

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

MINUTES

Meeting RBKC SACRE
Time and Date 4-5:30pm, 26th February 2025
Venue Microsoft Teams

Attendance:

Committee A (Faiths and Denominations):

- Laurence Julius (LJ), Board of Deputies of British Jews (Chair)
- Kanwaljit Kaur (KK) (Lady Singh), Network of Sikh Organisations
- Rev Ken Persaud (KP), Notting Hill Community Church
- Claire Bruce-Lamblin (CBL), Diocese of Westminster (*joined at 4:13pm*)

Apologies: Alex Stacey (AS), Diocese of Westminster

Absent: Mo O'Donoghue (MO), Diocese of Westminster

Absent: Susan Jaff (SJ), Islamic Faith

Absent: Naif Sheikh (NSH), Discover Islam

Committee B (Church of England):

- Katrina Quinton (KQ)
- Fr Evan McWilliams (EM)
- Sarah Webber (SW)

Committee C (Teachers):

- Zoe Barton (ZB)
- Yusra Omar (YO)

Committee D (Local Education Authority):

- Cllr David Lindsay (DL)
- Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz (RWS) (*joined at 4:32pm*)

Co-opted Members:

- Jo Backus (JB), Network of Buddhist Organisations

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


Local Authority Servicing Officers:


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

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

Observer: Christian Kendall-Daw, Vice Principal, Queen's Gate School

Item Number	Minute Content
Item 1: Welcome and apologies	<p>Chair LJ welcomed everyone to the meeting, and a round of introductions took place. Chair introduced Christian Kendall-Daw who joined as an observer.</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 SW and YO, two new members.</p> <p>NS raised the non-attendance of MO and unsuccessful attempts to contact the member as well as the nominating body. According to the SACRE's Constitution, in a case of consistent consecutive non-attendance, the LA may consider removing the member in consultation with the SACRE. The members endorsed the decision to remove MO and for the Clerk to write to the nominating body to source a replacement member.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">→ Clerk NS to follow up with the Diocese of Westminster.</p>
Item 3: Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising	<p>The minutes of the SACRE's meeting in September 2024 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 informed that, on examination of the awards application form and from speaking with JB as a member of NASACRE Executive and YO from the teachers' point of view, it became apparent that further work was needed before an application could be submitted. This would involve piloting ideas with schools, identifying a budget, structuring the project, etc. LJ suggested reinstating the Westhill Awards working group to build on what had already been done with a view to putting together a more robust application. LJ, EM, KQ, JB, YO, CBL volunteered to be part of the working group, and LJ welcomed any other members to also join.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">→ Other SACRE members to consider joining the Westhill Awards working group and to inform Chair LJ accordingly.</p> <p><u>RBKC SACRE Annual Report 2023/24</u></p> <p>Clerk NS advised that the DfE had not yet published the final KS4 and KS5 exam results 2024 for Religious Studies; however, these were being expected in March.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">→ NS to keep monitoring the release of the final 2024 exam data to include it in the Annual Report 2023/24 and submit it to NASACRE and the DfE before the end of March.</p>

	<p><u>Places of worship</u></p> <p>Chair LJ referred to a faith map for RBKC which had been done by Pinakin Patel, which he was happy to source outside of the meeting to share with JB and members for further additions.</p> <p>➔ LJ to get a copy of the RBKC faith map and share with the members via Clerk NS.</p>
Item 4: Review of RBKC SACRE Constitution	<p>Members considered the need to review the SACRE's Constitution with regards to quorum and approval process for meetings minutes in view of the past challenges when quorum was not met for several consecutive meetings.</p> <p>IN clarified that, for any votes to be passed, quorum must be met by all four groups represented; however, approvals could be obtained offline if one group was absent.</p> <p>➔ JS to update the Constitution with an additional point reflecting the above and bring back the document to the next meeting for a final sign-off.</p>
Item 5: RE Updates by RE Adviser – by IN	<p>IN provided a summary of the updates attached below:</p> <p> National SACRE Update Spring 2025_I</p> <p>In the context of the DfE's Curriculum and Assessment Review, the members shared their concerns over the DfE's proposal to reduce content to create space for all subjects to be treated equally and talked about the need for consistent exposure to all faiths and the importance of teacher confidence and subject knowledge. It was also noted that understanding each other's faiths was important in promoting functional multiculturalism, and a national RE curriculum could help achieve this goal as well as hold schools to an account in putting RE on the timetable.</p> <p>IN informed that there would be further opportunities to provide feedback once the DfE published their proposals and that he would keep the SACRE updated accordingly.</p>
Item 6: Update from Chair	<p><u>NASACRE Annual Conference and AGM – Monday, 19th May 2025, at Stratford Town Hall, London</u></p> <p>Clerk NS confirmed that the LA would pay for two SACRE members to attend the Conference.</p> <p>YO volunteered to attend the Conference. LJ advised that he would go but his preference would be for a different member to attend instead as he had been to the Conference in the past. LJ also added that there was a possibility that he may need to travel abroad around that time for a family matter.</p>

	<p>➔ Members to come forward to Clerk NS outside of the meeting if someone would like to attend the Conference.</p> <p>NASACRE Training Programme 2024/25</p> <p>Chair LJ reminded all of NASACRE's training offer. It is available to view via the link above.</p>
Item 7: Freedom of Information Requests	None received.
Item 8: Date and Venue of Future Meeting	<p>The members had a discussion about starting the following meeting at 4pm again or later. Teacher members advised that an earlier start would suit them better, and Cllr RWS stated a 4pm start may be difficult for people due to day job restrictions. A compromise, suitable to the majority, was reached by agreeing to pilot a 5pm start in the summer term and review the arrangements then.</p> <p>The summer term meeting is therefore scheduled as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 June 2025 (5-6:30pm), Committee Room 5, Kensington Town Hall (hybrid)
Item 9: AOB	<p><u>Teaching Hours for RE from School Workforce Census collected November 2023 and Provisional GCSE 2024 Data</u></p> <p>IN talked through the data as per the attachment below. Overall, he said the figures for RBKC were positive compared to the national picture.</p> <p> 2025Kensington and Chelsea.xlsx</p>