

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

Minutes of the Lewisham SACRE and ASC meeting

which was open to the press and public and was held on
Thursday 11 February 2021

On Zoom

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

GROUP	REPRESENTING	NAME	PRESENT
A	Baha'i	Afonso Veiga	
A	Buddhism	David Hutchens	✓
A	Free Church A o G	Pastor Nick Hughes (SACRE Chair)	✓
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	VACANT	
A	Independent Evangelical	Nigel Desborough	
A	Independent Evangelical	Ray Brown (substitute)	
A	Islam	Imam Sabir	✓ (LATE)
A	Islam	Aisha Lodhi	
A	Islam	Imam Ashraf	
A	Judaism	Gerald Rose	✓
A	Judaism	Joan Goldberg	✓
A	Pentecostal	Layo Segun	Late apologies
A	Pentecostal	Cheryl Abbam (substitute)	
A	Roman Catholic	Rt Rev Monsignor Nicholas Rothon	✓
A	Sikhism	(Vacant)	
B	The CoE - Southwark Diocesan Board of Education	Shaun Burns (SACRE Deputy Chair)	✓
B	The Church of England - Secondary teacher	Samantha Alder	✓
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	✓
C	Academy/Free school	(Vacant)	
C	NEU	(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	Isaac Sackey	
D	School Governors - Secondary	Adelere Adedeji	
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 and Malcolm Ball	
	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.

1a Welcomes and introductions

Kim welcomed all to the meeting and summarised the required Zoom etiquette. She advised that she would chair the meeting as the SACRE Chair was recovering from a COVID infection.

She advised that she would defer the introductions until all expected attendees had arrived.

1b Apologies for absence

These are noted on page 1.

In addition, Cllrs Liz Johnston – Franklin and Hilary Moore advised they needed to leave at 7.25 to attend another meeting.

1c Confirmation of order of items for the meeting

The circulated order of items for the meeting was accepted.

2 Minutes of the previous SACRE and ASC joint meeting held on 23 November 2020 on Zoom

Korkor advised the correct spelling of her name.

Shaun suggested changes to the third paragraph of point 7 to read: -

“Shaun elaborated that both projects had been Westhill / NASACRE awards, for which NASACRE had invited SACREs to apply. Lambeth had successfully bid for its faith trails while Cumbria had been successful in its exploration of RE through its textual ‘treasures.’”;

The fourth paragraph of point 7 to read: -

“Nick thanked Denise, Shaun and Joan for attending and Joan reported that she’d found it interesting also and that the project had sounded exciting.”;

and the 17th paragraph of point 9 to read: -

“He proposed that Christmas, in terms of what it’s really about, wasn’t cancelled, but ~~what~~ the church was exploring the questions of how to carry out the basics of worshipping together this year.”

all of which were accepted (and subsequently applied).

Otherwise these were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 Membership update

It was announced 2 new Muslim representatives had been nominated,

This was covered in the introductions.

4 Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda

4A SACRE SELF-EVALUATION TOOL

(This was deferred until after 4C)

The Chair reported that this had been sent out with papers for the meeting incorporating changes made at the last meeting. She reported that this would be progressed in the next meeting. Specifically, the plan is to look at Sections 4 and 5 in the next meeting; the Chair encouraged members to look at these sections in advance.

She advised that Sections 1 and 2 would be looked at again when normality was resumed in schools and the progress of implementing the Agreed Syllabus could be a viable discussion with schools.

4B WEBSITE

(This was deferred until after 4A)

Denise reported that she had discussed having links to some of the films on the website.

She advised that the Temple's Chariot Vimeo video was too big to circulate, but that she would find out if the website was able to host this and how it could be linked to other bits of film, acknowledging that not having the film was likely to make this harder.

She reported that some RE leaders had been in touch with her following the recent communication in the Schools Mailing, adding that secondary teachers were the main subject of her concerns given the disruption to secondary schools for a second year. She thanked Sam for her contribution.

4C UPDATING THE DIRECTORY OF PLACES OF WORSHIP

(This was deferred until after 4E)

The Chair reported that this was on her to-do list for half term and encouraged members to send any content to herself or Denise. She committed to add an update date to each section.

4D VIRTUAL 'TOURS' OF LOCAL FAITH VENUES

Nick advised that he was still engaged in curating the videos from his church and would complete this as soon as possible.

The Chair reminded the committee to encourage any contacts within places of worship to submit videos (even if they are short) to Denise. She also advised members to refer on to Denise anyone from the respective faith communities who would be willing to lead a class Teams or Zoom session.

Denise advised that these personnel would still need to be DBS checked.

Gerald reported that he had conducted virtual sessions for two schools, one in Bromley and a second in Ilford (three classes) who contacted him after engaging with the Jewish community. He added that he would also be happy to facilitate sessions around the Holocaust and could present in an assembly or a virtual tour scenario.

The Chair commented that this will be a key way in which classes will learn about such RE content.

Denise committed to submit this invitation for posting in the Schools Mailing for the summer term.

Gerald invited committee members to recommend this service to other schools also.

Joan, too, expressed her willingness to deliver this.

In response to a question from Denise, Gerald advised that the virtual tour he had produced wasn't publically available online for security reasons, adding that there was archival material but that this wasn't local.

The Chair summarised that anyone who wanted a virtual tour of the synagogue would therefore need to contact Gerald.

The Chair encouraged the committee to contact Denise if they required help with videoing.

4E HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY (HMD) IN LEWISHAM

Joan reported that, contrary to her previous report, the event moved to being fully pre-recorded. It went well, a huge amount of work had gone into it, and it followed a very clear theme.

Denise said that she had found it incredibly moving, although subtitles for the children's element would have helped. She added that the singing by the gay man was beautiful although the filming was juddery.

Gerald advised that the video was on the council's website.

Shaun commended the Jewish members for it; remarking that he found it reflective, deep and poignant. He surmised that its format may have led to its being accessed by more people, with the Chair adding that this enabled her to watch it after the event.

Cllr Jacq commented that she found the representation of the different communities really positive, adding that the HMD backdrop was used for a council meeting.

Cllr Liz remarked that she too, as well as her granddaughters who watched it with her, found it very moving, commending the local authority as one of the few that does so much work with its communities.

The Chair hoped that more people would access the video, and offered to highlight it to schools to watch.

4G FEEDBACK FROM MEETING BETWEEN ANGELA, KIM AND DENISE

Angela reported that she had spoken to Ruth Halsman (the Communications Lead for Education) about the website, adding that there were new changes to ownership of parts of the website. She added that they had discussed whether content should be on the Council website or the Services to Schools website, and that this would be worth discussing by SACRE. She suggested the page could be linked to on the council website but hosted on Services to Schools.

There was general discussion about these options.

Angela suggested that, there being fewer restrictions on Services to Schools, it would be easier to have videos uploaded this way.

Denise expressed her concerns that the experience of the Fronter platform which schools had committed to using before its collapse and the similar experience (perceived, at least) of LGfL could be repeated with Services for Schools.

The Chair reported that this fate would be less likely with this website, but advised that the committee would work with Angela on this.

Shaun enquired about Cllr Liz's commitment on page 4 of the previous meeting's minutes to ask about Derek. It was reported that George Wakeley is the new Civic and Events Coordinator, and that emails had been exchanged with George committing to invite the SACRE to relevant events.

5 RE Assessment Advice Key Stages 1 and 2

The Chair reported that earlier in the year the SACRE Executive felt there was a need to circulate this guidance to users for them to feedback on. She explained that although most teachers in the first lockdown balanced teaching with other activities, most were teaching the majority of the day in the current lockdown meaning that it's not realistic to expect teachers to look at the guidance, meet with colleagues and submit comments at this present time.

Denise apologised to Kim G for not 'meeting' with her as previously agreed. She further proposed that the report already submitted be worked on, to explain how one school's feedback showed that the guidance could be adapted as needed.

Kim G reported that RE was currently being dropped off the agenda, with maths and English being the priorities. She added that, given the low numbers of children accessing online learning, using this guidance would be difficult.

Shaun suggested that the SACRE executive meet to discuss this.

The Chair added that rolling this out may be one responsibility too many for schools, which would lead to it getting lost.

Karen agreed with Shaun's view. She reported that while RE hadn't been dropped in her school, she was unsure how much of the work submitted by children was their own or, as appeared to be the case in some situations, the work of their parents. She concluded that this wasn't the best time for teachers to engage in this. However, she added that it was a good document.

Mandy reported that RE wasn't currently being taught in her school, although both French and PHSE were.

Sam added that sending this out would unintentionally place it on the backburner, suggesting instead that this be delayed until September when teachers are routinely more enthusiastic. She added that it was a really good document.

Joan reiterated the resistance to it being sent out at this time, based on the work that her grandson was doing.

The Chair proposed that the document be kept to be released in draft form upon request but suggested that next half term those involved in teaching primary could meet with Denise to review the document.

The committee accepted this proposal.

6 SACRE Annual Report 2020

Nick confirmed that this report was in draft form. He conceded that some of the dates had confused him but invited the committee to feed back.

The Chair commented that, due to COVID, they were not able to report on some of the sections that would otherwise have featured.

She encouraged any members who hadn't read it to do so in the following week.

Shaun thanked Nick for drafting the Chair's introduction and advised the following corrections:

Last paragraph on page 5: should read "another SACRE" rather than two SACREs;"

Specified typo in page 6 Paragraph 2.1.2

Shaun's community should be the same as that on the minutes – The C of E –Southwark Diocesan Board of Education.

The Chair advised that she was unable to remove track changes before the document was sent out.

7 Ramadan Advice 2021

(At this point Imam Sabir joined the meeting.)

The Chair acknowledged the timely arrival of Imam Sabir and asked him to confirm the Ramadan dates.

Sabir confirmed these as the 11th or 12th April, noting that these were stated on page 5.

Denise confirmed that Imam Shakeel had already seen and approved the document.

The Chair requested that the committee submit any comments to Denise by the following Thursday. She added that the advice contained in the document was highly sought after and that she had shared this with others outside of the local authority.

Angela commented that the document didn't mention Covid but that this presented a good opportunity to project a positive message and to consider the impact of the restrictions on the process.

Sabir commented that the situation was the same as last year.

The Chair suggested that a couple of sentences could be added accounting for the uncertainty of the situation.

Gerald noted that the guidance appeared to assume that children will be in school; and suggested it be changed in view of this.

Denise explained that the document was directed at children who are in school, and that she didn't want to labour the point. She noted the two experiences that children may have but suggested that too long a document would render it not as useful.

The Chair requested that Sabir review it and let Denise know of any changes by next Thursday.

Jacq suggested that the document acknowledge that no one knows what conditions will be like in the following year and that, with this being a different year to the norm, extra flex would be required, elaborating on the point that Angela had made.

The Chair reminded the committee that the document was reviewed and reissued every year and that the year to which it applies is displayed on the front of the document.

The Chair invited members to let Denise know if they wanted a copy of the NASACRE handbook and, for the purpose of the new member explained the four-group system.

Everyone introduced themselves.

The Chair commended Angela on enabling a positive projection of the committee's profile in the borough and also thanked Korkor for her attendance at the meeting.

8 Information Exchange and AOB

The Chair reported that Denise had sent out information about fundraising Lewisham for IT equipment and requested that members share this with their contacts.

Kim reported that her union had partnered with the Daily Mirror to provide resources using the £1m that reduced travel and subsistence costs due to Covid had enabled them to save. This could be used for items like rulers for children lacking these resources at home.

9 Future meetings

The Chair advised that for the next meeting on Wednesday 21 April members could assume that it will be held via Zoom, even if facilities have opened up by the time.

Gerald advised that the Jewish festival of Purim was on Friday 26 February.

The meeting ended at 7.45pm.