

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

**MINUTES**

Meeting                    RBKC SACRE  
Time and Date         5-6:30pm, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
Venue                    Hybrid from Committee Room 5, Kensington Town Hall

**Attendance:**

**Committee A** (Faiths and Denominations):

- Imran Asif (IA), Discover Islam
- Kanwaljit Kaur (KK), Network of Sikh Organisations
- Laurence Julius (LJ), Board of Deputies of British Jews (Chair)
- Susan Jaff (SJ), Islamic Faith

Apologies: Claire Bruce-Lamblin, Diocese of Westminster

Absent: Rev Ken Persaud, Notting Hill Community Church

**Committee B** (Church of England):

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

**Committee C** (Teachers):

- Celia Platt (CP), NEU
- Yusra Omar (YO), NEU

Apologies: Christian Kendall-Daw, ASCL

**Committee D** (Local Education Authority):

- Cllr David Lindsay (DL)

Absent: Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz

**Co-opted Members:**

- Gillian Berg (GB), Kensington and Chelsea Bahai'I Community
- Jo Backus (JB), Network of Buddhist Organisations

**Local Authority Servicing Officers:**

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

Apologies: Sophie Healey-Welch

**RE Consultant Adviser:** Angela Hill (AH), RE Today

**Observer:** Verity Richardson (VR), Humanists UK

Item Number	Minute Content
Item 1:	Chair LJ welcomed everyone to the meeting, and a round of introductions took place.

<b>Welcome and apologies</b>	<p>Apologies received are noted above.</p> <p>The meeting was quorate.</p>
<b>Item 2: Membership Update</b>	<p>Chair LJ gave a special welcome to AH, who had taken over from Ian Nicholson as an RE Consultant Adviser to the SACRE from RE Today.</p> <p>Chair LJ also informed that Sophie Healey-Welch had taken over from JS and would be supporting the SACRE in the role of Local Authority Adviser. Sophie could not be present at the meeting, so JS stood in to cover.</p> <p>Chair LJ thanked JS for all her support to the SACRE over the last few years and wished her well for the future, which was endorsed by all members.</p>
<b>Item 3: Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</b>	<p>The minutes of the SACRE's meeting in June 2025 were agreed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>→ Clerk NS to arrange for the approved set of minutes to go on the SACRE's webpage.</b></p>
<b>Item 4: Westhill Awards Project Update</b>	<p>Chair LJ updated the group on the state of the project, noting that all slides were complete with information except for the Hindu ones, with arrangements having been made for them to be updated. LJ thanked all members for their contributions and highlighted the collaborative learning about different faiths that occurred during the project.</p> <p>YO confirmed she would be happy to trial the resource in her school later in the term. A suggestion was made to do it during the Interfaith week in November.</p> <p>The link to the project slides had been shared with all members ahead of the meeting, and LJ welcomed any final feedback/comments to be emailed to him.</p>
<b>Item 5: Approval of RBKC SACRE Constitution</b>	<p>Chair LJ led a discussion on proposed changes to the RBKC SACRE Constitution, focusing on approval arrangements in meetings with an unmet quorum, chair rotation frequency and composition of the membership.</p> <p><u>Approvals in meetings that are not quorate</u>  Members agreed the following change: when a quorum is not met in a meeting by one of the member groups not being represented, the Clerk will contact the absent members to seek their approval offline and subsequently write to all members with an update. This will not apply to decisions requiring a formal vote by present members in a quorate meeting.</p> <p><u>Chair rotation</u>  SJ suggested annual chair rotation to encourage broader participation and to incite new ideas/developments, referencing similar practices in other SACREs and schools' governing bodies.</p> <p>With three meetings a year, many spoke in favour of a longer term to ensure continuity and to allow incoming chairs time to settle in to become effective. A</p>

consideration was also made in relation to anticipated updates from the government with regards to the future of SACREs.

Following the above discussion, the members agreed to align chair elections with Council elections every four years, with the next elections to take place at the summer term meeting. This would be to include both Chair and Vice-Chair elections.

- **JS/NS to update the draft SACRE Constitution document to reflect the above proposal and share with the group at the next meeting.**
- **NS to put Chair and Vice-Chair elections on the agenda in Summer 2026.**

#### Composition of the membership

Chair LJ gave a brief summary of why this aspect of the Constitution was being reviewed, which originated from the request from Humanists UK received by the Local Authority last term for their representative to join Group A on the SACRE. Discussions about this took place at the SACRE's summer term meeting as there was no vacancy. However, no recommendation could be agreed at the time.

In response to LJ's question, VR advised that data was not available on the number of Humanists UK members in RBKC. Ahead of the meeting, VR had provided a response from Humanists UK with regards to the Census 2021 data.

LJ asked VR to temporarily leave the meeting to allow the group to have a discussion, and VR left.

The members debated the Humanists UK request to join Group A, considering legal precedents, Census data, the distinction between religious and non-religious worldviews, noting that the final decision would be that of the Local Authority.

School based members all confirmed that Humanism and non-religious worldviews were being taught at both primary and secondary levels and reminded that Humanism was included in the RBKC Locally Agreed Syllabus adopted in June 2025. They commented that it would be good to have a Humanist perspective on the SACRE, given it was taught in schools.

AH and JS both referenced recent High Court rulings (2015 and 2023) establishing that excluding non-religious worldviews from SACREs is unlawful, and that Humanists UK should be eligible for Group A membership if included in the curriculum. The Department for Education guidance was also referenced.

LJ asked all members to take a vote on whether the existing composition of the SACRE could be changed to create space for a non-religious worldview representative and to make the current two co-optees full members. The vote revealed no consensus, with a variety of views expressed.

Each group voted and the votes were as follows:

	<p>Group A – Abstain  Group B – Abstain  Group C – Agreed  Group D - Abstain</p> <p>LJ and NS clarified that co-opted members could participate and fully engage in SACRE meetings but they did not have voting rights.</p> <p>LJ noted the different views and concluded that the SACRE still was not in a position to make a final decision. A suggestion was made to review the composition of the SACRE after the next Council elections.</p> <p>AH recommended seeking legal guidance from the Local Authority and bringing it to the next meeting before a decision could be made.</p> <p>The members also noted that having hard numbers on actual humanist membership numbers in the Borough would be beneficial.</p> <p>JS confirmed that appointments for the SACRE membership were made by the Local Authority; however, should any changes be proposed to the composition, in making a decision, the Director of Education and Libraries would ask for the SACRE’s recommendation.</p> <p>LJ summarised the next steps as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ <b>JS to seek legal advice from the Local Authority as the appointing body and bring this back to the next meeting.</b></li> <li>➔ <b>With legal advice available, JS to take it back to Director of Education and Libraries, with an update to be shared at the next meeting.</b></li> <li>➔ <b>VR/Humanists UK to be requested again to share any figures on their membership in RBKC.</b></li> <li>➔ <b>Where necessary, individual members to consult with their nominating bodies before formally voting on the proposal.</b></li> </ul> <p>In the meantime, the members would be happy for VR to attend the SACRE’s meetings as an observer until a formal decision could be made.</p> <p>LJ advised that VR was welcome to re-join the meeting. NS was unable to let VR back in again as she had gone off the list after having waiting in the virtual meeting lobby for the most duration of the above discussion.</p> <p><i>[Clerk’s note: The discussion extended beyond the expected duration, during most of which VR remained in the lobby. She emailed the Clerk to request notification when it would be appropriate to re-join. The Clerk subsequently responded, inviting VR to return; however, the email reached VR after the meeting had concluded, resulting in VR being unable to re-enter.]</i></p>
<p><b>Item 6: SACRE Self-Evaluation</b></p>	<p>The members reviewed the draft Annual Work Plan for the SACRE, a summary of key topics that tended to be discussed by the SACRE each term.</p>

<b>and Annual Work Plan</b>	<p>Following input from SJ and IA, it was agreed to have a single comprehensive document for schools to include guidance around Ramadan, Eid and other Islamic festivals, and for this to be included in the Annual Work Plan.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>→ Clerk NS to make the amendment.</b></p> <p>SJ also advocated for the inclusion of the faith commonalities document which some members had contributed to in the last year. However, due to other members expressing concerns about its complexity and suitability, it was ultimately decided not to include it.</p>
<b>Item 7: Ramadan Guidance 2026</b>	<p>Further to the preceding agenda item, the following was agreed:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>→ IA/SJ to revise the Ramadan guidance document to include information about Eid and other Islamic festivals and for the revised document to then be shared with the members. It was also suggested to include written clarification on jihad (what it is and is not).</b></p>
<b>Item 8: RE Updates by RE Adviser – by IN</b>	<p>AH provided updated summarised in the document attached below:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>National SACRE Update Autumn 2025</p> </div>
<b>Item 9: Update from Chair</b>	<p>Chair LJ reminded all of the NASACRE training offer. The full programme can be accessed here: <a href="#">NASACRE Training Programme 2025/26</a>.</p>
<b>Item 10: Freedom of Information Requests</b>	<p>None received.</p>
<b>Item 11: Dates and Venues of Future Meetings</b>	<p>Chair LJ reminded of the dates for the spring and summer meetings as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 26 February 2026, 5pm (hybrid from Kensington Town Hall)</li> <li>● 18 June 2026, 5pm (hybrid from Kensington Town Hall)</li> </ul>
<b>Item 12: AOB</b>	<p>None reported.</p>