

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

Minutes of the Lewisham SACRE meeting

which was open to the press and public and was held on
Thursday 14 March 2024

Online via Zoom.

These minutes were approved by the SACRE on: _____ 2024.

GROUP	REPRESENTING	NAME	PRESENT
A	Baha'i	Aaron Ayala	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	Sharmila Manoharan	y
A	Hinduism	Vallipuram Bala	y
A	Humanism	Jennifer Sutherland	y
A	Humanism	John Turner	y
A	Independent Evangelical	Elizabeth Maxted	y
A	Islam	Imam Ashraf	
A	Islam	Imam Sabir	
A	Judaism	Gerald Rose	y
A	Judaism	Joan Goldberg	Ap
A	Pentecostal Layo's Substitute	Cheryl Abbam	
A	Pentecostal	Layo Segun	y
A	Pentecostal Substitute	Deacon Ogbu Olu	y
A	Roman Catholic	Rt. Rev. Monsignor Nicholas Rotherham	y
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	y
B	The Church of England Minister/Governor	David Osborne	
C	Academy/Free School	Vacant	
C	Lewisham Headteachers & Deputies	Vacant	
C	NAS/UWT	Korkor Burnett	y
C	NEU	Janey Joaovel	y
C	NEU Chair ASC	Kim Knappett	y

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

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

The meeting began at 6.35pm.

1 WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Nick welcomed all to the meeting, particularly Aaron Ayala and Daisy Scalchi, both in attendance for the first time.

All present introduced themselves, Daisy explaining that while she had a professional role in RE and ethics she was interested in project work exploring how RE is taught in schools. Her interest in joining the committee was a personal one as a parent of children in a Lewisham community school.

1A APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These are noted in the above table.

1B CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF ITEMS FOR THE MEETING

Denise suggested that item 4 be moved up the order.

1C MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2 Minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held in November 2023

Karen questioned whether she had sent apologies.

It was confirmed that Cllr Jacq Paschoud had been in attendance.

Subject to the resolution of these two points, the minutes of the November meeting were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda

3A PRIMARY AND SECONDARY NETWORK MEETINGS

Bala confirmed that while previous issues with space had frustrated attempts to arrange a primary network meeting at the temple, an administrator was now in post and would be able to arrange this meeting after receiving attendee details from Denise. Bala was expected to be in Sri Lanka in June but stated this wouldn't prevent the meeting from going ahead.

Denise reported that Korkor had encountered difficulties arranging the Secondary network meeting, so she had spoken to Muslim colleagues with a view to hosting this session for teachers directly before the next meeting at the Mosque.

Denise suggested that she and Korkor correspond about this, and expected the meeting would include a tour of the premises as well as talking about the constitution.

Denise requested that Gerald bring some of the resources to the meeting for teachers to access.

Gerald proposed that he and Denise meet first regarding this.

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 summarised the background of the resources being accommodated at the Millwall site for the benefit of the new members.

She requested that committee members email her their availability regarding continuing the job of sorting the resources at the site, which she hoped would be carried out in the summer term.

Nick advised that he knew someone who could provide a van for this job.

3C RAMADAN ADVICE

Denise reported that this had been circulated a while back and uploaded to Lewisham's website and Services4Schools in the previous week. One Headteacher had asked Denise to review a letter he'd drafted for circulation based on this guidance.

Cllr Sheikh confirmed that she has happy with this guidance, having been assured that the Muslim representatives had approved it also.

4 Membership Co-option

(This item followed agenda point 2.)

Denise explained that full members are nominated by sponsoring bodies as outlined in the SACRE's constitution, meaning that unless Daisy met one of the criteria such as membership of the Church of England or governance of a school, her status would be co-opted should she decide to become a member. Apart from being precluded from voting, her rights wouldn't differ from other members; this includes the opportunity to attend any of the training events hosted by NASACRE. Lewisham SACRE is efficient but relaxed, and considers itself to be a team.

Daisy expressed her desire to be a member. There was unanimous acceptance of her co-option as a committee member.

5 Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 – feedback on Lewisham's event

(This item followed agenda point 7.)

Gerald reported that, unlike in previous years, there had been no visits to schools for workshops in the first term, although Mark Curtis and his production company (The Small Nose Company) had been commissioned to conduct workshops in the Spring term.

Gerald had challenged the initial plan for these workshops to start in March on the basis that this is too late. A Civic Centre service was then arranged for Monday 29 January but without schools' involvement, featuring speeches, a memorial prayer and talk from Rabbi Weisz about his family's involvement in the Holocaust. The Council laid on refreshments.

A school event took place on 11 March. This falls within Cllr Amanda De Ryk's portfolio and there was a strong councillor presence at both events.

Bonus Pastor School and three of its feeder schools (Our Lady and St Philip Neri, St William of York and Good Shepherd) were represented. The primary schools performed a prop-less piece relaying the story of someone who'd travelled on the Kindertransport whereas the secondary school dealt with the more horrific account of Rachel Levy's experience in Auschwitz.

The Small Nose Company are starting a project for young people exploring the lessons from the Holocaust and carries out workshops in schools. The audience on Monday – the adults of whom were comprised solely of councillors, participants, synagogue personnel and participating school personnel - were shown how this is delivered. It is expected that the 2025 activities will be rolled out earlier in the year.

Gerald expressed the view that all borough schools should have access to some Holocaust Memorial Day events in January, especially considering the capabilities for delivering events remotely.

He advised that he had a link to Holocaust Memorial Education Trust events.

Monsignor Rotheron recommended One Life, a film by Nicholas Winton about the Kindertransport, and suggested that schools be encouraged to watch this.

Gerald reported that a Lewisham school had done some work on this.

Cllr Pascoud expressed her pleasure with the Civic Suite event but emphasised the need to widen the event to more schools as only faith schools, and a particular type of these,

participated. A formal marking of the event was needed, supported by a range of community events.

Gerald reported that Mark was planning to train teachers to deliver INSET sessions on this, which would ensure wider engagement.

Kim advised that many schools likely commemorated the event, and that engagement with Lewisham's event didn't accurately represent the full picture of involvement.

Caroline advised that some schools may be afraid to commemorate such events and the committee may need to re-educate them.

Denise suggested that waiting for information on Lewisham events and any invitation to be involved may be holding them back.

Kim expressed concern about the notion of re-educating schools, advising that schools are very aware of this event but that often it is informed of any year's specific theme too late to be involved in it.

Cllr Liz proposed that a committee be formalised to progress this and secure funding, meeting efficiently and tracking progress. She committed to take this forward with Cllr Amanda.

6 NASACRE Annual Conference and AGM

6A DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ATTENDANCE – 2 ATTACHMENTS

Denise reported that she had circulated information about this event and drew attention to the workshops scheduled for June. She was still looking into how delegates would be able to claim their travel expenses.

The committee had an allocation of two places.

She advised that more information on these events would be in the NASACRE briefing, due out in a week.

Kim advised that last year's event had been extremely informative.

Cllr Sheikh commended the speakers and, to a greater extent, the networking opportunities at the event and expressed interest in attending again if there were any available spaces.

She committed to find out what the travel expenses arrangement was.

Kim advised that NEU would be willing to pay the travel expenses for any candidates desiring to go.

Denise requested that any committee members interested in attending email her.

6B RE-NOMINATION OF DENISE CHAPLIN TO NASACRE EXEC

Denise summarised the constructs of NASACRE governance, advising that that the term of NASACRE members was two years, and that members were required to be nominated by a SACRE.

She advised that, given the atypical nature of NASACRE's current governance, she was willing to stand for two more years as part of the shared chair structure, although this may end up being less than a full term, and noted that NASACRE appointees are volunteers.

Nick expressed his desire to nominate her for the role again, noting how the local SACRE benefitted from this appointment.

The committee backed this nomination.

7 SACRE Annual Report 2023 (Attachment)

(This item followed agenda point 3)

Denise reported that this report needed to be submitted to NASACRE (and the Department of Education) by Easter. A standard template was used to facilitate the compilation of the various report submissions by a NASACRE commissioned service. The key structural change from the previous year's report was Denise's omission of the year's agendas in favour of providing a link to these. This report, which the Chair has drafted a foreword to, summarises the committee's activity in the previous year.

She invited committee members to comment, noting that she hadn't received any comments to date.

Daisy questioned why some schools on page 9 were highlighted in green or yellow. Denise responded that yellow signified special schools, green school's status and blue full course entries.

(However, these colours were removed during the meeting)

Nick questioned if the report needed to reference the Inter Faith Network.

Denise advised that this would be discussed in this meeting.

Daisy questioned if the data on page 10 re the 30% increase in GCSE full course uptake and 43% fall in students leaving school with an RE qualification was accurate. Denise confirmed that the data had originated with the DfE.

Cllr Liz stated that the humanitarian crises seemed to have been overlooked in the 'responding to crises' section on page 16; suggesting that the statement Nick had drafted in response to this be included as an example of the action that the committee takes in such events.

Denise suggested that, in view of a parental complaint following the statement that Nick had made, excerpts from Nick's statement are inserted rather than the full statement. The statement had been made immediately following the eruption of the crises and was considered as reflecting the 'heart' of the committee.

She emphasised the need for the Council to appear unbiased but offered to send a draft to Cllr Liz to review.

Nick commended on the benefit of the committee's teamwork in navigating matters such as this.

Denise committed to send a revised version of the report in view of this discussion and requested members send any responses within the week.

All members provisionally approved the report subject to these discussion points.

8 Key Stage 4 Update – Anthony Doudle

(This was deferred due to Anthony's absence.)

9 Information Exchange & AOB

Denise reported that the Interfaith Network was dissolving due to its funding stream being cut by government, which she considered lamentable. She explained this decision was linked to the membership of one of the group's trustees of the Muslim Council of Britain.

Nick suggested that this be tabled for discussion at a future meeting.

Denise advised that she had sent committee members information about the call to action and encouraged members to promote this with their colleagues.

She encouraged members to read the other documents that she had circulated as these would be discussed in the next meeting.

Karen reported that members had been invited to the recent Tamil Heritage month event. She had attended and remarked on feeling treated like royalty at the event that featured dancing, music and singing in celebration of the Tamil harvest. She felt honoured to have been invited and thanked Bala for this.

Gerald reported that the festival of Purim commemorating Esther would take place the following Sunday, and the Passover would follow Easter this year. Seders would be held on 22 April.

10 Dates of future meetings and venues already agreed

Wednesday 24th April 2024 - Live meeting, Lewisham Islamic Centre nursery
(Gerald apologised in advance for his absence at this meeting)

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

The meeting ended at 8.10pm.