about providing lesson plans for teacher, LN replied that it would be for teachers to write lesson plans specifically for their own classes. However, she suggested that the idea of producing summary pages etc could be considered by the Best Practice network. Also noted that RE on-line is a further available resource. In response to a question from DB – LN explained that the LA did not have the resources or a team available to develop resources, but when the time came Hampshire could be asked to provide access for SACRE members to view their resources.

*(Laurence Julius left the meeting).*

- 5.6 RB referred to the Hampshire AS – he stated that there are a lot of references about getting children to talk and linking through concepts – he suggested that this is easier to do at secondary rather than at primary level. LN concluded that the SACRE would need to initiate the review process at its next meeting.

**Action** – Initiating the AS review to be an item at the next SACRE meeting.

### **Ofsted Inspections**

- 5.7 RB stated that when Inspections are looking at pupils' spiritual development, their understand of the beliefs and values of others and their using a range of social skills in different contexts. Inspectors will only come to look at some of these areas through RE. He added that it is important to note that Ofsted will **not** grade individual lessons or create an unnecessary workload for teachers. Given that it can be difficult to assess the work done in RE he considered the latest Ofsted guidance a good document.

- Link to Inspection document given below -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-inspection-framework>

- Summary sheet below -



New Ofsted  
Inspections - RB.pdf

## Compliance with the duty to teach Religious Education



DfE letter to chair of  
NASACRE.pdf

5.8 During discussion the Chair asked how pupil's progress is gauged or assessed. – how would you measure a pupil's empathy or tolerance? Celia explained that there is lead through to PSHE and a need for schools to provide good role models. Several schools have 'values based' education. At Colville there is an emphasis of the school's values, including community spirit, the aim is to foster a pupil's whole development. LN added that schools are required to teach British Values which are often delivered through RE.

**(British values** are: democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty; mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.)

### **NASACRE Briefing 22 – April 2019**

- 5.9 RB went through the briefing, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda. SACRE members were asked to note that log on details for the NASACRE site are at the end of this report.
- 5.10 **DfE letter on School Compliance in RE** - RB referred to the letter which is attached below for information. He explained that Neil Lawson (Curriculum Unit - DfE had written to the NATRE, Chair, Paul Smalley. His letter set out the expectations of the government with regards to school compliance in RE, covering: -
- The requirement to teach RE (including what is expected from academies and free schools.
  - How to handle reports of a school not meeting its duty to teach RE.

- 5.11 RB explained about the requirement to teach RE to Yr. 11 pupils – it is useful to have this information in writing.



Letter from DfE to  
NATRE - RB.pdf

- 5.12 **SACRE 'Buddy' Systems** – DB stated that this would be useful. Following discussions, it was agreed that LN would invite the Chair of the WCC SACRE to speak to the RBKC SACRE about their work and deliberations on the Agreed Syllabus

**Action** - LN to extend invitation to the Chair of the WCC SACRE.

## 6. Ramadan Guidance

- 6.1 item for the Autumn term 2019/20 SACRE meeting. SJ explained that it had been very difficult coordinating changes to the guidance. It had been sent out just prior to Ramadan with a covering note. Hopefully it would be possible to work on a word document – early in the Autumn term so that information could be sent out well in advance of Ramadan in 2020.
- 6.2 Ramadan 2020 in the UK will begin on Thursday, 23 April 2020 and ends on the evening of Saturday, 23 May 2020.

**Action** – Ramadan Guidance to be agenda item for the Autumn term meeting of the SACRE.

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

- 7.1 NASACRE AGM took place on Wednesday May 22nd 2019. Feed-back to be received from KK who attended the meeting. Her summary when available and would be circulated by the clerk. (Copy attached to minutes post-meeting.)



Feedback from  
NASACRE Conference

**Action** - Clerk to circulate KK's summary of the meeting.

## **8. Colville Primary School – School Visit**

- 8.1 The flyer about the event had been circulated with the agenda. If they had signed up to visit with Celia, SACRE members were reminded to arrive promptly on Monday 17th June 2019. Arrive at 11:50 for prompt start at 12:00.

## **9 Places of Worship**

- 9.1 Information provided by SACRE members on additional places of worship of had been circulated with the agenda. The clerk would add the information to the SACRE area of the Borough's website and include the information in the next Annual report. Given that some of the information referred to sites outside of the Borough – it would be best for the info to be given in the SACRE annual report. It would be helpful if SACRE members could provide mini biographies for inclusion in the Annual report and so that it would link with the additional places of worship information that members had provided

- 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>

**Action** - Clerk to work on website linking as detailed above.

## **10. Freedom of Information requests.**

- 10.1 The Clerk reported that there had been no requests since the previous meeting.

## **11. Any other Business.**

- 11.1 **Good News** – Roger Butler reported the Lesley Prior is back in London and is hoping to attend SACRE meetings soon. The Chair asked that the SACRE's best wishes be forwarded to LP

## **12. Dates for 2019/20.**

- 12.1 All meetings to begin at 5.00pm -

- Tuesday 10 September 2019 - venue - the Buddhist Society, 58 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1PH

- Tuesday 19 November 2019 (tentative date if required) Venue tbc
- Thursday 12 March 2020 – venue – tbc
- New date Tuesday 16 June 2020 – venue tbc

The meeting ended at 6.20 pm.