

## LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

### Minutes of the Lewisham SACRE and ASC meeting

which was open to the press and public and was held on  
Wednesday 22 April 2021

On Zoom

**These minutes were approved by the SACRE/ ASC on: 29/06/2021**

GROUP	REPRESENTING	NAME	PRES
A	Baha'i	Afonso Veiga	✓
A	Buddhism	David Hutchens	✓
A	Free Church A o G	Pastor Nick Hughes (SACRE Chair)	APOL
A	Free Church	Leanne Rudder (substitute)	
A	Free Church (Baptist)	(Vacant)	
A	Free Churches (URC)	Rev Raymond Singh	
A	Hinduism	Vallipuram Bala	✓
A	Hinduism	Narmadha Saravanan	
A	Hinduism	Mrs Sriskandarajah	
A	Humanism	Jennifer Sutherland	✓
A	Humanism	John Turner	✓
A	Independent Evangelical	Nigel Desborough	
A	Independent Evangelical	Ray Brown (substitute)	
A	Islam	Imam Sabir	✓
A	Islam	Imam Ashraf	✓
A	Islam	Ms Aisha Lodhi	Apol
A	Islam	Imam Shakeel Begg	
A	Judaism	Gerald Rose	✓
A	Judaism	Joan Goldberg	✓
A	Judaism	Revd David Rome	✓
A	Pentecostal	Layo Afuape	Apol
A	Pentecostal	Cheryl Abbam (substitute)	✓
A	Roman Catholic	Rt Rev Monsignor Nicholas Rotheron	✓
A	Sikhism	(Vacant)	
B	The CoE - Southwark Diocesan Board of Education	Shaun Burns (SACRE Deputy Chair)	Apol
B	The Church of England - Secondary teacher	Samantha Alder	Apol
B	The Church of England - Primary teacher	Karen Hansen	✓
B	The Church of England - Governor	(Vacant)	
B	The Church of England - Minister	Paul Wynter	
C	NEU	Kim Knappett (ASC Chair)	✓
C	NEU	Kim Griffiths	Apol

C	NEU	Andrea Kelly	✓
C	Academy/Free school	(Vacant)	
C	NAS/UWT	Mandy Keeble	✓
C	Lewisham Headteachers and deputies	VACANT	
D	Local Authority member	Councillor Jacq Paschoud	✓
D	Local Authority member	Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin	✓
D	Local Authority member	Councillor Hilary Moore	✓
D	School Governors - Primary	VACANT	
D	School Governors - Secondary	VACANT	
D	Executive Director of Education	Angela Scattergood	✓
Others	Primary Teacher	Judith Nweze	
	Secondary Teacher	Korkor Burnett	✓
	Rastafarians	(Vacant)	
	Young Mayor Team	c/o Katy Brown	
	PREVENT (Associate for consultation)		
	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 6.30pm. It was chaired by Kim Knappett, Chair of the ASC

### **1a Welcomes and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. She shared the apologies of Nick Hughes and Shaun Burns and explained that she would chair the whole meeting.

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

These are noted on page 1. David H advised that he needed to leave at 7.15pm.

The Chair briefly explained the four groups structure of SACRE for new members, advising that the SACRE was only quorate when a member from each group was present.

## **2 Minutes of the previous SACRE and ASC joint meeting held 11 February 2021 on Zoom**

David H noted that he should be noted as present for the meeting.

These were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting as Shaun Burns had agreed them prior to the meeting on behalf of Group B.

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

### **3c SACRE Annual Report 2020 (Sent to members following the previous meeting)**

Cllr Liz Johnston-Franklin reported that she considered the report well written, in-depth and very positive. She advised that she had passed it onto the council member for Children and Young People for distribution, confirming that this was usually presented to the Council annually.

Cllr Hilary Moore echoed this commendation.

Denise informed members that it had been uploaded to the Lewisham website SACRE page and conforms to the Council's accessibility rules. She encouraged members to ensure that their community groups have access to the report. The Chair noted how well it reflected the SACRE's transition from face-to-face meetings to Zoom.

Cllr Liz reported that Malcolm Ball who was a contact for the Young Mayor's team had sadly passed away from a non-Covid related illness about a month ago.

The Chair suggested that the officers write to his colleague, Katy Brown, to pass on the committees' condolences.

### **3a SACRE on the Lewisham Website**

Denise advised that, links to both the Agreed Syllabus and 2021 Ramadan advice had been placed on the council website.

*Karen Hansen joined the meeting at this point.*

### **3b Directory of Places of Worship and Consideration of Application for a NASACRE/Westhill Award 2022.**

Denise outlined why the SACRE/ASC might want to apply for this award next year to provide funding for our video project and it was agreed to discuss the application at a future meeting.

Alfonso advised that he was happy to some video editing of faith communities' submissions, although his standard was not advanced. He advised that he knew professionals who would be willing to do this if a higher standard was required but that they would charge.

The Chair hoped to attend a session run by a group who had won the award in the past at the NASACRE conference and would report back.

Andrea recommended the Holy Cribs videos which, although not providing information at a local level, she felt were a good resource. The Chair suggested that links to the videos be put into the syllabus on the website.

*Korkor Burnett joined the meeting at this point.*

## **4 NASACRE Conference and AGM 2021 – 24 May 2021**

The Chair introduced this event, explaining yhat Lewisham SACRE could send a maximum of four delegates. Denise would already be attending the event as a speaker and Executive member.

Denise informed the council that she edited the NASACRE briefing which had been circulated as part of her role on the Executive and that she was re-standing for election.

The Chair advised that both she and Nick would like to attend. Jennifer also expressed interest in attending.

The Chair invited members and particularly RE teachers to let Denise know if they were interesting in attending in the next two weeks. The SACRE will pay attendance fees and the agenda and workshop details had already been circulated.

Denise added that this was good INSET for teachers, covering latest research, HMI and world views. She reminded attendees that it would be conducted via Zoom.

Korkor advised that due to the timing coinciding with the secondary assessment dates it would make it difficult for Secondary school teachers to attend.

The committee agreed for Nick, Kim and Jennifer to attend the conference with another vacancy that could be filled by someone expressing an interest in the next 2 weeks.<sup>4</sup>

## **5. SACRE RE tool**

Denise explained that she is part of a NASACRE Development Group looking at the RE tool and that although the documents will be revised so that it fits more explicitly into the annual report framework and follows more of a logical sequence that any work that we did on this would not be wasted and could be reordered into the revised format.

She prompted the council to consider what it is good at, what barriers it faces and how these barriers can be overcome.

Details of the discussion:

### **1a RE Provision Across the LA.**

- Possibly *developing*, partly due to COVID although had been *established* in the past.
- “*Developing with a bit of Established*” as there are a core of schools that do deliver.
- Prior to the launch of the new syllabus *established* but hasn’t been since.
- The SACRE had received regular reports from individual schools in the past, signifying an *established* rating. In the past year, no information has been forthcoming.
- There has been a recent decline in GCSE RE entries.

It was agreed that with regards to the statement we were ***established***

Denise suggested that the SACRE carry out an audit of RE on School websites in the Autumn term to help inform SACRE what is being offered across Lewisham and to form a list of schools that can be contacted to commend their work and another of those that indicate issues that might be of concern to discuss a way to help them with Angela.

Cllr Hilary Moore proposed that the SACRE includes a statement to account for the impact of COVID on its performance of these activities

### **1b Standards of Achievement and Public Examination Entries**

- The indicators in the evidence box appeared not to align with the *established* rating.
- The impact of COVID means that the SACRE is unaware of what is happening in terms of teacher assessments; we have consciously decided to not burden schools by enquiring about it until the start of the next academic year.
- In the past we have been at least *established* and, on occasion, *advanced*.
- Teachers on the SACRE confirmed that they were appreciative of the lack of enquiries during the period of COVID challenges.

It was agreed that with regards to the statement we were **developing** and were clear as to the steps required to get to **established**.

### **1c Quality of Learning and Teaching**

- *Established*, as we have access to professional support from both Denise and teachers in the borough.
- The Self Evaluation Forms should include RE but probably not as a separate section

It was agreed that with regards to the statement we were **established**

The SACRE had obtained good quality information from the teachers who had attended the meeting at the Hindu Temple.

### **1d Quality of Leadership and Management, including the provision of and management of resources.**

- The SACRE has some knowledge and is aware of issues about the availability of resources.
- The website review would provide information to start conversations with schools.
- The SACRE have no control over the designation of RE leads in schools.
- Some schools put information behind passwords when it should be public.

It was agreed that with regards to the statement we were **developing**.

### **1e Recruitment and Retention of Skilled Specialist Staff**

- Several of the SACRE vacancies had been long term but we had been successful in recruiting a number of members
- It was suggested that we alert schools in the summer term that we would be looking at their websites.

It was agreed that with regards to the statement we were **developing**.

### **1f Relations with Academies and Other Non-LA Maintained Schools**

- The use of the word 'haphazard' in the descriptions is not helpful as it implies a lack of interest rather than underachieving. On this basis, she considered that this rating didn't apply to the committee.
- Denise will feed this back to NASACRE as it refers to LA's with a larger proportion of academies.
- Academies cooperate and SACRE will keep this under review.

It was agreed that with regards to the statement we were well on the way to **established**.

It was agreed to only complete section 1 at this meeting and to return to Section 2 at a future meeting possibly using Breakout rooms.

Mandy Keeble joined the meeting during the discussion.

## **6 Worldview Journeys**

Denise has circulated the Theos report and there are workshops at the NASACRE conference on worldviews. The SACRE members need to upskill to enable us to have an informed discussion. Hopefully delegates will attend the sessions as Trever Cooling and Ruth Flanagan would present differing perspectives. Once the SACRE has a clear view on Worldview Journeys it will need to see how it fits with the Syllabus.

David Rome reported that he'd found it interesting and refreshing, mentioning a saying of his Grandfather that "there were no answers". He expressed his concerns that focussing on the

main religions alone missed out so much and emphasised the importance of children understanding this subject.

Korkor reported that she had attended the Strictly RE conference, which had emphasised the need for a multidisciplinary approach to the subject. It needs to be dealt a range of approaches and that essentialism was considered relevant.

The Chair reported that the ASC had considered this in the new syllabus, with a focus on thinking rather than merely learning, and in particular starting to think about some of the questions that there were no definitive answers for. Information on meta-faith activities had been publicised that day, and she encouraged SACRE members to have a look at the website, noting that some of the content could be added to the syllabus.

Denise noted that some people of faith may feel threatened that themes such as philosophy and non-religious perspectives such as Humanism would replace the religious element of RE. and suggested that these people would need to overcome this to become more informed about these themes.

David commended the fact that the subject leaves an open door.

Andrea commented that in RE teaching, children will be excluded if only those with faith are focussed on. She added that in her school, only ten students opted to study RE this year, one of whom was an outspoken atheist.

The Chair encouraged the committee to go away and read the documents as well as the KS3 syllabus to enable a further discussion on it.
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## **7 Membership update**

The Chair reported that the Executive members has discussed and she commended the work that Denise unremittingly does behind the scenes in trying to engage members, and expressed her welcome to the new attendees.

Cllr Jacq Paschoud queried if there was any progress on getting a Sikh representative Denise reported that she had contacted Lord Singh, that Greenwich had also been unsuccessful and that the absence of a gurdwara in Lambeth had also led to a gap. She explained that the challenge was identifying prospective members of the Sikh community with a sponsoring body. Gerald suggested that a representative from Bexley may be approached to represent Lewisham, but Denise reminded him that they must live or work in Lewisham to be considered and that a Sikh teacher would be a useful addition to the SACRE.

The Chair added that there were still recruiting challenges with groups who did have established bases in the community, such as the Baptists.

The Chair encouraged all to contact her, Denise, or Nick if they have any contacts to fill any of the vacancies.
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## **8 Information Exchange and AOB**

Denise enquired about the Peace Walk. The Chair advised that Peter Farley-Moore had relocated to the North and that a group had been looking at this prior to the Government

roadmap being communicated which had made it unlikely to happen this year. Gerald offered to find out from Joe Burchill who is on the organising committee.

The Chair advised that the Lewisham Interfaith Forum (LIF) has met regularly since COVID measures were introduced as they have been asked to facilitate meetings, support pop-up vaccination facilities and communications with people resistant to vaccinations. The Islamic and black/Afro-Caribbean communities have been involved. The focus has been on COVID and recovery from such rather than other outward facing matters.

The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting and suggested that next meeting would probably be via Zoom at the end of June. She explained the committee's attempt, ordinarily, to vary where meetings are held.

Denise reminded all to think about whether they wanted to attend the NASACRE conference and to get in touch
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The meeting ended at 8pm