

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

Minutes of the Lewisham SACRE meeting

which was open to the press and public and was held on
Wednesday 28 June 2023

At Emmanuel Church, Lee, London SE12 8RS.

These minutes were approved by the SACRE on: 28 September 2023.

GROUP	REPRESENTING	NAME	PRESENT
A	Baha'i	Afonso Veiga	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	Mukunthan Sathasiva Sharma	
A	Hinduism	Vallipuram Bala	
A	Humanism	Jennifer Sutherland	
A	Humanism	John Turner	y
A	Independent Evangelical	Elizabeth Maxted	Ap
A	Islam	Imam Ashraf	Ap
A	Islam	Imam Sabir	Ap
A	Judaism	Gerald Rose	y
A	Judaism	Joan Goldberg	y
A	Pentecostal Layo's Substitute	Cheryl Abbam	
A	Pentecostal	Layo Segun	Ap
A	Pentecostal Substitute	Br Ogbu Olu	
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	y
B	The Church of England Minister	Paul Wynter	
B	The Church of England Governor	Vacant	
B	The Church of England secondary teacher	Vacant	
C	Academy/Free School	Vacant	
C	Lewisham Headteachers & Deputies	Vacant	
C	Lewisham Headteachers & Deputies	Vacant	
C	NAS/UWT	Korkor Burnett	y
C	NAS/UWT	Mandy Keeble	

C	NEU	Kim Griffiths	y
C	NEU Chair ASC	Kim Knappett	y
C	NEU	Simon Cardy	
D	LA members	Cllr Jacq Paschoud	Ap
D	LA members	Cllr Liz Johnston-Franklin	y
D	LA members	Cllr Aliya Sheikh	y
D	School Governors (Primary)	Caroline O Kalu	
D	School Governors (Secondary)	Vacant	
D	Director of Education	Angela Scattergood	Ap
D	Substitute for Angela Scattergood	Ruth Griffith	y
D	Substitute for Angela Scattergood	Sandra Roberts	
OTHER	Rastafarian (co-optee)	Vacant	
OTHER	Primary teacher	Judith Nweze	
OTHER	Young Mayor Team	Katy Brown	
OTHER	RE School Improvement Officer	Denise Chaplin	y
OTHER	SACRE Clerk	Stephen Sealy	y
OTHER	Young Mayor Team	Nicholas Gunner	y

The meeting began at 6.40pm.

1 WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS.

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Kim K thanked the Chair for the Church's generous food provision.

1A APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These are noted in the above table.

Denise asked how many attendees had received an email direct from her as well as one from the Local Authority; Kim K was one of the few who reported receiving both.

Kim K and Shaun committed to contact Simon Cardy in the eventuality that he hadn't received the meeting papers via either route.

The Chair reported that the committee were still seeking to increase the number of substitutes and requested members let him know of any they identified.

1B CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF ITEMS FOR THE MEETING.

The order of items for the meeting was agreed.

2 Minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held in February 2023 on Zoom.

These were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda.

With regard to the first action of point 3 in the 9 May 2023 meeting minutes, it was agreed that the matter regarding restricted DBS would be taken off the table. Gerald would speak to Ruth directly about this, and the matter would be followed up in a further meeting.

With regard to the action in point 8, (the chariot festival) it was confirmed that no members attended this event. However, the Chair expressed gratitude for the invite.

4 Lewisham SACRE Constitution review

Denise recounted that in the previous meeting, the recent religious demographic census data wasn't considered sufficient to warrant requesting changes to the constitution.

Denise suggested that the Young Mayors be given a proper place in Group D, rather than their current co-optee position.

Ruth noted that, while the involvement of the borough's young people was important, the team's involvement in other commitments may mean their attendance at meetings would be limited.

Nick G committed to speak to Kate about this and then defer the decision to Ruth.

Denise reported that many SACREs had what were known as 'youth SACREs' although technically these were more akin to youth fora.

Ruth suggested the young people themselves express how they'd want to be represented, with Kim K adding that they may prefer to observe meetings before making a decision.

Nicholas G emphasised the importance of how they're approached and also the choice of questions that they're posed.

Kim K suggested, in view of this, that the Young Mayor's Team themselves could decide if a delegated or co-opted place was best suited for them.

Cllr Liz suggested that a statement about meetings online be included to the 'Meetings and meeting frequency' part of the document.

Denise advised that the sentence about the multi-faith centre needed modification given that the centre no longer physically exists.

She reminded the committee of the need to progress the removal of the resources currently stored in a warehouse, the next steps being the hiring of a skip and costing the removal (possibly temporarily to Emmanuel church.)

Shaun advised that the word 'resources' be entered after the word 'centre'.

Denise mentioned the need for volunteers in the summer holidays for at least a day to sort through the resources, adding that a van would also need to be costed to transport the resources to Emmanuel Church where schools will be invited to view and collect them from, on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Kim K suggested that libraries and library co-ordinators in schools should also be appraised of these resources. She said that some items had Dewey system numbering and, in response to a question about targeting larger libraries from Cllr Sheikh, clarified that these were Lewisham resources.

Kim suggested that this item be taken off the table and actioned with a report back on progress at the next meeting. This was agreed.

Kim K, Kim G, Shaun and Karen Hanson all indicated their availability for a few days at the start of the summer holiday.

Cllr Liz-Franklin suggested that when the committee set a date for perusal of materials in Lewisham, including community groups, Lewisham Local the youth service and Youth First are among those invited.

The Chair suggested that the committee aim to have the resources collected by the Autumn half term.

Kim K suggested a 3.30 to 5pm slot with schools targeted for Monday and Tuesday and then the offer extended to others on the following days.

Cllr Sheikh offered to contact the Migration Museum/Lewisham Shopping Centre.

Kim K suggested that Prendergast may select to join SACRE after they've academised.

Denise reminded the committee that meetings were expected to be open to the public. She asked whether a statement should be inserted clarifying that members of the public would be asked to leave when confidential issues are discussed.

Ruth questioned if issues of that level of confidentiality were discussed, to which Denise advised that the actioning of item 7 could well effect this.

Kim added that discussions on dispensation would also be confidential. Ruth advised that Emma would be suitable for drafting suitable text for this.

John asked about the appropriateness of other SACREs asking Group C and D members for their faith backgrounds. Denise replied that asking this reflected a misunderstanding of the reason for these persons' membership.

Shaun advised that this emphasised the importance of SACRE member training.

Denise added that there was no reason why someone with knowledge of a group that they didn't represent couldn't offer useful input however. She expressed interest at the fact that teachers in a different SACRE who had been asked if they had any faith expressed discomfort with the question.

5 Lewisham SACRE's Collective Worship Guidance.

Monsignor Rthon advised that this guidance could not be made mandatory.

John suggested that use of the term 'collective worship' could be suggested as guidance alone considering the fact that schools were not being reprimanded for not using this.

Denise advised there had been several conversations with the DfE both on this matter and about how collective worship is monitored. OfSTED mentions collective worship occasionally, but there are ongoing conversations at that level about producing a document akin to Lewisham's guidance.

She advised that Lewisham's guidance is intended to show how collective worship can have a positive effect in schools.

Kim K suggested a further aim of the guidance was raising its profile and gravitas in schools. Already on a downward spiral prior to Covid, engagement with collective worship dipped through Covid. In Kim's school, pupils are encouraged to reflect on emotive performances etc. but this is sporadic.

Kim suggested that a 10-day deadline be set for committee members to suggest changes to the guidance, after which these can be implemented and the guidance circulated.

Nick suggested that the Young Mayor's Team could be asked for their views on this also.

Kim G highlighted the importance of terminology, suggesting that the terms "collective worship" and "assembly" were interchangeable.

The Chair clarified that the two were not necessarily the same thing.

Cllr Liz-Franklin emphasised the importance of the guidance presenting collective worship positively for children of mixed religions.

John suggested that the term 'inclusive worship' be used and suggested the inclusion of a statement at the outset of the document explaining that this term includes collective worship.

Kim K reminded the committee of its intention when initially drafting the document, namely, supporting children to grow up to be members of society informed about - and therefore more accepting of - the beliefs and practices of others with different beliefs/faiths etc.

6 NASACRE AGM

The Chair proposed that this be deferred until the following meeting.

7 Key Stage 4 Update

There was a need to clarify the process of addressing concerns with the RE provision in secondary schools.

Ruth reported that Giles (School Improvement Consultant), Sandra and Denise had met about this. Giles had been tasked with looking at Secondary Schools' engagement with SACRE advice, but had provisionally reported that "the picture was patchy", with the questions raised similar to those from the primary exercise. Work was ongoing.

When the full report was completed, members would need to resolve how they proceed with their duties as SACRE, and Denise's responsibility as advisor, in respect of secondary schools.

Denise explained the desire to start this process this term in case matters needed to be addressed by September. However, Ruth clarified that the report wouldn't be completed before September.

Kim advised that the backdrop in many secondary schools was of difficulty in finding teachers interested, or qualified, in RE.

It was suggested that a factor in this was the reporting by several schools that Ofsted hadn't undertaken many deep dives in this subject.

Chair suggested that it would be beneficial to raise this in a soft way with schools so that at least it was 'at the back of teacher's minds' when deep dives were conducted.

8 Confirmation of dates for SACRE for the coming year

The following dates were confirmed:

<u>Thursday 28 September 2023</u>	<u>In person</u>
<u>Monday 20 November 2023</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
<u>Thursday 22 February 2024</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
<u>Wednesday 24 April 2024</u>	<u>In person</u>
<u>Tuesday 25 June 2024</u>	<u>In person</u>

It was hoped that the venues of the 'in person' meetings would, respectively, be the Hindu Temple, Islamic Centre and possibly the synagogue.

Denise committed to send these dates to Emma to be added to the Council calendar.

A pre-meeting would be offered for teachers when, and if, the faith venues were confirmed.

9 Information Exchange and AOB

Denise reported that Elizabeth had attended the training for new SACRE members, (which had attracted 62 people from across the country).

21 September is the date of the next (online) training.

Cllr Sheikh reported that she had attended and enjoyed the training.

The Chair reported that an update on Interfaith would be deferred to the next meeting.

Alfonso reported that this would be his last meeting as he was relocating out of the UK. He had notified his representing body of their need to arrange a replacement and they were prioritising this.

He committed to email Denise the contact details of the secretary.

Denise requested that an update on Elizabeth Jenkerson be sought, as she had been poorly.

The meeting ended at 8.10.