

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

Minutes of the Lewisham SACRE meeting

which was open to the press and public and was held on
Monday 20 November 2023

Online via Zoom.

These minutes were approved by the SACRE on: 2024.

GROUP	REPRESENTING	NAME	PRESENT
A	Baha'i	Aaron Ayala	
A	Buddhism	David Hutchens	Ap
A	Free Church (Assemblies of God) Chair	Pastor Nick Hughes	y
A	Free Church (Baptist)	Vacant	
A	Free Churches	Maxine...	y
A	Hinduism	Sharmila Manoharan	
A	Hinduism	Vallipuram Bala	
A	Humanism	Jennifer Sutherland	y
A	Humanism	John Turner	
A	Independent Evangelical	Elizabeth Maxted	y
A	Islam	Imam Ashraf	
A	Islam	Imam Sabir	
A	Judaism	Gerald Rose	y
A	Judaism	Joan Goldberg	
A	Pentecostal Layo's Substitute	Cheryl Abbam	
A	Pentecostal	Layo Afuape	
A	Pentecostal Substitute	Br Ogbu Olu	y
A	Roman Catholic	Rt. Rev. Monsignor Nicholas Rothon	Ap
A	Sikhism	Vacant	
B	CofE Diocesan Board Diocesan RE Adviser (Primary) (Deputy Chair)	Shaun Burns	Ap
B	The Church of England	Ms Gwen Carney	y
B	The Church of England Primary teacher	Karen Hansen	
B	The Church of England Minister/Governor	Vacant	
C	Academy/Free School	Vacant	
C	Lewisham Headteachers & Deputies	Vacant	
C	NAS/UWT	Korkor Burnett	y
C	NEU	Janey Joaovel	
C	NEU Chair ASC	Kim Knappett	y

C	NEU	Sian Blackwood-Carlyle	y
C	NEU	Vacant	
D	Director of Education	Angela Scattergood	Ap
D	LA members	Cllr Aliya Sheikh	
D	LA members	Cllr Jacq Paschoud	Ap
D	LA members	Cllr Liz Johnston-Franklin	y
D	School Governors (Primary)	Caroline O Kalu	
D	School Governors (Secondary)	Vacant	
D	Representative for Angela Scattergood	Anthony Doudle	y
OTHER	Primary teacher	Judith Nweze	
OTHER	Rastafarian (co-optee)	Vacant	
OTHER	RE School Improvement Officer	Denise Chaplin	y
OTHER	Young Mayor Team	Katy Brown	Ap
OTHER	Young Mayor Team	Nicholas Gunner	Ap
OTHER	SACRE Clerk	Stephen Sealy	y

Boxed text signifies action to be taken, while underlined text signifies decisions that had been made.

The meeting began at 6.35pm.

1 WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Nick welcomed all to the meeting and particularly new member Maxine whom Bishop McLeod had nominated, and to whom he extended an offer of support.

1A APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These are noted in the above table.

1B CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF ITEMS FOR THE MEETING

Denise suggested that item 5 precede item 4 in view of the members who had to leave early.

1C MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Denise advised that the local Baha'i community had nominated a new Baha'i representative.

2 Minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held in September 2023 at Catford Community Church, The Point, 401 Lewisham High Street, London

These were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda

3A LEWISHAM SACRE CONSTITUTION REVIEW – COUNCIL MEETING 22
NOVEMBER

Denise advised that the constitution would be reviewed as one of the last points of the impending, rather stacked, Council meeting.

3B MOVING RE AND MULTI-CULTURAL RESOURCES FROM THE RENEWAL SITE
TO LEWISHAM – FEEDBACK AND CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER DATES TO
COMPLETE THE TASK UPDATE

Denise advised that the committee should attempt to return the loss, grief and bereavement materials which had previously been used at St Christopher to Lewisham, possibly working out a loans process for their use. She reported that she had approached Nick who was happy for his facility to be used to store these and suggested these could be efficiently returned to the borough in 2024.

Nick proposed that a date be agreed, indicating that extra help would be available on a Wednesday.

Nick, and Kim and Gerald if in London, volunteered to assist with this.

ADDITIONAL POINT – DBS CHECKS IN SCHOOLS

Anthony advised that, in his remit as part of a safeguarding subcommittee, he had now raised the matter of the DBS update service being available in all schools, adding that Lewisham's non-update service term for DBS renewal was three years.

He reported that he had also contacted Lewisham's catering provider, Chartwells, regarding the matter of halal meals raised in the previous meeting. This provider is meeting the appropriate requirements but most of the borough's schools don't use this service.

He commented that there would be capital finance implications as well as the need for consultation to ensure kitchens meet the requirement for serving halal food but offered, if told the particular schools involved, to progress this with the relevant schools.

Nick requested that a list of these schools be submitted.

Denise asked if these kitchens cater for vegetarians also, to which Anthony responded that this is likely, the meeting of the halal requirements being more demanding than for vegetarian.

Jacq advised that Chartwells provides an exclusively vegetarian menu for two of the five weekdays, with personal requirements with regard to allergies etc being dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

4 SACRE's Crisis Advice

(This item followed agenda point 5.)

Denise advised that this document had been sent to schools and was also on the Services For Schools website.

She informed members that a parent had emailed her expressing concern over the description of the content of this document and that she hoped this had been resolved.

Cllr Liz reported that she had received feedback from other elected members indicating that it had been received well, with some even taken aback by how comprehensive it was.

5 Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 - update on Lewisham plans

Cllr Liz reported that no communication had been shared since the last meeting, which Gerald corroborated, and committed to email Damian the need to progress the matter.

Denise requested that Cllr Liz also ask if information on the Holocaust Memorial Day could at least be circulated to schools.

Cllr Liz committed to speak to the CYP director about this also.

Gerald requested that schools be informed that he is happy to attend schools, as he has been doing, and deliver an assembly or a class session, adding that Holocaust resources were residing at the synagogue.

Anthony advised that he could have HMD information sent out through the weekly schools bulletin.

Cllr Jacq Paschoud reported that she had raised the issue at Council level.

6 Primary RE subject leaders' network meeting held on 16th November – feedback

Nick reported that the lion's share of the work had been carried out by Denise, and considered it an excellent event.

There had been 17 attendees, and Nick had found the experience of seeing teachers enlightened about information that they hadn't known existed satisfying. Teachers networked and stayed until the end of the event.

Denise reported that prior to the meeting she had contact with a school one of whose parents had asked to withdraw their child from RE.

She displayed the Services For Schools website, drawing attention to the links and supporting materials including the primary assessment advice. She also summarised the RE Quality mark site, advising that additional materials were housed there.

She also said it was pleasing to introduce this information to teachers who had previously been unaware of its existence.

She reported that she had also spoken with them about reviewing the syllabus and had requested that they offer feedback on this.

Gerald had been in attendance and had spoken about the Jewish resources that teachers could use that are stored at the synagogue.

Several teachers had told Denise that they might email her their schemes of work, and had indicated that they would like to attend other places of worship also, with the Hindu temple and the mosque being mentioned.

Cllr Jacq expressed her surprise at how little teachers seemed to know about what was on offer, requiring a base level explanation of this.

Denise expressed thanks to Anthony and Suhaib for enabling this to happen. Kim expressed thanks to Denise and Nick for organising this.

Nick commented that the feedback warranted it being set up, remarking that there was an appetite for a follow-up meeting.

Anthony suggested that attendees be emailed with the actions to take and notice that these will be reviewed in the follow-up meeting.

Denise reported that she had spoken to Korkor about a secondary meeting.

Korkor committed to let Denise know if this would take place in her premises next term.

Gerald expressed his surprise, positively, that even teachers with two decades of experience had been enthusiastic about attending.

The Chair encouraged all faith leaders to access the materials on the site, reminding them that the syllabus underpins what the SACRE is about and that this is an area in which their input was required.

Denise advised that the Agreed Syllabus would be reviewed in the following year. She expressed some concerns that some teachers hadn't a scheme of work. Next term a decision would have to be made on how much change was needed and the scale of this change. The committee would need to speak with teachers in all of the key stages.

Anthony advised that in a previous role, a comprehensive set of schemes of work sat underneath the Agreed Syllabus, which is considered to be the 'game changer' as it empowered teachers to feel safe in teaching units

Korkor asked if Academies were obliged to follow the local Agreed Syllabus.

Denise replied that this depends on the nature of their funding agreement; different academies will have different agreements about this. She cited a Waltham Forest Academy which used the local authority syllabus and fed back on its value, noting that using an existing syllabus provided benefits for an Academy whose alternative would be drafting one of their one.

Kim advised that the funding would need to be considered as this was a constraint when the syllabus was most recently revised.

Anthony reported that in another role he had approached the local authority with the sum (£8.5k) that he required issuing a guarantee that this would result in a considerably greater understanding of faith, inclusivity, equality and acceptance. He offered to help draft a document to make a case if needed.

7 NASACRE and London SACREs meeting (8th November)

Denise reported that the RE Hubs had gained popularity. She reported that while she had been the chair of NASACRE SACREs in London & the South East had met together annually, which had proved popular and encouraged a lot of local networking; however this became difficult to organise with no LA to manage the conference budget. The RE Hubs had managed to revive this and develop networks across the country. Regional SACRE 'in conversation' meetings had been set up as a pilot that may be continued annually.

Seven of the 'in conversation' meetings had taken place, with Humanism being a major discussion point because of the recent legal judgement regarding Kent LA and the subsequent statement from the DfE:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1185160/Guidance_for_local_authorities_about_membership_of_SACREs.pdf

The Chair remarked that attending the London Hubs in conversation meeting had represented a significant learning curve for him, referencing his interest in the funding sections and the vast differences between local authorities.

Denise explained that some SACREs included advisor and clerk costs in their budget figures while others didn't. She remarked that some SACREs had reported that their Local Authorities were amenable to providing extra funding if a strong case had been presented for a piece of work.

She added that the meetings represented an opportunity for NASACRE to hear what its member SACREs thought.

8 Key Stage 4 Update

Anthony reported that this data, just having been released to schools after half term, was provisional and only headline data.

He explained the data, drawing particular attention to the fact that schools in Lewisham do well for entered students, and five schools increasing the number of their 9-7 grades but also that there was cause for concern in relation to some of the student numbers that had been entered and that two schools didn't enter any students at all for RE

Denise questioned if any had taken the short course, but the answer was inconclusive.

Anthony remarked that school's good progress needed to be recognised; this year's data was best compared to 2019, rather than 2021 or 2022 and schools had responded well post-Covid. He highlighted the importance of this message in the annual report.

9 Towards the Annual Report

9A ATTENDANCE REGISTER – STEPHEN

Stephen summarised the tabled attendance data, encouraging members to check its accuracy and the attendance report as included in each submitted document of meeting minutes.

9B EXAM DATA

Denise reiterated the need to focus on the positives from this data but acknowledged that more in-depth data would be needed to examine the nuances in the data.

She hoped that by the time of submission of the Annual Report more data would have been published.

Denise requested that all members check through the syllabus before the next meeting, to ensure all members feel their faith is being accurately represented.

She added that it may be useful to have a twilight session on Humanism for KS 3 teachers. Jennifer remarked that she should be available for this session, on the assumption it would be held around February 2024.

Denise reported that she was hoping to have a session at the mosque and committed to email the Imams possible dates. Holding the SACRE meeting on the same day would also be considered.

She asked Korkor if this would be possible for the Secondary meeting.

Korkor responded that the absence of heads of RE may be a contributor to the difficulty in contacting schools regarding this.

Denise committed to discuss this with Anthony as they would be discussing examination data.

10 Information Exchange & AOB

10A NASACRE TRAINING PROGRAMME

Denise reported that the National Association of Funeral Directors were pushing for content about the end of life to be included in the curriculum. This would be included in RE in every syllabus, as Lewisham has already done for KS2. Some local and national bodies were also working on this for example the Education Psychology and PHSE associations were possibly working on their own content nationally.

10B WITHDRAWAL FROM RE LESSONS

Denise reported that she had spoken to a headteacher and also Anthony with regard to parents withdrawing from RE lessons; the Services for Schools website housed documentation that schools could use in the event of parents making this request.

10C

In response to a query from Gerald, Anthony confirmed that the letter from the Board of Deputies of British Jews had been sent to schools.

11 Dates of future meetings and venues already agreed

Thursday 22nd February 2024 - Zoom

Wednesday 24th April 2024 - Live meeting, Lewisham Islamic Centre nursery

Tuesday 25th June 2024 - Live meeting, venue to be decided.

Kim reported that she expected to be present for the next meeting in February.

12 End of meeting

The meeting ended at 7.50pm.