

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

Minutes of the Lewisham SACRE meeting

which was open to the press and public and was held on
Wednesday 28 September 2022
At Emmanuel Church, Lee

These minutes were approved by the SACRE/ ASC on: 14 November 2022

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	Mukunthan Sathasiva Sharma	Ap
A	Hinduism	Vacant	
A	Hinduism	Vallipuram Bala	y
A	Humanism	Jennifer Sutherland	y
A	Humanism	John Turner	y
A	Independent Evangelical	vacant	
A	Islam	Ms Aisha Lodhi	Ap
A	Islam	Imam Ashraf	y
A	Islam	Imam Sabir	y
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	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 Secondary teacher	Samantha Alder	Ap
B	The Church of England Governor	Vacant	
C	Academy/Free School	Vacant	
C	Lewisham Headteachers & Deputies	Vacant	
C	Lewisham headteachers and deputies	Vacant	i

C	NAS/UWT	Korkor Burnett	Ap
C	NAS/UWT	Mandy Keeble	y
C	NEU	Andrea Kelly	Ap
C	NEU	Kim Griffiths	
C	NEU Chair ASC	Kim Knappett	y
D	Director of Education	Angela Scattergood	y
D	LA members	Cllr Jacq Paschoud	
D	LA members	Cllr Liz Johnston-Franklin	Ap
D	School Governors (Primary)	Caroline O Kalu	Ap
D	School Governors (Secondary)	Vacant	
D	LA members	Cllr Aliya Sheikh	y
OTHER	Primary teacher	Judith Nweze	
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	
OTHER	Substitute for Angela Scattergood	Ruth Griffiths	

The meeting begun at 7.05pm.

1 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

1A MEMBERSHIP UPDATE - WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Everyone introduced themselves.

1B GREETING MEMBERS WHO ARE LEAVING/HAVE LEFT DURING THE PAST YEAR

The Chair reported that he'd been in contact with Raymond Singh who was making an attempt to attend by may be later. The intention was to thank him for his two decades of service to the committee.

1C REMEMBERING DINAH GRIFFITHS

Denise recalled how as the Assistant Director of Education at Lewisham, Dinah had interviewed her, before taking on the role of SACRE chair. She recounted that two operations following a bad fall had triggered dementia, which eventually saw her transferred to a care home. She was a humanist and a friend of SACRE and faith communities.

Shaun recalled how Dinah sat on the SACRE from its beginning in 1990. She cared about the role, serving not only as a bridge between the committee and the Local Authority but as an ambassador for the SACRE, Faith communities and Religious Education. She was particularly welcoming, and organised effectively. She had a lovely sense of humour and genuinely cared about children getting quality RE education. Much of her work was 'behind the camera' but she has left a significant legacy.

Kim Knappett reported how her husband, Joe, who also had been a clerk to Lewisham SACRE, had two enduring memories of her; her excitement at first getting her shopping delivered and her commitment to faith communities and SEN families, all of whom living within the borough she gave the appearance of personally knowing.

Bala recounted how he had joined SACRE in 1990. Dinah would attend most of the Tamil celebrations, also having personal involvement in the community's Temple planning application and on one occasion meeting with the then Mayor of Lewisham, Steve Bullock and the Tamil community up until 11pm. She smiled freely and was happy spending time conversing with children. He circulated photos of Dinah.

Denise added how much Dinah enjoyed visiting the Kovil and attending the Peace Walks.

Gerald Rose recalled how despite suffering with a back injury at the time of one meeting, Dinah's commitment to attending meetings was such that a mobile phone was placed in the middle of the meeting space to allow her to voice call in and be heard.

Denise said Dinah was caring, straightforward and powerful, and was someone who mattered for the difference she achieved. Karen commented that the word 'service' used for the Queen was apt for Dinah as well, commenting on how much she gave.

Denise recalled how Shakeel looked after Dinah throughout Gurbkhash's funeral, at which point her dementia had set in. She requested that the Muslim representatives thank Shakeel for his kind actions.

Monsignor Rathon recalled Dinah's wit when responding to councillors.

The Chair recounted how Dinah had recruited him and was both compelling and, after he started with a degree of diffidence, very welcoming, naturally assuming that he'd do well.

Denise thanked Angela for notifying schools, particularly in the current environment where one's impact or legacy can very easily be overlooked.

Shaun suggested that her impact be mentioned specifically in the annual report.

2A APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These are indicated in the register above.

Denise reported that Cllr Hilary Moore was unable to come due to an accident which had left her with limited mobility but that she had been officially replaced by Cllr Aliyah Sheikh.

In response to Layo's suggestion that a card be sent to her, Denise committed to send an e-card to both Cllr Moore and Raymond.

Members were reminded to contact Denise or send an alternative if unable to make meetings.

2B CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF ITEMS FOR THE MEETING

The order of items as circulated was agreed by all.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SACRE MEETING HELD IN JUNE 2022 ON ZOOM

These were agreed by the committee as accurate.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

4A EDUCATION WHITE PAPER

Denise expressed uncertainty with the direction government would take with regard to this paper, in light of the changed priorities and also with regard to budgetary decisions. Charles Clarke, patron of NASACRE, had advised SACREs to wait and see. She advised that if there were any significant changes before the next meeting an emergency one-item meeting would be convened.

Angela remarked that the current Education Secretary was the year's fifth post-holder. There was little appetite for academisation and she wasn't aware of local schools making plans for this. She considered it a good time for the authority to make known its position. She reminded members that the original bill required schools to have a plan for academisation by 2030.

Kim commented how one headteacher she had spoken to had intended to decide at the last minute before the deadline what actions their school would take in light of this requirement.

Shaun reiterated Angela's view that equity was the road to excellence and advised that schools keep calm and carry on.

Angela suggested this be tabled for discussion in the next meeting.

5 SACRE MONITORING USING THE WEBSITE TRAWL PROCESS – PROGRESS UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF PROCESS

Denise reported that this exercise had been completed for all but seven schools, and that she had employed a traffic light system. Green signified good performance, and school representatives may be invited to SACRE to share their good practice. Amber represented a small number of issues, while discussions would be had with Angela for schools designated red. She added that some schools were still publishing the old syllabus on their website.

Denise expected that she would have completed the exercise by next meeting and spoken to Angela about next steps.

She expressed how positive the number of schools wanting to engage with visiting places of worship was.

The Chair commented that seeing the range of compliance across websites was a good exercise for him, reminding the committee that part of its responsibility is guiding schools and reviewing the suitability of their signposting.

He recounted that he had heard Janet Daby MP in addressing the House of Commons reminding the House that teaching RE was compulsory in schools.

Angela suggested that a message with a link to the new syllabus be sent to schools using the old syllabus. Denise emphasised the need for School Improvement Partners to support SACRE.

Kim suggested that Janet Daby be invited to a future meeting.

Denise reported that NASACRE was in communication with the Department of Education with regard to how schools publish the rights of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship and RE. The law doesn't specify that this information needs to be published on websites, rather in the prospectus, but it is understood that websites now serve this function.

She added that teachers also have the right to withdraw from teaching RE and sex education to children, although this needn't be included on the website either.

Shaun advised that details of the right for pupils to be withdrawn from RE or collective worship should be in the respective policy as this is a legal requirement.

Gerald reported that the school whose website he had trawled published the curriculum only in relation to the current term.

6 SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS WEBSITE – SACRE'S PRESENCE

Using the projected image of the Services for Schools website, Denise advised where the SACRE content was located including the guidance for visits, 'There and back again'.

Teaching standards within the 'Subject management' area are RE specific.

She emphasised that this is where documents from the RE Quality Mark website, the website trawl form, Ramadan advice, and meeting minutes are (or will be) located.

The Crises Advice for schools 2022, which was initially drafted following the twin towers tragedy but has since had several refreshes following more recent crises, is located here also.

She suggested that a twilight session would be useful for promoting this.

Angela advised that hits to the site could be monitored.

Denise praised Pippa's assistance in progressing this item.

7 UPDATE OF ADVICE FOR SCHOOLS ON RESPONDING TO CRISES

Denise welcomed comments on this, acknowledging that the death of the Queen was significant for many children.

John proposed including an updated Humanism symbol on the front page. He also suggested the words 'collective worship' carried too limited appeal and could unhelpfully be interpreted exclusively.

He committed to send the current symbol.

Denise suggested that adding that this may be called something else within the school may resolve this.

John proposed that the document reflect the fact that no schools he had encountered on the website trawl had used the word 'collective worship'.

Denise reminded the committee that its responsibility was to promote collective worship.

Shaun suggested that a solution may be the inclusion of an explanatory paragraph under the main title using the legal term.

Shaun added that the link to the online collective worship content should be included also.

Kim suggested changes in the title to 'Collective worship and reflection' (in responding to crises); in acknowledgement that a lot of crises effected more reflection than worship.

Monsignor Rotheron reported that attendees at the recent Children and Young People meeting had looked at responses to the cost of living crises, adding that there were positive actions in responses to this situation across the borough, but adding that this needn't be included in the document.

Angela reported that a document dealing with responding to traumatic incidents authored by the Education Psychology team may have been uploaded to the Services for Schools site; she committed to advise the team of the SACRE document.

Denise noted that one difference between the two documents was that the SACRE document didn't deal with bereavement.

Kim advised that both documents would be mutually complementary.

8 SOUTH LONDON MULTIFAITH AND MULTICULTURAL RESOURCES CENTRE – MOVING THE REMAINING ITEMS STORED NEAR MILLWALL

Denise advised that a summary of the history and current situation of the resource centre had been circulated.

She reported that some members have visited the site and begun sorting the resources, many of which were in a good condition, weeding out the outdated material.

A skip will be positioned on site at Millwall to facilitate this, whose rental will need to coincide with the members' main visit to the site once Angela has decided how this can be funded.

A decision needs to be made on how to move resources to Lewisham and a space will need to be found to accommodate these and at which they can be sorted and made available. She envisaged that this would need to be available for a week with parking space nearby.

Angela emphasised the importance of education checking that the material is up-to-date and appropriate before they are used.

The Chair volunteered to check the viability of using his church, notwithstanding the works current being carried out on it.

9 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AOB

9A NASACRE TRAINING EVENTS

New members to SACRE Training: Denise reported that no-one from Lewisham had attended this event, suggesting that she deliver training for Lewisham attendees, possibly online in January or February. Currently this specific NASACRE training is only held twice a year, after the councillor elections and at the beginning of the school year.

9B OTHER

Angela noted that if a meeting is arranged via Teams, automatic captions can be generated.

Gerald reported that he had attended an online meeting for the launch of 2023 Holocaust Memorial Day Trust resources. The session was recorded and can be accessed via the Trust website. A portrait competition for under 25s was also launched.

The synagogue has a new committee and chairman who, concerned about utility costs, has temporarily suspended schools' visits to the synagogue. Gerald had created a virtual tour during COVID which he is able to utilise, and also has two boxes of resources, but has yet to respond to the many schools who have contacted him with a view to visiting the synagogue.

He reported that he had visited New Woodlands which enabled him to deliver to two classes (whereas only one would have been able to come had the school made the visit instead). He had set up a synagogue in the classroom improvising on some of the resources in the classroom with female members sitting behind the curtain.

He added that he had been made a life warden at the synagogue but was no longer a key holder.

Denise and Shaun expressed their disappointment at the temporary suspension of school visits. Shaun questioned if the Diocese and SACRE writing to the Chairman may effect a more favourable decision. SACRE agreed to write to Eddie Arran, the new Chairman.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2022 – ON ZOOM AT 6.30PM.

At 8.25 the meeting finished.