



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Date: THURSDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2023 at 6.30 pm

**Committee Room 8
Civic Suite
Lewisham Town Hall
London SE6 4RU**

**Enquiries to: Denise Chaplin
Telephone: (direct line)**

MEMBERS

Mukunthan Sathasiva Sarma	Hin duis m
Korkor Burnett	NA S/U WT
Shaun Burns	Chu rch of Engl and
Simon Cardy	NE U



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Joan Goldberg

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Ruth Griffiths
Karen Hansen

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Pastor Nick Hughes

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David Hutchens

Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin
Caroline Kalu

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Councillor Jacq Paschoud
Gerald Rose

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Monsignor N Rothern

Roman
Catholic
Church
Islam

Imam Sabir

Angela Scattergood
Councillor Aliya Sheikh
Jennifer Sutherland

L

John Turner

Humanism
Humanism

Members are summoned to attend this meeting

Ian Thomas
Chief Executive
Lewisham Town Hall
Catford
London SE6 4RU
Date: Date Not Specified



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ORDER OF BUSINESS – PART 1 AGENDA

Item No		Page No.s																								
1.	<p style="text-align: center;">Welcomes and introductions (and agenda attached) LEWISHAM SACRE ORDER OF BUSINESS</p> <p>For the meeting on Thursday 28th September 2023 at Catford Community Church*, The Point, 401 Lewisham High Street, SE13 6NZ starting at 6.30pm</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Chair of the SACRE Nick Hughes</td></tr> <tr><td>Vice Chair of the SACRE: Shaun Burns</td></tr> <tr><td>Chair of the ASC Kim Knappett</td></tr> <tr><td>School Improvement Officer: Denise Chaplin</td></tr> <tr><td>Minute Clerk: Stephen Sealy</td></tr> <tr><td>Please reply to: denise.chaplin@lewisham.gov.uk</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: yellow;"> <th style="text-align: center;">Item</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Title and purpose of item</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1.</td> <td>Welcomes and introductions. a) Apologies for absence b) Confirmation of order of items for the meeting c) Membership update</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2.</td> <td>Minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held in June 2023 at Emmanuel Church - <i>attachment</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3.</td> <td>Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda - Meeting with the Young Mayor’s Team – Nick Gunner feed back</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4.</td> <td>Lewisham SACRE Constitution review - <i>attachment</i> To consider, amend and agree changes made to the constitution</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5.</td> <td>Lewisham SACRE’s Collective Worship Guidance To agree changes made to the previous advice - <i>attachment</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6.</td> <td>NASACRE AGM – Feedback from members who attended</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7.</td> <td>Key Stage 4 Update Response from the LA to SACRE’s advice regarding RE in secondary schools – Ruth Griffiths / Angela Scattergood</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td>Moving RE and multi-cultural Resources from the Renewal site Lewisham – feedback and consideration of further dates to complete the task</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Chair of the SACRE Nick Hughes	Vice Chair of the SACRE: Shaun Burns	Chair of the ASC Kim Knappett	School Improvement Officer: Denise Chaplin	Minute Clerk: Stephen Sealy	Please reply to: denise.chaplin@lewisham.gov.uk	Item	Title and purpose of item	1.	Welcomes and introductions. a) Apologies for absence b) Confirmation of order of items for the meeting c) Membership update	2.	Minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held in June 2023 at Emmanuel Church - <i>attachment</i>	3.	Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda - Meeting with the Young Mayor’s Team – Nick Gunner feed back	4.	Lewisham SACRE Constitution review - <i>attachment</i> To consider, amend and agree changes made to the constitution	5.	Lewisham SACRE’s Collective Worship Guidance To agree changes made to the previous advice - <i>attachment</i>	6.	NASACRE AGM – Feedback from members who attended	7.	Key Stage 4 Update Response from the LA to SACRE’s advice regarding RE in secondary schools – Ruth Griffiths / Angela Scattergood	8	Moving RE and multi-cultural Resources from the Renewal site Lewisham – feedback and consideration of further dates to complete the task	
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9	Information Exchange & AOB - NASACRE Training programme - <i>attachment</i>	
10	Dates of future meetings and venues already agreed. 2023 Monday 20th November - zoom 2024 Thursday 22nd February - zoom Wednesday 24th April - Live meeting, Lewisham Islamic Centre nursery Tuesday 25th June - Live meeting, venue to be decided	
11	End of meeting - 8.00pm.	

**Approx. 2 blocks from Lewisham Islamic Centre on the opposite corner to the Tesco local where Lewisham High St meets Rushey Green*

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11.	End of meeting - 8.00pm.	
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LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

Minutes of the Lewisham SACRE meeting

which was open to the press and public and was held on
Wednesday 28 June 2023

At Emmanuel Church, Lee, London SE12 8RS.

These minutes were approved by the SACRE on: 2023.

GROUP	REPRESENTING	NAME	PRESENT
A	Baha'i	Afonso Veiga	y
A	Buddhism	David Hutchens	Ap
A	Free Church (Assemblies of God) Chair	Pastor Nick Hughes	y
A	Free Church (Baptist)	Vacant	
A	Free Churches (URC)	Vacant	
A	Hinduism	Mukunthan Sathasiva Sharma	
A	Hinduism	Vallipuram Bala	
A	Humanism	Jennifer Sutherland	
A	Humanism	John Turner	y
A	Independent Evangelical	Elizabeth Maxted	Ap
A	Islam	Imam Ashraf	Ap
A	Islam	Imam Sabir	Ap
A	Judaism	Gerald Rose	y
A	Judaism	Joan Goldberg	y
A	Pentecostal Layo's Substitute	Cheryl Abbam	
A	Pentecostal	Layo Segun	Ap
A	Pentecostal Substitute	Br Ogbu Olu	
A	Roman Catholic	Rt. Rev. Monsignor Nicholas Rotherham	y
A	Sikhism	Vacant	
B	CofE Diocesan Board (Deputy Chair)	Shaun Burns	y
B	The Church of England Primary teacher	Karen Hansen	y
B	The Church of England Minister	Paul Wynter	
B	The Church of England Governor	Vacant	
B	The Church of England secondary teacher	Vacant	
C	Academy/Free School	Vacant	
C	Lewisham Headteachers & Deputies	Vacant	
C	Lewisham Headteachers & Deputies	Vacant	
C	NAS/UWT	Korkor Burnett	y
C	NAS/UWT	Mandy Keeble	

C	NEU	Kim Griffiths	y
C	NEU Chair ASC	Kim Knappett	y
C	NEU	Simon Cardy	
D	LA members	Cllr Jacq Paschoud	Ap
D	LA members	Cllr Liz Johnston-Franklin	y
D	LA members	Cllr Aliya Sheikh	y
D	School Governors (Primary)	Caroline O Kalu	
D	School Governors (Secondary)	Vacant	
D	Director of Education	Angela Scattergood	Ap
D	Substitute for Angela Scattergood	Ruth Griffith	y
D	Substitute for Angela Scattergood	Sandra Roberts	
OTHER	Rastafarian (co-optee)	Vacant	
OTHER	Primary teacher	Judith Nweze	
OTHER	Young Mayor Team	Katy Brown	
OTHER	RE School Improvement Officer	Denise Chaplin	y
OTHER	SACRE Clerk	Stephen Sealy	y
OTHER	Young Mayor Team	Nicholas Gunner	y

The meeting began at 6.40pm.

1 WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS.

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Kim K thanked the Chair for the Church's generous food provision.

1A APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These are noted in the above table.

Denise asked how many attendees had received an email direct from her as well as one from the Local Authority; Kim K was one of the few who reported receiving both.

Kim K and Shaun committed to contact Simon Cardy in the eventuality that he hadn't received the meeting papers via either route.

The Chair reported that the committee were still seeking to increase the number of substitutes and requested members let him know of any they identified.

1B CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF ITEMS FOR THE MEETING.

The order of items for the meeting was agreed.

2 Minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held in February 2023 on Zoom.

These were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda.

With regard to the first action of point 3 in the 9 May 2023 meeting minutes, it was agreed that the matter regarding restricted DBS would be taken off the table. Gerald would speak to Ruth directly about this, and the matter would be followed up in a further meeting.

With regard to the action in point 8, (the chariot festival) it was confirmed that no members attended this event. However, the Chair expressed gratitude for the invite.

4 Lewisham SACRE Constitution review

Denise recounted that in the previous meeting, the recent religious demographic census data wasn't considered sufficient to warrant requesting changes to the constitution.

Denise suggested that the Young Mayors be given a proper place in Group D, rather than their current co-optee position.

Ruth noted that, while the involvement of the borough's young people was important, the team's involvement in other commitments may mean their attendance at meetings would be limited.

Nick G committed to speak to Kate about this and then defer the decision to Ruth.

Denise reported that many SACREs had what were known as 'youth SACREs' although technically these were more akin to youth fora.

Ruth suggested the young people themselves express how they'd want to be represented, with Kim K adding that they may prefer to observe meetings before making a decision.

Nicholas G emphasised the importance of how they're approached and also the choice of questions that they're posed.

Kim K suggested, in view of this, that the Young Mayor's Team themselves could decide if a delegated or co-opted place was best suited for them.

Cllr Liz suggested that a statement about meetings online be included to the 'Meetings and meeting frequency' part of the document.

Denise advised that the sentence about the multi-faith centre needed modification given that the centre no longer physically exists.

She reminded the committee of the need to progress the removal of the resources currently stored in a warehouse, the next steps being the hiring of a skip and costing the removal (possibly temporarily to Emmanuel church.)

Shaun advised that the word 'resources' be entered after the word 'centre'.

Denise mentioned the need for volunteers in the summer holidays for at least a day to sort through the resources, adding that a van would also need to be costed to transport the resources to Emmanuel Church where schools will be invited to view and collect them from, on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Kim K suggested that libraries and library co-ordinators in schools should also be appraised of these resources. She said that some items had Dewey system numbering and, in response to a question about targeting larger libraries from Cllr Sheikh, clarified that these were Lewisham resources.

Kim suggested that this item be taken off the table and actioned with a report back on progress at the next meeting. This was agreed.

Kim K, Kim G, Shaun and Karen Hanson all indicated their availability for a few days at the start of the summer holiday.

Cllr Liz-Franklin suggested that when the committee set a date for perusal of materials in Lewisham, including community groups, Lewisham Local the youth service and Youth First are among those invited.

The Chair suggested that the committee aim to have the resources collected by the Autumn half term.

Kim K suggested a 3.30 to 5pm slot with schools targeted for Monday and Tuesday and then the offer extended to others on the following days.

Cllr Sheikh offered to contact the Migration Museum/Lewisham Shopping Centre.

Kim K suggested that Prendergast may select to join SACRE after they've academised.

Denise reminded the committee that meetings were expected to be open to the public. She asked whether a statement should be inserted clarifying that members of the public would be asked to leave when confidential issues are discussed.

Ruth questioned if issues of that level of confidentiality were discussed, to which Denise advised that the actioning of item 7 could well effect this.

Kim added that discussions on dispensation would also be confidential. Ruth advised that Emma would be suitable for drafting suitable text for this.

John asked about the appropriateness of other SACREs asking Group C and D members for their faith backgrounds. Denise replied that asking this reflected a misunderstanding of the reason for these persons' membership.

Shaun advised that this emphasised the importance of SACRE member training.

Denise added that there was no reason why someone with knowledge of a group that they didn't represent couldn't offer useful input however. She expressed interest at the fact that teachers in a different SACRE who had been asked if they had any faith expressed discomfort with the question.

5 Lewisham SACRE's Collective Worship Guidance.

Monsignor Rthon advised that this guidance could not be made mandatory.

John suggested that use of the term 'collective worship' could be suggested as guidance alone considering the fact that schools were not being reprimanded for not using this.

Denise advised there had been several conversations with the DfE both on this matter and about how collective worship is monitored. OfSTED mentions collective worship occasionally, but there are ongoing conversations at that level about producing a document akin to Lewisham's guidance.

She advised that Lewisham's guidance is intended to show how collective worship can have a positive effect in schools.

Kim K suggested a further aim of the guidance was raising its profile and gravitas in schools. Already on a downward spiral prior to Covid, engagement with collective worship dipped through Covid. In Kim's school, pupils are encouraged to reflect on emotive performances etc. but this is sporadic.

Kim suggested that a 10-day deadline be set for committee members to suggest changes to the guidance, after which these can be implemented and the guidance circulated.

Nick suggested that the Young Mayor's Team could be asked for their views on this also.

Kim G highlighted the importance of terminology, suggesting that the terms "collective worship" and "assembly" were interchangeable.

The Chair clarified that the two were not necessarily the same thing.

Cllr Liz-Franklin emphasised the importance of the guidance presenting collective worship positively for children of mixed religions.

John suggested that the term 'inclusive worship' be used and suggested the inclusion of a statement at the outset of the document explaining that this term includes collective worship.

Kim K reminded the committee of its intention when initially drafting the document, namely, supporting children to grow up to be members of society informed about - and therefore more accepting of - the beliefs and practices of others with different beliefs/faiths etc.

6 NASACRE AGM

The Chair proposed that this be deferred until the following meeting.

7 Key Stage 4 Update

There was a need to clarify the process of addressing concerns with the RE provision in secondary schools.

Ruth reported that Giles (School Improvement Consultant), Sandra and Denise had met about this. Giles had been tasked with looking at Secondary Schools' engagement with SACRE advice, but had provisionally reported that "the picture was patchy", with the questions raised similar to those from the primary exercise. Work was ongoing.

When the full report was completed, members would need to resolve how they proceed with their duties as SACRE, and Denise's responsibility as advisor, in respect of secondary schools.

Denise explained the desire to start this process this term in case matters needed to be addressed by September. However, Ruth clarified that the report wouldn't be completed before September.

Kim advised that the backdrop in many secondary schools was of difficulty in finding teachers interested, or qualified, in RE.

It was suggested that a factor in this was the reporting by several schools that Ofsted hadn't undertaken many deep dives in this subject.

Chair suggested that it would be beneficial to raise this in a soft way with schools so that at least it was 'at the back of teacher's minds' when deep dives were conducted.

8 Confirmation of dates for SACRE for the coming year

The following dates were confirmed:

<u>Thursday 28 September 2023</u>	<u>In person</u>
<u>Monday 20 November 2023</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
<u>Thursday 22 February 2024</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
<u>Wednesday 24 April 2024</u>	<u>In person</u>
<u>Tuesday 25 June 2024</u>	<u>In person</u>

It was hoped that the venues of the 'in person' meetings would, respectively, be the Hindu Temple, Islamic Centre and possibly the synagogue.

Denise committed to send these dates to Emma to be added to the Council calendar.

A pre-meeting would be offered for teachers when, and if, the faith venues were confirmed.

9 Information Exchange and AOB

Denise reported that Elizabeth had attended the training for new SACRE members, (which had attracted 62 people from across the country).

21 September is the date of the next (online) training.

Cllr Sheikh reported that she had attended and enjoyed the training.

The Chair reported that an update on Interfaith would be deferred to the next meeting.

Alfonso reported that this would be his last meeting as he was relocating out of the UK. He had notified his representing body of their need to arrange a replacement and they were prioritising this.

He committed to email Denise the contact details of the secretary.

Denise requested that an update on Elizabeth Jenkerson be sought, as she had been poorly.

The meeting ended at 8.10.

LEWISHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Constitution

The Standing Advisory Council shall be called the Lewisham SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education). It is established under Section 3.90 – 3.97 of the Education Act 1996 as amended.

Interpretation

In this Constitution

'Local Authority' means Lewisham Council acting either independently or through the Education Lead Member and Children and Young People's Directorate.

'The council' means Lewisham's SACRE.

'Member' means a member of SACRE and includes a substitute or co-opted member.

'Elected member' means an elected member of the Lewisham Council sitting on Committee D as a SACRE member

All questions of Interpretation are governed by the "Interpretation Act" 1978 as may be subsequently amended.

Role and functions

- (i) To advise the Local Authority (Lewisham Council) on the religious education to be given in its schools in accordance with an Agreed Syllabus. In particular, the SACRE can offer advice on methods of teachings, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.
- (ii) To advise the Local Authority on matters pertaining to school worship in its schools.

With regard to (i) and (ii), the Local Authority may refer matters to the SACRE, which the latter must then consider and advise on. The SACRE may also take the initiative and make recommendations to the Local Authority on these matters.

- (iii) To receive, determine and review applications from Head Teachers as to whether the requirement for collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a Christian character may not apply. This application to vary the legal requirement for collective worship may be for the whole school or for groups of pupils.
- (iv) To require the LA to set up a Statutory Agreed Syllabus Conference to review the Agreed Syllabus if, in the opinion of SACRE, this becomes necessary.
- (v) To produce an annual report on its work which will, inter alia:
 - a) describe the work that SACRE has undertaken
 - b) specify matters in respect of which the SACRE has given advice to the Local Authority;

- c) broadly describe the nature of the advice given and the response given by the LA;
- d) where any such matters were not referred to the SACRE by the Local Authority, provide the SACRE's reasons for offering advice on the matter.

Copies of the report will be made available to schools and the public on the SACRE and/or other appropriate website.

~~At the discretion of~~ In partnership with the Local Authority, in order to fulfil its responsibilities, the SACRE may:

- (a) monitor the provision of Religious Education in order to inform its advice and reporting;
- (b) monitor the provision of collective worship in order to inform its advice and reporting;
- (c) be involved in Complaints Procedures.
- (d) support the final distribution of the last remaining resources from the South London Multifaith and Multicultural Resources Centre as a continuing means of promoting effective religious and multicultural education within the LA

Officers

The SACRE will have an elected Chair and an elected Vice Chair.

In the absence of the Chair or Vice-Chair at any meeting the Council can elect one of its members to act as the Chair for that meeting.

Membership

A list of those members deemed appropriate for the Lewisham SACRE under the legal framework is in the Appendix 1.

All members shall be delegates who are interested in education in general and religious education in particular.

Delegates as members shall remain until such time as they will have resigned or have been removed from under the rules dictated by their sponsorship group, Governing Body of that class of Members or for any reason stated therein.

Members will work within the SACRE's agreed Code of Conduct (Appendix 2).

Terms of Office of Members

Termination of SACRE membership by reason of non-attendance:

If a SACRE member is absent for 2 or more consecutive meetings without apology or for any reason not acceptable to the SACRE, the clerk will write to the member concerned to check whether their membership has lapsed and whether they would like to nominate a substitute or to refer their membership back to their sponsoring body.

Should they be absent from the next meeting without apologies or for any reason not acceptable to the SACRE there shall be deemed to be a vacated place to be filled by the sponsorship group / governing body for that class of members. The SACRE clerk will write to the lapsed member informing them of the decision and then write to the sponsoring body requesting a new member be nominated.

Vacancies

The Clerk, working on behalf of the LA and the Officers will approach sponsoring bodies for new delegates as soon as a vacancy arises.

Deputies / Substitute members

There can be a substitute member nominated by the absent member and notice of this substitution should be notified to the clerk of SACRE at least 6 hours in advance of the meeting.

Procedure for electing Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council shall be chosen from Members of the SACRE and shall be elected at the first meeting in each education (academic) year.

Nominees for these positions should have served on the SACRE for at least twelve months so that members would have developed a relationship with that person and have confidence to nominate them to such an important position.

Co-options

Co-option – SACRE has the power to co-opt members as agreed by the majority of its members.

Quorum

A meeting will only be quorate if the following numbers of representative/s of the respective groups are present: -

Group A - minimum of 2 representatives (1 Christian and 1 non-Christian)

Group B - minimum of 1 representative

Group C - minimum of 1 representative

Group D - minimum of 1 representative

Meetings

Frequency of meetings

There will be a minimum of 5 SACRE meetings per year. These will be normally 2 in the Autumn and Summer terms and one in the Spring term

An Extraordinary meeting may also be called or convened to deal with urgent matters of national or local importance.

Meetings should be open to the public. Where confidential items related to individual schools or persons are discussed, members of the public will be asked to withdraw.

Notice of meetings

The dates of the main meetings will be decided at the first meeting in the education (academic) year and circulated by the clerk to all members.

Where necessary SACRE meetings may be held online, with notification made public.

Sub-Committees

Occasional sub committees or working parties will be convened for specific pieces of work. These will report back to the full SACRE meeting for the duration of their work.

Agendas

Matters or items for the Agenda of any meeting shall be sent to the clerk / RE Professional at least 21 days in advance of the meeting. The Agenda shall be distributed to reach members at least 7 working days in advance of the next listed meeting.

Voting

All members are entitled to speak and vote on any issue as invited by the Chair but substitute or Co-opted members may speak but not vote at any meeting. SACRE will always seek to reach decisions on a consensus basis but when voting is to be exercised only one vote is allowed from each Group A, B, C or D as mentioned above.

In the event of an equality of votes on any issue the Chair may exercise a casting vote.

Minutes

Minutes will be taken by the clerk and cleared by the Officers. The draft minutes of meetings shall be circulated to members within one month of the meeting taking place where possible or at the latest with the next set of meeting papers

Availability of papers to the public

Papers for each meeting will be made available on the Lewisham Council website

..... (Chair) on behalf of Lewisham SACRE

Dated:

APPENDIX 1 - MEMBERSHIP

Committee A Other Christian denominations and other faiths and beliefs represented in the LA

African-Caribbean Churches	1 representative
Pentecostal churches	1 representative
Baha'i	1 representative
Buddhism	1 representative
Free Churches	3 representatives
Hinduism	1 representative
Humanism	1 representative
Islam	2 representatives
Judaism	1 representative
Roman Catholicism	1 representative
Sikhism	1 representative

Committee B The Church of England

Southwark Diocese	5 representatives
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Committee C Teachers' Professional Associations

NEU	3 representative
NASUWT	1 representative
Lewisham Heads and Deputies	1 representative
Academies	1 representative

Committee D The Local Authority

Elected Members	3 representatives
Representative of the Executive Director	1 representative
Secondary school Governors	1 representative
Primary school Governors	1 representative
The Lewisham Young Mayor's Team	1 representative

Also

Clerk to the SACRE	(non-voting)
RE Adviser to SACRE	(non-voting)
Co-optees	(non-voting)

APPENDIX 2 - LEWISHAM SACRE and Agreed Syllabus Conference

Code of conduct

Please note- where an Agreed Syllabus is currently working, references to SACRE also relate to the Agreed Syllabus Conference, its work, members and its Chair.

All representatives should:

- be nominated by a respected professional body and / or faith and belief community and have the support of their nominating body behind them;
- regularly attend the meetings of SACRE and take part in the deliberations and work of SACRE;
- where attendance is difficult, aim to ensure a substitute member is nominated who can attend;
- ensure apologies are submitted when attendance is not possible;
- demonstrate respect to the work of the SACRE and its Chair;
- participate in and share the work of SACRE for the benefit of the whole community;
- actively challenge and resist stereotyping;
- work with all other members of SACRE, in the spirit of trust and collaboration where all are concerned with the best interests of SACRE and its work;
- state views and opinions honestly, whilst respecting and listening to each other's contributions, not denigrating each other's views or beliefs;
- respect the rights of other members to disagree with your point of view;
- express differing points of view in a spirit of respectful disagreement;
- understand that it is not the place of RE to challenge the beliefs of any member of the school community or to attempt to change those beliefs;
- have respect for the work of SACRE, believing that the RE and collective worship that all students are legally entitled to experience should be of the highest quality.

Belief group representatives should:

- ensure that they have sufficient knowledge, skills and understanding to represent authentically their belief, community or sponsoring body
- be able to explain how they intend to inform and consult with their belief community
- feel a sense of responsibility not only to the children coming from their own belief but also to all the children of Lewisham
- provide expertise, or assist in providing access to such expertise, in matters of tradition, theology and practice relating to their own belief for the benefit of the whole school population
- represent to SACRE the interests and concerns of their own belief community
- endeavour to represent fairly the views and interests of the widest possible range of belief positions within their community (*this is particularly relevant if they are the sole representative on SACRE for their belief.*)

- recognise that stating a belief or religious tenet is not the same as advancing an argument for or against any proposal, although it may well be an overriding consideration
- inform members of their belief community of the work of SACRE

Teacher and teacher association representatives should:

- provide information and expertise in relation to teaching and the school environment
- where appropriate provide information and expertise in relation to the teaching of religious education and the delivery of collective worship in schools
- represent the interests and concerns of teachers, pupils and schools
- consult with teaching colleagues and students
- keep colleagues informed about the work of SACRE
- ensure that the welfare and education, particularly religious education, of all the children in Lewisham is the primary focus of SACRE

LA representatives should:

- represent the wider public interest or the interest of the school communities
- provide information and expertise to SACRE in their capacity as an elected member of Lewisham Council or a school Governor
- inform SACRE of concerns or issues known to Lewisham Council relating to education and in particular the provision for SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development), teaching of religious education and the delivery of collective worship in schools
- support the work of SACRE by representing its interests in Lewisham Council and to school Governing bodies
- endeavour to ensure that SACRE and the ASC are adequately resourced, funded and supported
- ensure that the legal requirements for the conduct of SACRE are observed, particularly in relation to the suitability and qualifications required to be a member of SACRE

Members who do not work within the code of conduct will be reminded courteously of the relevant elements of this code that they are ignoring by the Chair.

Repeated examples of working in conflict with the code and therefore disrespectfully or in conflict with the effective work of either body will result in the issue being taken up with their sponsoring body and ultimately to a request for a replacement representative.

Guidance on Collective Worship

from

Lewisham SACRE



**Lewisham Standing Advisory Council on Religious
Education**

2023

Introduction

Every Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) has a legal responsibility to advise its Local Authority (LA) on issues regarding collective worship.

There are unfortunately concerns sometimes expressed by parents and teachers about the nature of collective worship. Some are concerned that collective worship promotes Christian values and beliefs and that other faiths and beliefs will not be recognised and celebrated. Others are worried that their child will be expected to 'pretend' to have a faith that is not their own or to say words or perform actions that are contrary to their religious beliefs.

Lewisham SACRE has produced this guidance in order to support community schools as they seek to improve their delivery of collective worship.

SACRE intends this to be a simple, useful document, which gives helpful advice and which particularly, supports schools when they wish to mark festivals celebrated by members of the schools and the local community in an inclusive and positive way.

Why must we have Collective Worship?

It has been a legal requirement to provide collective worship in schools since 1944. The 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA) affirmed its statutory position, with some of the earlier prescription to do with grouping and timing relaxed, allowing what had become widespread practice in schools. The 1996 Education Act further confirmed the requirements, since when there has been no change to this primary legislation, by which duty schools remain bound.

The basic requirement is that all registered pupils shall take part in an act of collective worship every day. (ERA 6.1) There are only two exceptions to this: parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and pupils in school sixth forms are permitted to decide for themselves whether to attend or not.

Schools have a legal duty as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA) to:

- (a) promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society;
- (b) and prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Collective Worship can make an important contribution towards discharging this duty.

It is the responsibility governors and the head teacher to ensure that Collective Worship is implemented in schools.

What is Collective Worship?

The law has never provided a precise definition of collective worship but above all else it must

be an educational experience. We know that collective worship is not the same as faith community worship (corporate worship) because:

- A community school is not a faith community
- A community school contains pupils and staff from many different faith backgrounds as well as those who have no religious beliefs or no faith background; and
- A school community contains a wide range of people with different views on what 'worship' might mean and what or whom may be worthy of worship.
- Collective worship is not the same as an Assembly because staff and pupils do not have the right to withdraw from Assembly. Assembly is usually the time when members of the school come together to pass on information and move forward matters of secular school business.

The Law on Collective Worship

Although the law has not given an all-embracing definition of collective worship, it does have something to say on the matter.

In 1994 the Government issued Guidance which dealt with both Religious Education and Collective Worship in the form of Circular 1/94 published from the then Department of Education.

The unequivocal 'advice' contained in Circular 1/94 was controversial from the start, and in 2010 the sections of the Circular dealing with Religious Education were revised. However the sections dealing with collective worship remain the official Government guidance.

The delivery of collective worship is guided by the law and government guidance which states that:

- collective worship must be provided daily (separate arrangements may be made for nurseries and special schools)
- collective worship may take place at any time of the school day
- schools may decide on the age/grouping of pupils and these may vary from day to day
- the time decided for the delivery of collective worship may vary for different groups from day to day
- generally collective worship should take place on school premises (clearly this is not possible when pupils are away on school journeys for example when the venue for the collective worship for those pupils will be changed)
- The content of the majority of acts of collective worship in a term should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the broad traditions of the Christian belief."

- The content should have regard for the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of pupils
- Parents may withdraw their children from collective worship
- Teachers may withdraw from collective worship
- In a community school the responsibility for managing the provision for collective worship lies with the head teacher after consultation with the governing body
- Every maintained school is required to provide information about the collective worship provided by the school and how parents may withdraw their children from it.

What does 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' mean?

All relevant legislation consistently avoids describing school worship as Christian and this fact has been taken to mean that Collective Worship is not expected to be Christian worship in any conventional sense. The lack of a precise legal definition of collective worship allows freedom of interpretation.

- it can be 'wholly or mainly...', therefore collective worship does not have to be all 'of a broadly Christian character. Indeed, the Act specifies that 'every act of collective worship required by section 6 ... need not comply' with this description;
- collective worship must 'reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief; that is to say, it is broad rather than specific or exclusive, reflecting plurality and focusing, not on doctrine or traditions of worship, but on belief that is broadly but not exclusively, Christian.
- the law does not say 'of a broadly Christian content or style'.
- It does not mean creating pretence of Christian worship.
- It does not need to contain any elements of Christian ritual or liturgy
- It can mean incorporating elements that Christians might recognize from their worship, e.g. songs, music, stories, learning from the good example of others, readings from holy books.
- It does mean promoting values that Christians believe to be important. These may be, and often are, values held to be important by other faiths as well.

Positive Purposes of Collective Worship

SACRE members believe that collective worship can be provided in accordance with the law to the benefit of the whole school community. It can add value to the education process, for example by providing an opportunity to:

- contribute strongly to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. It also is a place to promote inclusivity, values and Fundamental British Values;
- encourage pupils to develop awareness of the universal moral principles of right and wrong, justice and fairness and concern for the fate of others and the world;
- affirm and celebrate the values and ethos of the school;
- add to the pupils' development of an awareness of, and a sense of belonging to, the many different dimensions of the schools' community;
- gather for a special purpose;
- share an experience which promotes thought and reflection;
- consider their own beliefs and values, both religious and secular;
- promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- consider and reflect upon a variety of situations and issues and make a personal response
- reflect quietly and make an internal response in the light of personal beliefs and background: this may include worship of God within each participant's own faith understanding.

To ensure that a quality experience is provided, we believe that collective worship has to be well planned and effectively led, resourced and managed.

The integrity of all those present should be recognised and safeguarded throughout all collective worship experiences.

What is the relationship between Collective Worship and religious education?

- Collective worship is a means whereby the school community comes together in order to celebrate and reflect upon those values that it considers important to promote; it is not assembly.
- Whilst collective worship should be a quality experience and pupils should learn from it, an act of collective worship is not a lesson;
- religious education is a subject of the curriculum and as such cannot be taught through collective worship;
- religious education could not be delivered in a broad, balanced and differentiated way to all pupils through collective worship;

- it would not be possible to allocate sufficient time to religious education in order to teach it appropriately through collective worship;
- Collective worship provides opportunities to reflect on how many of the beliefs that pupils learn about through planned educational experiences in religious education, have influenced people's life choices or actions.

Festivals and Celebrations in school and their link to collective worship

Belonging to a community involves sharing good and bad times experienced by members of that community. This includes in schools marking the celebration of festivals that are important to members of the school and local community. This often takes place in the school's collective worship programme as collective worship is a community experience.

It is important to be aware of the cultures and faiths represented within the school and to help pupils to develop an awareness of, and respect for, holy days and times of reflection from faiths and beliefs different from their own.

In schools it is important for pupils to feel free to share the place of religious or spiritual experience in their lives. In order that this can happen effectively it is necessary to foster an environment where pupils can appreciate that everyone is of equal importance, where diversity is celebrated and where pupils can develop an understanding that the needs of everyone should be treated fairly and equally. Within such a learning environment, cultural and religious diversity is regarded as positive and pupils can express their viewpoints and beliefs in safety.

Schools are multicultural and multi faith communities where a number of religious and secular festivals will be of importance to different members of the community during the year. Whilst it is important to mark these times, it is also important to appreciate that the level of involvement of non-believers in any festival must not compromise the beliefs of that individual, e.g. by acting a part in a drama that they find conflicts with their own religious beliefs.

Festivals celebrated by members of the school community or the class will provide many opportunities to help pupils to begin to develop connections between faiths, festivals, key figures, places, stories and symbols. As they talk about the story associated with a festival and the way in which the festival is celebrated, pupils connect festivals to their faith context and begin to understand each other better. For example it is important that pupils learn that Christmas is a Christian festival celebrated by Christians and begin to appreciate what the festival means to those children in the community who will be celebrating it.

Here are some principles which should be considered when selecting festivals to include in the school's planning calendar:

- Plan festival focuses at the appropriate time of year to help pupils to make sense of their *experiences*.
- Help pupils to be clear about the faith to which each festival belongs.
- Introduce the story attached to the festival at an appropriate level for the pupils.
- Enable pupils to appreciate that a festival is a celebration whilst ensuring that you do not give them or their carers the impression that they are being asked to participate at the level of a member of a faith community.
- If you intend inviting pupils to share foods related to festivals take the opportunity to talk about those food restrictions and laws which relate to the faith concerned and ensure that you are aware of the food laws adhered to by members of the group so that you do not offend or confuse. For example, eating apples dipped into honey to mark Jewish New Year, is not worship and pupils can gain greater appreciation of the symbolism of wishing for a sweet new year ahead.
- The ways in which people celebrate the festival should be clearly referenced to the faith and cultural tradition - e.g. examining Diwali cards could also be an opportunity to discuss Indian or Hindu art and symbol.
- Be alert to the need to avoid racial, cultural and gender stereotyping.
- Where possible involve members of the relevant community so that pupils realise the festival is really celebrated by real people. For example members of the school community can visit your collective worship to tell the pupils how they prepare and celebrate in their home.

Practitioners and faith community representatives should be careful that they are clear about the level at which they should approach these areas with young pupils. They should appreciate that their involvement is not an opportunity to convert or engage pupils in activities more appropriate to members of their faith community. It is also important to not use language that implies that everyone celebrates the festival in the same way or that implies that the school has a religious character.

Some ideas for ways to mark religious festivals

- Members of faith communities spend time preparing for festivals. You could have a large festival calendar in school and leading up to a festival, attention could be paid to how members of the relevant community and preparing both practically and spiritually.

- Taking inspiration from Christian Advent calendars, you could, if local communities feel it is appropriate, produce calendars relevant to some of the festivals you intend to mark. For example you could produce an Eid Calendar, a Diwali calendar, a Guru Nanak's Birthday Calendar or a Hannukah calendar. Include within them images, facts and quotations appropriate to the faith concerned.
- Within faith and belief communities, festivals are celebrated in different ways according to family or cultural traditions. You could ask a member of the school or wider community to come into school to share their particular way of marking a festival, taking time to explore what is held in common with others, particularly the inner meaning of the festival, and what is different or personal to their family.

Music

Make links with the school's music programme by selecting music for collective worship that comes from relevant faiths or cultural backgrounds.

Music is integral to Christian, Hindu, Sikh and Jewish worship and in collective worship pupils can be introduced to recordings of some of these in appropriate contexts. However, members of some Christian groups consider music to be indulgent and sensual unless forming part of their worship experiences.

The legality of music and singing in the Shariah (Islamic Law) is a topic hotly debated amongst individuals and Muslim scholars of the present day. Much has been written both for and against the religious legality of music and singing, clouding the issue, and creating confusion.

The sources of Islam, the Qur'an and Sunnah, as well as the rulings of the Sahaba (Companions of the Prophet (saws)), and Imams Abu Hanifa, Malik, Shafi'i, and Ibn Hanbal are unanimous in their verdicts, that music and singing, with certain limited exceptions, is haraam (forbidden). Some Muslims do not agree with this and there are many Muslim religious and secular forms of music available in the world today. What this clearly demonstrates is that schools in Lewisham could contain a range of pupils whose families are somewhere on the continuum between being comfortable with music or being vehemently opposed to it.

As pupils may not be withdrawn from the music element of the curriculum, schools need to accommodate this range of beliefs with great care, particularly being sensitive to pupils' concerns or distress in being required to sing songs which contain words opposed to their religious beliefs or values. There is however no requirement for them to be withdrawn from being the space where others are singing. They may be withdrawn from this element of collective worship and parents do have the right to do this.

Collective Worship and Special Schools

Circular 1/94 Annex B expresses the law in relation to the involvement of special school pupils in collective worship.

The law is often misunderstood to mean that special schools do not have to provide collective worship. In fact the possible disapplication of special school pupils from collective worship was included referring to a narrow interpretation of their needs and was aimed at reducing the difficulty for gathering together large numbers of non ambulant pupils.

In terms of equality of opportunity for pupils in special schools, unless there are reasons relating to space or equipment that cannot be overcome, then special schools should follow the law in the same way as mainstream schools.

What happens if you feel that you cannot provide Collective Worship in accordance with the law?

If a school feels that the provision of collective worship within the broadest interpretation of the law is still not suitable for their particular context then the Head teacher needs to investigate whether it might be appropriate to ask the SACRE to grant a "Determination" in accordance with the law. (See Circular 1/94).

If this is the case then please contact the SACRE for a copy of the local Determinations paperwork.

Appendix

Sample / example letter to visitors invited to take part in Collective Worship

Dear.....

Thank you for agreeing to come to our school on ___ to talk to ___ class /years in assembly/collective worship about__

Assembly/collective worship begins at _____ and generally lasts for minutes. It will take place in (location) and approximately....(number of) children will be present from years.... (aged....)

Please arrive by (time) and report to the school's Visitor Reception, where you will be required to sign our visitors' book. For the duration of your stay at our school you will be required to wear a visitor's badge; this ensures that everyone understands that you are in the building on school business.

Our school community is not a faith community and collective worship is provided for all pupils. Therefore your input should be planned to be comfortable, inclusive and sensitive to the needs of all. As part of your presentation you may wish to share your beliefs with the children. This is perfectly acceptable as long as these are put into context. For example you might say 'as I am... I believe.... But please remember it is not the place of a school to provide opportunities to convert or indoctrinate pupils. The pupils and their families need to be reassured that all of their faith or culture backgrounds are of equal status and validity.

In our school we do not expect or invite children to pray as though they were all members of the same faith. As part of collective worship our pupils are used to having a quiet thinking/reflection time when they can consider the meaning of what they have heard and seen to their own lives. We hope that those who are religious believers use this time to relate the focus or theme to their personal religious beliefs and some may indeed pray or worship internally.

NASACRE 2023-24 virtual training programme

We are delighted to announce that NASACRE is running another year of webinars to support SACREs in their practice. NASACRE-subscribed SACREs have unlimited access for all their members to each and every webinar for £50 annually which represents incredible value for professional development. SACREs may also book for individual sessions – prices are below.

- 1. Thursday 21st September 2023, 6:30-8pm: *So, you've joined your local SACRE...***
Led by Denise Chaplin, Catherine Hughes & Claire Clinton
Description: This session will help new SACRE members to understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to this work.
Free session.
- 2. Monday 16th October 2023, 7-8:30pm: *Applying for and gaining a Westhill/NASACRE award***
Led by Linda Rudge & Anne Andrews
Description: This session will help SACREs to consider the opportunity afforded by applying for and gaining an award. Hear from successful SACREs sharing what the award has enabled their SACRE to do.
Free session.
- 3. November 2023 – dates TBC in each region, 6:30-8pm: *Regional meetings - for SACRE Chairs/Vice chairs, LA officers and professional support officers, working with their RE Hub lead and a NASACRE Exec member***
Description: This session taking place in regions will allow for a smaller number of SACREs to come together; it continues NASACRE's conversation with our membership, to share good practice, national and local news and giving time for SACRE leadership teams to raise, discuss and help to support each other.
Free session.
- 4. Tuesday 5th December 2023, 7-8pm: *How may SACREs effectively monitor schools?***
Led by David Levien, Catherine Hughes and Claire Clinton
Description: A chance for SACREs to come together and hear about a range of strategies and practices that build relationships with schools and enable SACREs to monitor RE and CW.
*Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.*
- 5. Thursday 18th January 2024, 6:30-8pm: *Using data effectively as a SACRE***
Special guest: Deborah Weston
Description: This session will help SACRE Chairs/Vice chairs and professional support officers to make effective use of the data that NATRE, NASACRE and the DfE provides, ensuring local data can be drawn upon.
*Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.*
- 6. Thursday 22nd February 2024, 4-5:30pm: *Being an effective SACRE clerk, part 2***
Led by David Levien, Catherine Hughes and Claire Clinton
Description: This session will help SACRE clerks to reflect on their present practice and share with other clerks around the country some top tips for fulfilling the SACRE clerk's role; it will focus on minute-taking, SACRE's constitution/terms of reference and composition.
*Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.*

7. **Monday 26th February 2024 7-8pm: *Dealing with beliefs and practices about loss & death in your Agreed Syllabus***
Led by: Denise Chaplin and Paul Smalley
Description: This session will help SACREs to reflect on what they do a present to cover this aspect of the curriculum in schools. It will provide input from the national body of funeral directors, as well as examples from 2 different SACREs of their support work around these issues within their Agreed Syllabus.
Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE

8. **Tuesday 12th March 2024, 7-8pm: *Convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference – legalities and processes***
Led by: Paul Smalley with Linda Rudge
Description: This session will share the legal process and best practice suggestions for convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) for your SACRE.
Free to SACREs who have bought an annual webinar package.
£20 for a subscribed SACRE and £30 for a non-subscribed SACRE.

9. **Wednesday 26th June 2024, 6:30-8pm: *So, you've joined your local SACRE...***
Hosted by Exec members
Description: A rerun of the September session, to help new SACRE members to understand their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members make their contribution to SACRE's work.
Free session.

Agenda Item 12

LEWISHAM SACRE **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

For the meeting on Thursday 28th September 2023 at Catford Community Church*, The Point, 401 Lewisham High Street, SE13 6NZ starting at 6.30pm

Chair of the SACRE Nick Hughes
Vice Chair of the SACRE: Shaun Burns
Chair of the ASC Kim Knappett
School Improvement Officer: Denise Chaplin
Minute Clerk: Stephen Sealy
Please reply to: denise.chaplin@lewisham.gov.uk

<u>Item</u>	<u>Title and purpose of item</u>
1.	Welcomes and introductions. a) Apologies for absence b) Confirmation of order of items for the meeting c) Membership update
2.	Minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held in June 2023 at Emmanuel Church - <i>attachment</i>
3.	Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda - Meeting with the Young Mayor's Team – Nick Gunner will feed back
4.	Lewisham SACRE Constitution review - <i>attachment</i> To consider, amend and agree changes made to the constitution
5.	Lewisham SACRE's Collective Worship Guidance To agree changes made to the previous advice - <i>attachment</i>
6.	NASACRE AGM – Feedback from members who attended
7.	Key Stage 4 Update Response from the LA to SACRE's advice regarding RE in secondary schools – Ruth Griffiths / Angela Scattergood
8	Moving RE and multi-cultural Resources from the Renewal site to Lewisham – feedback and consideration of further dates to complete the task
9	Information Exchange & AOB - NASACRE Training programme - <i>attachment</i>
10	Dates of future meetings and venues already agreed. 2023 Monday 20th November - zoom 2024 Thursday 22nd February - zoom Wednesday 24th April - Live meeting, Lewisham Islamic Centre nursery Tuesday 25th June - Live meeting, venue to be decided
11	End of meeting - 8.00pm.

*Approx. 2 blocks from Lewisham Islamic Centre on the opposite corner to the Tesco local where Lewisham High St meets Rushey Green