

## LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

### Minutes of the Lewisham SACRE meeting

which was open to the press and public and was held on  
Monday 25 April 2022

On Zoom

**These minutes were approved by the SACRE/ ASC on:**

GROUP	REPRESENTING	NAME	PRESENT
A	Baha'i	Afonso Veiga	Ap
A	Buddhism	David Hutchens	Ap
A	Free Church (Assemblies of God) Chair	Pastor Nick Hughes	Y
A	Free Church (Assemblies of God) Substitute	Vacant	
A	Free Church (Baptist)	Vacant	
A	Hinduism	Mugunthan Sathasiva Sharma	
A	Hinduism	Vacant	
A	Hinduism	Vallipuram Bala	Y
A	Humanism	Jennifer Sutherland	Y
A	Humanism	John Turner	Late Apol
A	Independent Evangelical	vacant	
A	Islam	Ms Aisha Lodhi	
A	Islam	Imam Ashraf	
A	Islam	Imam Sabir	
A	Judaism	Gerald Rose	Y
A	Judaism	Joan Goldberg	Y
A	Pentecostal Layo's Substitute	Cheryl Abbam	
A	Pentecostal	Layo Afuape	Late apols
A	Roman Catholic	Rt. Rev. Monsignor Nicholas Rothon	Y

A	Sikhism	Vacant	
B	CofE Diocesan Board (Deputy Chair)	Shaun Burns	Y
B	The Church of England Primary teacher	Karen Hansen	
B	The Church of England Minister	Paul Wynter	
B	The Church of England Secondary teacher	Samantha Alder	Maternity Leave
B	The Church of England Governor	Vacant	
C	Academy/Free School	Vacant	
C	Lewisham Headteachers & Deputies	Vacant	

C	NAS/UWT	Korkor Burnett	Y
C	NAS/UWT	Mandy Keeble	
C	NEU	Andrea Kelly	Y
C	NEU	Kim Griffiths	Y
C	NEU Chair ASC	Kim Knappett	Y
D	Director of Education	Angela Scattergood	
D	LA members	Cllr Hilary Moore	
D	LA members	Cllr Jacq Paschoud	Y
D	LA members	Cllr Liz Johnston-Franklin	Y
D	School Governors (Primary)	Caroline O Kalu	
D	School Governors (Secondary)	Vacant	
OTHER	Primary teacher	Judith Nweze	Y
OTHER	Rastafarian (co-optee)	Vacant	
OTHER	RE School Improvement Officer	Denise Chaplin	Y
OTHER	Young Mayor Team	c/o Katy Brown	
OTHER	SACRE Clerk	Stephen Sealy	Y
OTHER	Substitute for Angela Scattergood	Sandra Roberts	Y

The meeting begun at 6.30pm.

### **1A WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

### **1B APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These are indicated in the register above.

### **1C CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF ITEMS FOR THE MEETING**

This was confirmed by the committee.

## **2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SACRE MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 2022 ON ZOOM**

These were agreed by the committee as accurate.

### **3 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

(TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO REQUEST THE REMOVAL FROM SACRE'S MEMBERSHIP BY THE LA OF THE CONSISTENTLY VACANT CO-OPTEE PLACE FOR RASTAFARI)

Denise explained that between 15 and 20 years ago, a Rastafarian representative living/working in Lewisham (having been recommended by Lambeth) was on the committee

and attended regularly. When he moved on the committee was unable to fill the place as there appears to be no established Rastafarian group in the borough. Denise suggested that the committee asked the Council to remove the place.

Cllr Jacq questioned what the impact of his name remaining would be.

Denise explained that its consistent inclusion on the register and consequently the annual report gave the negative impression that the community had no interest in attending the meetings. Being a co-opted place, its deletion wouldn't affect that quoracy of the meetings.

Shaun suggested that any decision about this be made when the committee reviews the constitution and represented faith groups in view of the census data, suggesting further that the first draft of this data had been published.

Sandra offered to forward this information to the council.

Denise suggested that, in light of Shaun's suggestion, any action be suspended until later in the year.

#### **4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA**

##### **4A UPDATING AND CIRCULATING THE DIRECTORY OF THE PLACES OF WORSHIP**

Kim K explained that updated information on the group that Layo represents, which had recently moved away from the RCC, was delaying the completion of the directory, and suggested a deadline be set to facilitate this.

Denise advised that she was unable to publish the directory on the Services for Schools website until a page had been set up for SACRE. This was currently being done.

Kim suggested that Layo be informed that the document will be published as soon as possible after the communicated deadline.
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The Chair agreed with this, adding that the directory could be reviewed in the future.

##### **4B ATTENDANCE RECORD UPDATE**

The clerk informed the committee that Denise had emailed them a copy of their attendance records for the last two years. He requested that all committee members who hadn't yet checked this, do so, letting Denise know of any changes as soon as possible.

Judith informed him that she had attended the last three meetings but that this hasn't been recorded.

The clerk committed to look into this.
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#### **5 SACRE MONITORING USING THE WEBSITE TRAWL PROCESS**

The Chair summarised one of the main objective of this process as gauging how accessible the RE syllabus is.

Denise explained that the template, alongside a covering letter, was sent to schools this week to enable schools to self-assess having been piloted, amended and then presented to the Heads Consultative Forum. She added that this would help the committee to identify what RE provision schools were offering, how visible this provision was and whether this was congruent with what the committee would expect. It was envisaged that this may also lead to conversations with schools about how they're marketing what they are doing positively and lead to engagement with schools that the committee may not currently have a 'handle' on. It would also allow feedback on the fitness for purpose of the syllabus.

She referenced the tabled list of schools, reporting that Roman Catholic and Church of England schools were not included.

She reported that HMI had restricted RE data and thus would be conducting more deep dives this year, and emphasised the importance of the committee supporting schools to prepare for this.

Sandra added that the team had also taken the opportunity on Thursday morning to alert headteachers of this initiative and reinforce the messages Denise had communicated.

She requested that Denise keep her informed of its progress.

The Chair asked how this was received by headteachers.

Sandra replied that headteachers appreciated that this was in their interests.

Gerald asked if just primary schools were being looked at.

Denise responded affirmatively, explaining that secondary schools may be looked at next. She explained how to access schools' information through the hyperlink in the document.

She invited members to email her with any school preferences they had by the end of the week, after which she would allocated schools to members with a view to their findings being discussed in the next meeting. She invited members to contact her with any issues/oddities they encountered.

Jennifer asked what the rationale for excluding the Roman Catholic and Church of England schools.

Denise explained that they do not use the agreed syllabus and are also inspected by separate inspection bodies.

Cllr Jacq informed Jennifer that these schools are rigorously inspected as well as by SIAMS.

Gerald commented that it would be helpful to know if academies were using the syllabus, and requested that users specify this on the form.

Kim advised users not to comment on what they didn't find in schools, rather focusing on what was identified.

Andrea recounted her own experience at Conisborough College, where despite teaching the Agreed Syllabus she thinks it unlikely that this is specified as such on their website. She noted that other schools were likely in a similar position.

The Chair emphasised the purpose of the exercise as an observational, rather than judgmental one, noting that the committee may be able to signpost schools in some cases.

Kim G reported that she had just checked a school's website which, on the basis of publishing a single-line statement confirming that the school were using the Agreed Syllabus, she would consider as having met this criterion.

Kim K highlighted that members should send their forms to Denise regardless of any issues encountered in completing it or the paucity of the information therein.

Sandra commented that it would be interested to know what academies are using, referencing the fact that Tidemill is the only school in its Trust in the borough.

Denise advised that if any academies were known not to be offering any RE provision, this would be for the committee to look into.

Judith asked when this exercise would begin.

Denise replied that members had until the end of the week to notify her of after preferences and that she would then notify members of their allocation in the following week.

## **6 SACRE SELF-EVALUATION (UPDATED VERSION ATTACHED) SECTION 2**

Denise offered the context that most SACREs' performance with regard to the self-evaluation would have differed consequent to the pandemic, and that the scores would reflect this. She explained the four grades for each question.

The Chair encouraged all to comment, even if their reference point was anecdotal. There was a lively discussion around the following questions:

2A – RE provision across the LA. How effectively does the SACRE gain information about RE provision in schools and put in place strategies to support the delivery of pupil entitlement?

The group eventually settled on a combination of elements of Developing and

2C - Quality of learning and teaching. How well does SACRE use knowledge of quality of learning and teaching to target support appropriately?

There will be better communication once members had done the website trawl and met with schools. In view of this, it was agreed that that this point be revisited in the Autumn

2D - Quality of interaction and communication with leadership and management of RE in schools. To what extent does SACRE have and pass on information that supports high quality RE in schools?

As above

2E - Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools. To what extent has a SACRE developed a proactive strategy in relation to academies and other non-LA maintained schools in its area?

Probably Advanced

Turnham is currently the only connection that the SACRE has with academies. Academies should still be teaching RE but based on their foundation trust agreement.

Positively, the number of academies is small in the borough though, with St George and St Matthew being Church of England/Roman Catholic Schools.

Shaun advised that the committee shouldn't be concerned about evaluating itself as developing, as this signifies its moving forward. He expressed his agreement that the committee focusses its trawl on primary school initially, adding as a reminder that there is an academy/free school vacancy on the committee. He hoped the trawl would provide the committee with useful information with regard to filling this.

Denise suggested, in view of this, that the committee suspend its self-evaluation until after the website trawl had taken place. This was agreed.

## **7 PROGRESS ON CIRCULATION OF THE RE ASSESSMENT ADVICE FOR KEY STAGES 1 AND 2 AND PROPOSED MEETING WITH PRIMARY RE LEADS – TO AGREE A DATE IN LATE MAY**

Denise advised that this document had been included in a recent Schools Mailing, adding that the absence of a SACRE page on the Services for Schools site meant this couldn't yet be published there,

With regard to the meeting, she proposed Thursday 26 May asking if there was a particular weekday to avoid.

Kim K replied that no weekday had particular merit as meetings are held on different days of the week depending on the school, but that it was unlikely that parents' evenings would be held that week. She suggested that the committee be alerted to those who would have attended were it not for the inconvenience of the day, so that it could offer some other means of supporting them.

Kim G suggested 4.15 rather than 4pm, which would be optimal for allowing teachers to either attend the event in school or travel home for it.

The Chair agree to host the event.

## **8 FEEDBACK ON WORLDVIEWS AND PROPOSED ZOOM MEETING WITH SECONDARY RE TEACHERS – TO AGREE A DATE IN LATE JUNE AND SET UP A PRE-MEET WITH INTERESTED SACRE MEMBERS**

Denise reminded the committee that they had agreed that they would speak to Secondary school teachers based on the presentation that Jennifer and Korkor had delivered. She adding that she would need to speak to them about it first, and proposed this happen within a couple of weeks.

Andrea suggested that early July would be better as she'll be too busy to meet before then.

Denise asked if Church of England RE leads could be invited, to which Shaun responded affirmatively. She suggested that online meeting would be most appropriate for this, but possibly at a later time.

The Chair asked if online meeting was preferable.

Denise questioned if the Ultra Low Emission Zone had had an effect on teaching attending meetings in person.

Sandra replied that she had no intelligence on this, but that full day events with lunch provided attracted attendees, and twilight attendance had been positive also.

Denise remarked that the event would need to finish by 5.45pm for those accessing the event from school. She acknowledged the resistance to entering the ULEZ by those who didn't need to, given its considerable costs, and suggested that this subject be tabled for the next meeting.

At this point Nick Rothern left.

## **9 TEACHING HUB CONNECTIONS AS PER NASACRE BRIEFING**

Sandra stated that Denise had asked her to speak about this, reporting that there was a single hub for Lewisham, Southwark and Greenwich, having been reduced from four. It is now run by Jemima Reece-Evans in Southwark who feels very positively about it.

There are nine new RE teachers on the early career teacher program.

Sandra reported that Jemima had questioned if a SACRE representative could assist facilitating the training as she wants to make use of SACRE resources.

## **10 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AOB**

10A NASACRE AGM on 23 May

10B NASACRE Training events

Shaun advised that he was unable to attend either event.

Denise commented that it would be interesting hearing what speaker HMI Richard Kueh would present.

She advised that she would be hosting two sessions on behalf of NASACRE and that all committee attendees would feedback on the sessions they attended.

10C AOB

Gerald reported that there was a twilight virtual event run by the Board of Deputy of British Jews, which unfortunately his poor connection prevented him from gaining meaningful access to.

The Chair reported that a young film producer in his church had developed a narrative retelling parables that Jesus told. The first parable he developed was the parable of the Good Samaritan but he had secured funding for a further six and also for a film which will be on cinema release around the middle of May, opening in Leicester Square. He advised that American distributors had seen the promo and arranged for him to visit them, boding that success may beckon.

He advised that the filmmaker was also compiling a resource for schools which he would share in due course.

Denise questioned if it was Christocentric or whether it could be used more widely in RE lessons.

The Chair replied that the filmmaker had tried to make it as accessible as possible, and that the filmmaker would be happy to attend a SACRE meeting to present the project.

He volunteered to circulate a link for the film promo.

#### **11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 28 JUNE (EMMANUEL CHURCH, LEE)**

The Chair advised that he had been gifted a surprise holiday abroad whose timing coincided with the next meeting, allowing the committee to use the Church in his absence.

Denise suggested that the in-person meeting be postponed given its secondary purpose of also celebrating those who have recently left.

She proposed that the next meeting be a virtual meeting which Shaun would be asked to chair, with the in-person meeting moved to September.

She requested that Nick provide a substitute.

Denise advised that she had circulated a link of NASACRE training, one of which was targeted at new members. These are free to attend as the committee has paid its annual subscription. She committed to update the list as she was informed of new dates.

At 7.55pm the meeting ended.