

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

MINUTES

Meeting RBKC SACRE
Time and Date 5-5:45pm, 5th June 2025
Venue Hybrid from Committee Room 5, Kensington Town Hall

Attendance:

Committee A (Faiths and Denominations):

- Laurence Julius (LJ), Board of Deputies of British Jews (Chair)
- Rev Ken Persaud (KP), Notting Hill Community Church (*left at 5:30pm*)
- Claire Bruce-Lamblin (CBL), Diocese of Westminster
- Susan Jaff (SJ), Islamic Faith
- Imran Asif (IA), Discover Islam (deputising for Naif Sheikh)

Absent: Alex Stacey (Diocese of Westminster), Kanwaljit Kaur (Network of Sikh Organisations)

Committee B (Church of England):

- Katrina Quinton (KQ)
- Sarah Webber (SW)

Apologies: Fr Evan McWilliams

Committee C (Teachers):

- Zoe Barton (ZB)
- Christian Kendall-Daw (CKD)

Apologies: Yusra Omar

Committee D (Local Education Authority):

- Cllr David Lindsay (DL)
- Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz (RWS) (*joined at 5:33pm*)

Co-opted Members:

- Gillian Berg (GB), Kensington and Chelsea Bahai'I Community

Apologies: Jo Backus (Network of Buddhist Organisations)

Local Authority Servicing Officers:


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

RE Consultant Adviser: Ian Nicholson (IN), RE Today

Observer: Verity Richardson (Humanists UK)

Item Number	Minute Content
Item 1: Welcome and apologies	<p>Chair LJ welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Verity Richardson who joined as an observer from Humanists UK. A round of introductions took place.</p> <p>Apologies were noted as indicated above.</p> <p>Clerk NS confirmed that the meeting was quorate.</p>
Item 2: Membership Update	<p>Chair LJ gave a special welcome to CKD, who had been appointed as a full member representing the Association of School and College Leaders under Committee C.</p> <p>LJ also informed that Fr Evan (Committee B) had resigned from the SACRE due to work pressures. LJ thanked him for his contributions on the SACRE and particularly with regards to the Westhill Awards application project.</p> <p><i>[Note from Clerk: A few days after the meeting, a resignation was also received from Alex Stacey, Diocese of Westminster.]</i></p>
Item 3: Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising	<p>The minutes of the SACRE's meeting in February 2025 were agreed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">→ Clerk NS to arrange for the approved set of minutes to go on the SACRE's webpage.</p> <p><u>Westhill Awards</u></p> <p>Chair LJ demonstrated presentation slides for the objects selected by the Westhill Awards working group at V&A Museum. Each slide included questions to help teachers teach about the objects. The next step would be for relevant members to provide information for the objects to be included in the slides.</p> <p>Members discussed adding information on commonalities/cross-faith representations, agreeing it would be most useful for schools to have this in a separate document to the slides – for example, through a spider diagram for visual connections. Having it separately, teachers could engage older pupils to look for similarities/parallels independently as a task.</p> <p>IN added that the focus in RE going forward would be to get children to explore themselves.</p> <p>ZB and CKD both found the slides useful to teachers, and Chair LJ suggested testing the slides in a school once completed. LJ also mentioned getting an objects box which could go from school to school.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">→ By 30th June, relevant faith representatives to complete the slides with answers to the suggested questions (i.e., Jewish by LJ, Islamic by SJ/IA, Christian by KQ, Buddhist and Hindu possibly by Jo Backus).</p>
Item 4: Review of RBKC SACRE Constitution	<p>JS informed that the Constitution document had been updated to reflect the changes agreed at the previous meeting, and the revised draft had been shared with the members for review.</p>

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	<p>Furthermore, JS provided an update on the recent communication with Humanists UK regarding VR, who they had recently requested to join the SACRE. The Clerk had advised that there were no vacancies available for such an appointment under Committee A, but a co-option may be possible. This resulted in Humanists UK formally writing to the Director of Education and Libraries, requesting full membership for their nominee. This had been copied to Chair LJ and Councillors on the SACRE.</p> <p>VR was asked to leave the meeting at this point to allow the SACRE members to have a discussion.</p> <p>JS explained that the Local Authority would ask for the SACRE's views before making any changes to the membership, so the proposal was to possibly increase the number of representatives of other non-Christian faiths under Committee A by 3, i.e., to allow for the two current co-optees (GB and Jo Backus) to become full members and to include a representative of non-religious worldviews.</p> <p>The SACRE members had a discussion around the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Religion vs non-religion - Need for demographic data on Humanists in RBKC to inform decision making - Census 2021 data breakdown unavailable for the No Religion category - SACRE's role in advising the Local Authority on matters in relation to RE which follows the locally agreed syllabus - Humanism and ways of life (world views) in the <i>Living Difference</i> syllabus for Key Stages 2 and 4 – a requirement for teachers to teach them - DfE guidance on Humanist representatives on SACREs <p>Following the discussion, the members felt they needed to perform further due diligence to be able to make the decision at the following meeting.</p> <p>VR was called back in, and Chair LJ explained the above. A question was asked whether Humanists UK had specific data on how many Humanists there were in RBKC, and VR agreed to enquire with Humanists UK.</p> <p>In view of the above, the SACRE agreed to review the Constitution at the following meeting to also include any changes to the membership if then agreed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">➔ Review of the Constitution to remain on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>➔ Members to decide regarding the proposal to extend the Committee A membership by 3 more members, and to make a recommendation to the Local Authority that the Constitution be updated accordingly.</p>

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Item 5: RE Updates by RE Adviser – by IN	<p>IN provided a summary of the updates attached below:</p>  <p>National SACRE Update Summer 2025</p>
Item 6: Update from Chair	<p><u>NASACRE Annual Conference 2025 Feedback</u></p> <p>Yusra Omar and CKD attended the Conference on the SACRE's behalf this year. Chair LJ invited feedback, and CKD shared his highlights from the day in terms of professional content and organisation. He found this opportunity very interesting and valuable and thanked the Local Authority for covering the ticket costs.</p> <p><u>NASACRE Training Programme 2024/25</u></p> <p>Chair LJ mentioned a training session for new SACRE members on 24th June, and, if interested, everyone was welcome to book on it via Clerk NS.</p>
Item 7: SACRE Self-evaluation and Evaluation of Annual Work Plan	<p>Due to the time constraints, the SACRE agreed to defer this item until the following meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">➔ Clerk NS to include on the agenda at the next meeting in Autumn 2025.</p>
Item 8: Freedom of Information Requests	None received.
Item 9: RE Consultancy Support	<p>IN was asked to leave the meeting for this item.</p> <p>JS advised that RE Today was able to support the SACRE for 2025/26 and asked the SACRE if they would be happy to continue the partnership with RE Today and for IN to continue supporting the SACRE, which was endorsed by all members.</p> <p>IN was called back in, and the above was shared with him.</p>
Item 10: Proposed Dates and Venues of 2025/26 Meetings	<p>The SACRE agreed to continue with the hybrid meetings model in 2025/26 and for new meeting dates to be set following a similar timeline as in 2024/25.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">➔ Clerk NS to send all a Doodle poll with a number of possible dates before confirming them.</p>
Item 11: AOB	KQ shared about an exhibition of paintings available at St Stephen's Church, Gloucester Road, to mark its anniversary.