

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

MINUTES

Meeting RBKC SACRE
Time and Date 5-6:30pm, 26 February 2026
Venue Hybrid from Committee Room 5, Kensington Town Hall

Attendance:

Committee A (Faiths and Denominations):

- Kanwaljit Kaur (KK), Network of Sikh Organisations
- Laurence Julius (LJ), Board of Deputies of British Jews (Chair)

Apologies: Claire Bruce-Lamblin, Susan Jaff

Absent: Rev Ken Persaud, Imran Asif

Committee B (Church of England):

- Katrina Quinton (KQ)

Apologies: Sarah Webber

Committee C (Teachers):

- Celia Platt (CP), NEU
- Yusra Omar (YO), NEU
- Christian Kendall-Daw (CKD), ASCL

Committee D (Local Education Authority):

- Cllr David Lindsay (DL) (*joined at 6:16pm*)

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)
- Sophie Healey-Welch (SHW)


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

Observer: Verity Richardson (VR), Humanists UK

Item Number	Minute Content
Item 1: Welcome and apologies	Chair LJ welcomed everyone to the meeting, and apologies received were noted as above. The meeting became quorate when Cllr DL joined at 6:16pm. All decisions recorded in the minutes below were taken with Cllr DL present.

<p>Item 2: Membership Update</p>	<p>Clerk NS informed that Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz was not appointed to be on the SACRE last year, which had not been communicated to NS. NS will remove Cllr Weeden-Sanz from the membership, which in turn means that Cllr DL is the only member in Group D.</p> <p>Chair LJ informed that Cllr DL would not be standing in the council elections in May 2026. NS confirmed that she would liaise with the RBKC Governance Team to ensure that Group D had representation. The SACRE will be updated accordingly.</p>
<p>Item 3: Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</p>	<p>The minutes of the SACRE’s meeting in October 2025 were agreed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ Clerk NS to arrange for the approved set of minutes to go on the SACRE’s webpage.</p> <p>The action regarding a revised Ramadan guidance document as discussed in October 2025 would be brought back to the SACRE in the summer term.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ Susan Jaff/Imran Asif to update regarding a revised Ramadan guidance document in line with what was requested at the SACRE meeting in October 2025.</p>
<p>Item 4: Westhill Awards Project Update – feedback from trial and application process</p>	<p>Chair LJ updated that further to the feedback from CKD’s school’s walk in the V&A Museum and verbal feedback from both YO and CP, the Westhill Project slides had been rewritten, focusing on making it more practical and adaptable for schools. The revised slides will be shared with the members and will be trialed in YO’s school.</p> <p>Members further discussed how the funding from the Westhill Awards could be used by schools, and suggestions from school-based members included funding for school trips, additional RE resources and a shared collection of religious objects. The figure of £500 per school was mentioned as an estimate for essential RE resources, and CP offered to share itemised costings of past orders placed by her school as an example.</p> <p>Members also discussed making the resource boxes available to all maintained community schools, with the possibility of creating a library system for other schools to borrow resources, with necessary regulatory checks in place.</p> <p>JB emphasised the importance of looking at the application criteria to make sure that key requirements were covered. JB would be happy to offer some general guidance but she would need to declare interest in view of her NASACRE Executive membership.</p> <p>Chair LJ also advised that, upon completion, the SACRE may consider sharing the project slides more widely – for example, with NASACRE and V&A Museum’s educational team. AH also suggested promoting it via the RE Today Newsletter.</p>

	<p>Chair LJ reminded that the deadline for application was February 2027.</p> <p>Following the above discussion, the following actions were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → LJ to share the revised slides with the SACRE for further suggestions/comments to be made. Changes to be highlighted for ease, or members are welcome to email LJ with clear instructions of what they'd like changed. → School-based members to look at the language used and suggest what may need to be simplified. CP and CKD both agreed to do this, and CKD offered his school (located very close to V&A Museum) as a venue for any meetings if needed. → CP to share an example of her school's past orders of RE resources. → CP and YO to arrange test trials of the slides in their schools and feed back accordingly.
<p>Item 5: Approval of RBKC SACRE Constitution</p>	<p>Chair LJ asked VR to leave the room for this item.</p> <p>SHW advised the SACRE that the LA had final authority over SACRE appointments but it would always seek SACRE members' views, with Ian Heggs, Director of Education and Libraries, holding delegated power to make decisions on membership and the constitution in line with DfE guidance. Ian had asked the SACRE to vote and recommend whether to change the membership or constitution, and if they did not wish to expand full membership, to vote on whether to recommend co-opting the Humanists UK representative.</p> <p>Members discussed proposed constitutional changes, focusing in detail on the inclusion of a non-religious worldviews representative (for which the nomination from Humanists UK has been received) and the process for identifying nominating bodies.</p> <p>Members were also reminded of Humanism being part of <i>Living Difference IV</i> and, hence, being taught in schools and the current framework from the Religious Education Council that was built around the notion of religions and worldviews.</p> <p>Following the discussion, the overall consensus was to agree proposed changes to the Constitution document. The SACRE also agreed in principle to increase the membership to make the current two co-optees full members and to include a humanist representative as part of the non-religious worldviews category in principle subject to clarification of the correct nominating body for a humanist representative and further information on the differences between Humanists UK and the National Secular Society.</p>

	<p>AH advised that refusal to appoint a humanist representative could lead to legal challenges, referencing a previous case in Greenwich. She also gave a clear distinction between Humanists UK (a charitable organisation) and the National Secular Society (a campaigning organisation), recommending Humanists UK as the nominating body.</p> <p>In summary, the SACRE recommended as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To agree and recommend to the LA proposed changes to the Constitution around approvals and voting as well as chair and vice-chair elections. ➔ To agree and recommend to the LA increasing the membership of Group A by 3 members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to agree and recommend to the LA the current two co-opted members as full members, and ○ to agree and recommend to the LA including a representative of non-religious worldviews, for which a nomination from Humanists UK has been received. ○ To agree and recommend to the LA Verity Richardson as the Humanists UK representative, as a member under non-religious worldviews.
<p>Item 6: Draft SACRE Annual Report 2024-25</p>	<p>The draft SACRE Annual Report 2024-25 had been put together by Clerk NS and shared with everyone as part of the meeting papers.</p> <p>NS advised that the report should have KS4 and KS5 exam results data; however, this information was being expected to be published by the DfE in the following couple of weeks. Once available, the data will be included in the report.</p> <p>The SACRE agreed the draft Annual Report 2024-25 as an accurate record of their work in the previous year and for it to be shared with the SACRE, schools, the DfE and NASACRE once the exam data was available and included.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➔ NS to liaise with the Business Intelligence Team regarding the 2025 KS4 and KS5 exam data and include it in the report. The revised report with the data to be shared with the SACRE, schools, NASACRE and the DfE, and a copy to be uploaded to the RBKC SACRE webpage too.</p>
<p>Item 7: RE Updates – by Angela Hill</p>	<p>AH provided updates summarised in the document attached below:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>National RE Updates for SACRE from RE Tc</p> </div> <p>The SACRE talked about availability of RE training for non-specialist teachers, noting the shift from the local termly RE Good Practice Network meetings to training sessions provided by RE Today. This may have been influenced by low attendance numbers.</p>

	<p>AH advised of the following online training opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-learning by RE Online: eLearning - RE:ONLINE. • RE dedicated podcast for students and teachers: Religion The RE Podcast <p style="text-align: center;">→ NS to share the above with schools via the Schools Circular.</p>
Item 8: Update from Chair	<p>Chair LJ reminded all of the NASACRE training offer. The full programme can be accessed here: NASACRE Training Programme 2025/26.</p> <p>Chair LJ invited SACRE members to consider attending NASACRE's Annual Conference and AGM in Liverpool on Monday 18th May. The Local Authority would fund for two tickets, including train fares. LJ would be happy to go in the absence of other volunteers, but preference would be given to those who had not attended before.</p>
Item 9: Freedom of Information Requests	None received.
Item 10: Dates and Venues of Future Meetings	<p>The summer term meeting is scheduled as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 June 2026, 5pm (hybrid from Kensington Town Hall) <p>Chair LJ welcomed suggestions from schools or places of worship to host SACRE meetings too.</p>
Item 11: AOB	In view of Cllr DL not standing in the council elections in May, Chair LJ thanked Cllr DL for his long service and for the many years of being a SACRE member too.