

## LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

### Minutes of the Lewisham SACRE Conference

which was open to the press and public and was held on  
Monday 8 July 2019

At All Saints Primary School, 2 Blackheath Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0TX

**These minutes were approved by the SACRE on: 30 October 2019**

GROUP	REPRESENTING	NAME	PRESENT
A	Baha'i	Afonso Veiga	APOLOGIES
A	Buddhism	David Hutchens	APOLOGIES
A	Free Church A o G	Pastor Nick Hughes (Chair)	✓
A	Free Church	Leanne Rudder (substitute)	APOLOGIES
A	Free Church (Baptist)	(Vacant)	
A	Free Churches (URC)	Rev Raymond Singh	APOLOGIES
A	Hinduism	Vallipuram Bala	
A	Hinduism	Narmadha Saravanan	
A	Hinduism	Mrs Sri	
A	Humanism	VACANT	
A	Independent Evangelical	Nigel Desborough	APOLOGIES
A	Independent Evangelical	Ray Brown (substitute)	
A	Islam	Dr Ahmed Adem	✓
A	Islam	Aisha Lodhi	✓
A	Judaism	Gerald Rose	✓
A	Judaism	Joan Goldberg	✓
A	Judaism	Rev David Rome (substitute)	
A	Pentecostal	Layo Afuape	APOLOGIES
A	Pentecostal	Cheryl Abbam (substitute)	✓
A	Roman Catholic	Rt Rev Monsignor Nicholas Rothon	APOLOGIES
A	Sikhism	(Vacant)	
B	The CoE - Southwark Diocesan Board of Education	Shaun Burns (Deputy Chair)	✓
B	The Church of England - Secondary teacher	(Vacant)	
B	The Church of England - Primary teacher	Karen Hansen	✓
B	The Church of England - Governor	(Vacant)	
B	The Church of England - Minister	Paul Wynter	APOLOGIES
C	NEU	Kim Knappett	✓
C	NEU	Kim Griffiths	✓
C	Academy/Free school	(Vacant)	
C	NEU - NUT	(Vacant)	
C	NAS/UWT	Mandy Keeble	✓
C	Lewisham Headteachers and deputies	Judith Purkiss	
D	Local Authority member	Councillor Jacq Paschoud	✓
D	Local Authority member	Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin	APOLOGIES
D	Local Authority member	Councillor Hilary Moore	APOLOGIES
D	School Governors - Primary 1/2	Isaac Sackey (shared place)	
D	School Governors - Primary 2/2	VACANT	
D	School Governors - Secondary	Adelere Adedeji	
D	Representative of the Executive Director of Education	Angela Scattergood	
Others	Primary Teacher	Judith Nweze	
	Rastafarians	(Vacant)	
	Young Mayor Team	c/o Katy Brown and Malcolm Ball	
	RE School Improvement Officer	Denise Chaplin	✓
	Minuting clerk	Stephen Sealy	✓

*(Boxed sections in these minutes signify actions, and underlined sections signify decisions)*

The meeting began at 6.35pm.

#### 1a Welcomes and introductions

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

### **1b Apologies for absence**

In addition to the apologies as indicated on the attendance list on Page 1, Denise reported that Angela Scattergood was absent due to her involvement in an inspection, Monsignor Nick Rothon was hospitalised due to a mild health concern, Paul was on a school journey while Layo had an appointment related to her Masters' degree.

### **1c Confirmation of order of items for the meeting**

The order of items for the meeting was confirmed.

## **2 Membership update**

Shaun reported that he had someone lined up to fill one of the vacancies.

Denise reported that she hadn't yet heard from Raymond Singh with regards to filling the Sikh vacancy. She added that she had enquired if a neighbouring borough had any prospective candidates living or working in Lewisham but had yet to hear back.

The Chair encouraged all to let their contacts know of the vacancies.
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## **3 Minutes of previous SACRE meeting held on 19 May**

The Chair acknowledged that there were elements of both SACRE and ASC in these minutes.

In a slight diversion from the agreed order of items for the meeting and by way of introducing this first-time venue, Karen explained that she was an RE subject leader for Reception to Year 6 in the school. Every class is taught RE every week, and the school follows the Southwark Diocesan Board RE syllabus.

Every year group focuses on Christianity and a different world faith to ensure that when they leave in Year 6 pupils will have covered all of the major world faiths and have looked at faith in the community in Year 6. Although the school doesn't yet have a quality mark in RE, they achieved an Outstanding rating in their latest statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools.

Collective worship is delivered every day which is separate from RE teaching. Karen encouraged members to look in classrooms before leaving.

She added that the school was very closely linked to the church, which pupils visit every week, attending a full Eucharist service every term.

Joan commended the system whereby pupils learn the six faiths.

Karen commented that her class was learning about Sikhism, reporting that she ensures that every year group either visits a faith venue, attempting to visit a different one every year, or

has a visitor from one of the faiths. She added that the Jewish community leads a workshop in Year 1.

Cllr Paschoud suggested that Karen asks the Sikh visitor if they want to be on the SACRE committee.

Karen commented that the Sikh visitor was the parent of a child. She added that children of other faiths tended to join in activities, but that there weren't many of these. She reported that the school schedules reflective worship on Mondays to which children attend and often pray openly.

Shaun reported that Karen had worked really hard in the school, most notably being supportive of staff and enabling a creative, inclusive and progressive curriculum, and thus being a gold star advert for the RE curriculum.

Karen added that the school's pupils tended to embrace and respect other faiths, which they are also interested in. Recently she carried out an exercise in which Christian and Sikh beliefs were muddled, and the children were impressively engaged in the activity of identifying and comparing what beliefs were shared between the faiths.

Gerald asked if she had a large range of artefacts and whether, if not, she was using the borough's own. Karen conceded that she needed to make better use of these although the school had quite a few of its own.

Denise reported that the artefacts in the Hindu temple had moved into St Mary Magdalene in Greenwich Peninsula and are now available for four boroughs to utilise. She added that artefacts still needed to be collected from the Millwall site, and that this was becoming urgent.

She added that this would hopefully be next term when the school had settled in and can comfortably assist with locating artefact at the site. She added that SEN storage boxes had been housed at Drumbeat but had since gone off her radar.

Cllr Paschoud committed to get onto this as she has links with Fiona Smithers who was a teacher there.

Mandy also committed to get a message to a teacher called Cynthia who works at Drumbeat.

#### **4 Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda**

##### **4A PROGRESS WITH THE LEWISHAM WEBSITE**

Denise reported that she had been working with the Lewisham website team, adding that the current site isn't very welcoming.

Kim commented that she considered the Key Stage navigation an improvement.

Denise added that she had spoken to David Hutchens who is also interested.

She added that she had expressed a need with the team for a sharper search facility as, if parents want to know what their children are being taught, they wouldn't want to search through numerous unrelated items.

Kim acknowledged that this required a lot of work.

Denise added that she had explained to the web team that the site would be accessed by a broad audience including teachers, parents, and members of faith communities, but that the site was currently too complicated .

Kim added that, as a teacher, she considered the site more accessible than a lot of others, but added that the accessibility of PDFs rather than Word documents wasn't suitable; with the issue here being the editability of documents.

Shaun added that files needed to be able to be saved as both Word and PDF documents.

Cllr Paschoud reported that searching on the Council website normally returned an error.

Kim added that she found that one really needed to play around with it on the device that they were using. Karen reported that she found it easy to navigate.

Kim commented that she expected RE Coordinators to download documents, negating the reliance on the hardcopy file, with Shaun adding that the SACRE would encourage schools to download this.

The Chair encouraged the committee to investigate the site when they could.

In response to a suggestion from Ahmed to link key words, Kim commented that the issue was whether the committee or the council had sufficient funds to afford these changes.

The committee confirmed that they found the viewing of the site on the whiteboard as helpful. Denise committed to feedback the responses to the website team, commenting that she didn't feel comfortable making decision on her own.

The Chair questioned whether the link would ultimately be sent to all Coordinators, to which Kim responded that it would.

In answer to a question for Gerald, she responded that the document would come into force in September 2019.

#### 4B PROGRESS WITH THE SACRE CONSTITUTION

Denise reported that the constitution would be advanced to the Council next week.

Cllr Paschoud reported that the full Council would be meeting on 24 July and in October, in case the constitution needed to go before the full Council.

Denise added that the changes were simple ones.

#### 4C LETTER TO SCHOOLS

Denise circulated this letter, reporting that she had written to schools after the last meeting, notifying them that this letter would be included in the annual report and asking if they thought more information should be provided. She subsequently spoke to Angela after which

the letter was given a more positive slant. She reported that she hadn't received any response from schools but will approach individual schools next.

She added that she had had a long conversation with MIME about data, showing them what the committee would like to be reported on, including something on the national levels, boys' and girls' ethnic groups, and comparisons with other years etc. She commented that analysis was required, not mere figures. She conceded that there were budget implications, however.

Shaun asked how much it would cost the committee, to which Denise replied that a quote hadn't been obtained yet.

She referred to the recommended percentage of the LA's funding that should be allocated to SACRE that had been reported in a recent meeting. She added that Council officers had not known how this worked in Lewisham when she had raised it with them but added that she would be dogged about this, at least to the point of ascertaining the actual percentage in Lewisham. She added that if these changes were not affordable, knowing how much SACRE received would be at least likely to give the committee leverage.

She added that the committee had always tried to be as frugal as it could, and commented on the discomfort SACRE Chairs had felt being in a situation of arguing for more funds.

Cllr Paschoud countered the oft-heard argument that there wasn't even funding to enable other essential services with the view that these services were funded from different budgets. She argued that the point needs to be made ultimately for a bigger cake rather than debating whether one's slice was depriving another.

#### 4D SACRE'S ADVICE TO SCHOOLS – RESPONDING TO CRISES

Denise reported that she had met with Angela about this and that, once the advice that Angela was working on had been published, links would be shared between the two documents.

Cllr Paschoud asked what type of crises the document covered.

Denise replied that it covered national and international crises. She recounted how the SACRE had met in the evening of the 7 July 2005, and recalled how children had later expressed fear when they saw planes flying to London City Airport, and how in some cases parents had wanted to withdraw their children from studying about Islam. The first version of the document mentioned that the purpose of collective worship was to bring children together and to look at social issues. She added that the committee had also been concerned about Muslim women being verbally abused in the streets.

She reported that the document was updated for 7/7 and then for the major tsunami. There had been subsequent updates for the Lee Rigby tragedy and then for the Grenfell Tower crisis.

She explained that whenever the document was updated, a check is carried out on whether the web-links are accurate and new information is also considered. However, it has evolved to become more generic so whereas the first version was responsive to the crises that had occurred, the most recent version can be used to talk with children about death etc.

Cllr Paschoud reported that her school had had to deal with child bereavement on a quite frequent basis, and that this had necessitated the support for staff being addressed. She commented that the Local Authority had been providing support.

With reference to relationships and sex education, Denise reported on the issues in Birmingham and Newham whereby schools had been besieged by concerns from Muslim parents and others from evangelical Christian groups.

She added that consideration was being given to facilitating some training between Lewisham and Greenwich to find out what information is out there and to enable discussion of these issues in a sensible way.

She reported that she had spoken to the Vice Chair of Greenwich and was going to ask if this event could be set up at the synagogue.

Cllr Paschoud commented on whether a speaker could present on this at the Governors Conference and committed to ask Suhaib about this.

Denise responded that Michelle Holmes, a Greenwich adviser and a Governor in a Lewisham primary school who had previously worked with Olive Tree school, had been asked to deliver this, and committed to let the committee know when this had been advanced.

Aisha asked whether knife and gun crime would be mentioned in the document.

Kim advised that Lewisham Interfaith Forum had been doing a lot of work on the document.

Cllr Paschoud reported that a young man had been stabbed in Bellingham, which had had a big local impact, also raising the question whether Lewisham needs to respond quicker to this type of crisis.

Aisha commented that those involved in stabbings appear to be younger than before, remarking how alien this was to her as it didn't happen when she was younger. She commented that the teachers were also wary of trips such as school funfairs, which she considered to be every teacher's nightmare.

The Chair questioned if there was a call for a response from SACRE on knife and gun crime.

Kim K suggested that something be included in the crises document about this. She added that training had been delivered about keeping children safe which Fusion had led with the Seventh Day Adventists also being involved in this.

Denise questioned whether there was a conference on this subject with key note speakers and workshops; she opined that this was worth considering for the following year.

She remarked that there were initiatives in the borough and that networking was key to optimising these.

She committed to speak to Angela about this.

## **5 NASACRE AGM – feedback (Shaun Burns)**

Shaun reported that he had attended this on behalf of another borough.

By way of introduction he reported that NASACRE have an annual conference and an AGM which, this year, was held on the second anniversary of the Manchester attacks in Manchester with the subject 'Cohesive Communities and effective partnerships – RE near and far'.

He reported that one of the keynote speakers didn't touch on SACRE at all, instead delivering what amounted to an advert for his school which, he acknowledged, was doing a lot of activities to do with hope.

He added that all of the presentations were on the NASACRE website.

He mentioned a presentation called 'Uncertainty in RE' delivered by Prof. Julian Stern and which he considered relevant as RE is often dealing with uncertainty. He added that SACREs were mentioned in this presentation and, referring to the handout circulated, commented that it was important to look at the two-by-two grid of what we and others know and don't know.

He reported that the afternoon workshop was entitled 'Shared space in RE – conflict, community and dialogue' dealing with what RE can learn from social psychology. He summarised contact theory, and its key themes of encounter, conversation and interaction.

He added that the speaker has produced toolkits for teachers of RE which are available on the NASACRE website.

Denise remarked that teachers had a huge management responsibility of taking multicultural children to new environments. She asked if the document covered this, to which Shaun replied that he thought that it did.

Shaun reported that Lambeth has just won an award to develop some work on faith trails. He added that Lewisham could probably find this helpful.

With regard to the CoRE Report and the idea that SACREs be rebranded, Shaun reported that the floor had thanked NASACRE and SACREs for standing up against this theme of the CoRE Report.

Denise reported that the RE Council has written to three organisations expressing surprise at their unhappy response to its report. She acknowledged that keeping the relationships healthy was still a difficult manoeuvre.

Shaun commented that he felt that the pertinent message was to encourage committee members to stand up for what they believe.

He acknowledged that there was no appetite for SACREs to be changed in the current government, but expressed uncertainty whether this would be the case in the next government.

## **7 ASC Business**

### **7A REMINDER & DISCUSSION – UNDERSTANDING FAITH AND BELIEF IN LEWISHAM MATERIALS**

(This agenda point was brought forward in anticipation of Kim K leaving the meeting early.)

Kim reported that this hadn't been progressed since the committee had last met. She invited the committee for comments on the minutes of 22 January but there were none.

She asked the committee if it would help if an informal meeting was held early in the Autumn term, and asked members if they had taken any action.

Denise summarised the unit as asking children if the community had changed. For example, she recalled the Islamic community meeting in a house when she first came to the borough. She added that the unit was also about ways to make these stories.

She explained that the idea is that a vignette would be produced about these stories. She reported that Khadijah and she had looked at the Islam website which included a lot of content but it was not user friendly for pupils.

She acknowledged that some churches etc aren't accessible in the week, but still encouraged the submission of content that would contribute to giving children access to faith.

Kim asked if there were also people within the faith communities that can visit schools to talk about their stories.

Gerald reported that he normally started his talks with information about the three different buildings on their site. He recounted that recently he had been asked questions about the history of the Jewish community in the borough.

Kim K committed to contact committee members and people in the interfaith group. She explained that a couple of sides of A4 was required with links and images also, with enough for children to think about, reminding the committee that this would be the last unit they engage in before starting secondary school.

She acknowledged that there had been considerable talking about this but that now, action was needed.

## 7B ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE PRIMARY

Kim K reported that she had forwarded on details on what David Hampshire spoke about. She added that David Hutchens had provided feedback that the work on Primary Buddhism units are too hard being more aligned to GCSE than its supposed stage.

Denise added that feedback was needed from teachers.

She committed to meet with David Hampshire again to explore this.

She added that she particularly needed to hear from Christian groups, encouraging all to email her within the next two weeks.

Kim K concurred that input was needed from Christianity and Buddhism but added that input was needed from those who hadn't grown up in these faiths also.

She committed to send an email with a deadline of the end of the first week of the holidays.

Aisha questioned what was meant by two sides of A4.



Kim K explained that she meant content for the website that is roughly two pages long, meaning that one needn't write a lengthy document but rather enough that a teacher could give to children to work with.

Denise would send the questions to Aisha.

Denise added that at the very least the document could comprise a comprehension exercise for the children.

She highlighted that the unit also talks about working with other faiths, meaning that the content should be about one's community not just their faith.

Ahmed remarked that it was equally important that the content included a strong visual element.

By way of example, Kim K commented that a Salvation Army building that became a Mosque is quite interesting for children, and for them to find out about.

Denise remarked that there were some Christian churches in the community that she would like more history about. Aisha asked if Father Steve at St Mary's was involved, to which Shaun replied that he was.

Kim added that Laurence House was built on the site of the traditional St Laurence Church.

Aisha reported that her school organised a play date between Olive Tree and St Marys and that each school made each other a symbol of peace.

- 9 Next SACRE meeting: SACRE - Wednesday 30th October – venue required please**  
**Next ASC Meeting: ASC - Thursday December 5th – venue required please**

(This was brought forward ahead of agenda point 8)

Denise expressed her desire to have the next two meetings (in the Autumn term) in a faith venue, preceded by an open house session at which teachers can find out about the faith. She encouraged SACRE members to attend early to ensure that there are people in attendance.

She added that the events would be advertised as training.

The Chair advised that the promotion informs visitors that refreshments will be provided.

Kim advised that the session would be from 4.30pm followed by the meeting.

Denise advised that if the committee would be having an informal working meeting, then the same thing could be done for these sessions.

## **8 Information exchange and AOB**

### **8A TRAINING**

Denise advised that she had planned to hold training for new SACRE members but felt that, were the SRE training to go ahead, that would be a priority.

She expressed the need for a faith venue for the planned training.

Kim K proposed the synagogue for this, in response to which Joan advised that October is the Jewish month of high Holy days.

Kim K emphasised the need to determine and publicise the date.

After some discussion, Denise requested that Gerald email her some possible dates.

The Chair added that a venue was needed for the Primary RE Teacher training as well as for the sex training followed by the two SACRE/ASC meetings.

Gerald suggested 16 October, a day before the launch of the Holocaust Memorial Day, which Denise confirmed was suitable for the Primary RE Subject Leader event, from 9.30am to 3pm.

She committed to liaise further about the provision of catering with Kim K advising that the synagogue invoice the committee for refreshments and lunch.
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The meeting ended at 8.30pm with Nick thanking Karen for hosting the meeting and Joan thanking Karen for the directions that she provided.

Signed

Dated