

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

Minutes of the Lewisham SACRE meeting

which was open to the press and public and was held on
Tuesday 29 June 2021

On Zoom

These minutes were approved by the SACRE/ ASC on: 21/09/2021

GROUP	REPRESENTING	NAME	PRES
A	Baha'i	Afonso Veiga	✓
A	Buddhism	David Hutchens	✓
A	Free Church A of 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	APOL
A	Hinduism	Narmadha Saravanan	
A	Humanism	Jennifer Sutherland	✓
A	Humanism	John Turner	
A	Independent Evangelical		
A	Islam	Imam Sabir	
A	Islam	Imam Ashraf	
A	Islam	Ms Aisha Lodhi	
A	Judaism	Gerald Rose	✓
A	Judaism	Joan Goldberg	✓
A	Pentecostal	Layo Afuape	Apol
A	Pentecostal	Cheryl Abbam (substitute)	✓
A	Roman Catholic	Rt Rev Monsignor Nicholas Rotheron	APOL
A	Sikhism	(Vacant)	
B	The C of E - 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 (Lay)	Paul Wynter	
C	NEU	Kim Knappett (ASC Chair)	✓
C	NEU	Kim Griffiths	✓
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	APOL
D	Local Authority member	Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin	✓
D	Local Authority member	Councillor Hilary Moore	APOL
D	School Governors - Primary	Caroline Kalu	
D	School Governors - Secondary	VACANT	
D	Executive Director of Education	Angela Scattergood	APOL
D	Deputising for Exec Dir of Education	Ruth Griffith	✓
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 6.35pm. It was chaired by Shaun Burns, Deputy Chair of SACRE.

1a Welcomes and Introductions

Shaun welcomed all to the meeting and informed the committee that he would be chairing the meeting as Nick was unable to attend. He reminded the committee of Zoom protocols.

1b Apologies for absence and membership update

Apologies for attendance are noted on page 1.

Denise reported that she had written to members who hadn't attended in a while. She informed the committee that the post Nigel Desborough held was now vacant. She has approached the Free Church nominating body with a view to filling this vacancy. Also, Caroline Kalu (a new school Governor) will be starting, to fill the Primary School governor role.

Denise assured the committee that she was actively progressing membership issues and attendance.

The Chair express his pleasure that the LA Councillors had been reaffirmed in their roles for another year. He briefly explained the significance of the four groups for the new attendees.

1c Confirmation of order of items for the meeting

The committee confirmed that they were happy with this.

2 Minutes of the previous SACRE and ASC joint meeting held in April 2021 on Zoom. (Led by Kim, the Chair of the ASC who had chaired that meeting)

Gerald questioned whether the content of 1e was in the correct section in response to which Kim explained that it was. Everyone confirmed the accuracy of the minutes.

3 Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda

3A SELF EVALUATION TOOL

Denise explained that NASACRE were revising this outdated tool, and that the committee should therefore suspend its evaluation until the next meeting.

The Chair suggested that an update should be provided of the point which the committee had reached using the old form.

4 NASACRE AGM feedback

4A SHAUN

The Chair advised that although he had attended the NASACRE Conference & AGM, he was officially representing another SACRE there. However he was, of course, happy to share his feedback with Lewisham SACRE as well. Nick had also been in attendance.

He reported that two of the workshops he had attended had been about the two SACREs who had previously secured NASACRE/ Westhill funding, namely the Pan Berkshire group whose project was called 'Real People, Real Faith' and the Bath and NE Somerset group whose 'RE Live' featured example lesson plans using Big Ideas for RE. The Big Ideas concept was first used for science and had been adapted for RE. There are six themes, around which the lessons plans are devised. One was around continuity, change and diversity and highlighted the positive and negative effects of lockdown. Details of both of the workshops are available on the NASACRE website. <https://www.nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2021/2021-papers-and-materials>

4B KIM

Kim reported that she had found the Pan Berkshire workshop the most useful although the whole day was very interesting and packed with content.

She explained the Pan Berkshire group is a number of unitary authorities working together who, prior to lockdown, had intended to visit places of worship but after lockdown was initiated had produced videos in which key questions were answered through videoing personnel from differing faith communities.

Although the quality of the videos was variable, she reported that these videos were accessible to all. Kim suggested that the committee made a booklet of useful weblinks.

She also suggested that the committee apply for a grant themselves, which would be used for the videos for places of worship.

She expressed her concern that while making a video was neither particularly difficult nor expensive, making it accessible enough to be posted on Lewisham's website was the challenge. She commented that teachers were desperate for more content on, or linked to, the website, but that this would require subtitles and audio descriptions to be added in line with Lewisham's requirements.

She suggested also that the SACRE discuss its funding with the LA in view of the raft of good ideas that were before them.

The Chair added that the accessibility costs would need to be included in any request for funding to develop the needed pool of quality resources.

Cllr Franklin-Johnston committed to find out if any accessibility funding was available.
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The Chair suggested that feeding into Lewisham's year as London Borough of Culture 2022 may be another means of attracting funding.

4C JENNIFER

Jennifer reported that she had attended two workshops around worldviews. Trevor Cooling, outgoing Chair of the RE Council, had spoken about the paradigm shift from world religions to worldviews. He spoke about the teaching of religions in separate boxes jostling for space on the curriculum, which OfSTED had affirmed, further making the point that breadth was no guarantee of high quality.

Trevor had contrasted this with a worldviews approach, in which the significance was placed on how children interpret and consider information rather than just being imparted knowledge. Jennifer expressed a favourable reaction to this change.

Denise reported that she had asked Jennifer and Korkor to provide examples of how this could be applied to the Lewisham syllabus, noting that much of this was being done already. She added that the concept of worldviews is slightly contentious within the RE community who are nervous about the possible name change and what would be excluded and included.

The Chair emphasised the importance of the committee engaging to enable it to decide what lens Lewisham looks at this through.

Denise Cush was a key note speaker and had spoken about 'Sources of Authority in Religions/worldviews and Religious Education.'

Richard Kueh (the New RE HMI) had also been in attendance and had spoken about RE and the Quality of Education in the Education Inspection Framework.'

The Chair reminded the committee that all of the resources were on the NASACRE website (link above).

4D DENISE – WORKSHOP POWERPOINT

Denise reported that she had led a workshop at the conference explaining NASACRE work on reviewing the SACRE Annual Report framework. She explained that currently SACREs have different approaches to the annual statutory report, with many using different versions based on their own preferences.

She reported that there had been a discussion with the DfE about conducting an analysis of the annual reports which had led to the NASACRE seeking to standardise the framework to enable someone to be commissioned to carry out this analysis which would be summarised in a report. Each SACRE would then be enabled to compare their performance with the big picture.

The workshop was led by five colleagues, and the strong link that NASACRE now has with the Department was explained. She acknowledged that this piece of work was owned by NASACRE and that they needed to move forward with it, adding that meeting both the immediate needs and strategic ones were important.

She reported that high quality feedback was obtained from attendees which would help complete the work

She summarised the PowerPoint presentation (which was presented on her shared screen) and explained that on the day the workshop facilitators discussed the contents of the presentation alongside the framework, which enabled them to flesh out what the headings meant.

She reported that, as of today, there was a new SACRE annual report framework and that a job specification and contract would be distributed to procure someone to carry out the analysis. The plan is that as many SACREs as possible would use the new framework to complete their annual report.

The Chair added that the annual report serves as an important document in publicising the role that the SACRE plays as part of the Local Authority and in the local community.

(At this point Karen left the meeting, due to another commitment)

The Chair reported that, at the NASACRE AGM, Denise had been re-elected as an executive member to NASACRE, acknowledging the magnitude of the work that this entailed. On behalf of Lewisham SACRE who had nominated Denise for this position, he expressed congratulations and pleasure that Denise was representing Lewisham in this way and sharing her expertise.

Gerald reported that he had produced a video of the synagogue tour which he uses when he presents or delivers a lesson on Judaism, but which isn't posted online. He added that he would be shortly using this at a school. As there would be no need for the video to be subtitled, he expressed some confusion over the need for virtual tours to be subtitled on the Lewisham website.

The Chair explained that it was the posting to Lewisham's official website that necessitated the subtitling to maximise its accessibility for the local communities.

Kim added that schools would be expected to make provision for their students in real life visits.

Andrea commented that she frequently used resources in her classroom that weren't accessible to all as there was no need in the class that she was teaching for them to be. She questioned whether virtual tours could be shared without being uploaded to the Lewisham website. Kim responded that there was nowhere else to host these, adding that the alternative of e-mailing documents out was a time consuming one.

The Chair commented that videos made by faith communities could be hosted on their own websites without the need to adhere to the council's communication requirements.

Sam added that the value of subtitles extended to the EAL community. She suggested a Dropbox or Googlebox be set up for teacher themselves to populate as this would be easier to arrange.

Denise replied that she didn't know enough about these technologies to progress this.

Denise presented a clip of the Hindu temple video and explained its background.

Afonso commented that YouTube can automatically subtitle video, a greater degree of accuracy being achieved from clearer videos - such as the one that Denise presented - but that this would still leave the need for audio description.

Sam volunteered to assist in setting up a Dropbox.

Kim suggested that a group of teachers would be needed to take responsibility for this storage. She further suggested that this be looked at by both Primary and Secondary groups; she proposed that this be discussed in next week's SACRE Executive meeting.

The Chair commended the suggestion if Denise were introduced on how to access it as there would need to be on-going quality assurance role on the material.

Denise suggested that Alfonso be included also. She commended the film, particularly in light of the value of it being local.

Gerald suggested that in conceptually 'joining the boxes together' either schools could invite several faith representatives to visit together which would enable the similarities between faiths/worldviews to be discussed or these representatives could meet together to discuss these similarities.

Andrea, alongside Kim and Sam, commended this idea, noting also that the Three Faiths Forum (which Denise advised had since changed their name to The Faith & Belief Forum,) specialised in this.

The Chair advised that some SACREs have a physical version of this, by means of forums, which are offered to schools. He suggested that could form the basis of a bid.

Gerald advised that Revd Rome, Imam Shakeel and Rev Pickton had been involved with the Three Faiths Forum in Lewisham, but informed the committee that Revd Rome had resigned his post and would be leaving the Catford and Bromley United Synagogue at the end of the Summer.

The Chair committed to ask Nick to write to Revd Rome on behalf of the committee.

6 Monitoring RE – website trawl (plans)

Denise informed the committee that this had been discussed at the recent Executive meeting and emphasised the importance of supporting school in view of the prospective increase in OfSTED deep dives.

She requested that the teachers pilot the template on their schools, after which this would be rolled out across the committee, after being discussed as an agenda point in the Autumn.

She informed the committee that she had received a significant number of questions this term about the syllabus. She then summarised the template.

The Chair commented that this was one way of the committee monitoring how schools were performing in this respect but stressed the importance of it being presented as a supporting tool.

Denise noted that this would also be useful for academies and free schools who both also had an obligation to deliver RE.

7 Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 – Theme: ‘One Day’

Denise notified the committee that schools would need to be notified of this in the Autumn term.

Gerald noted that he wasn't aware of the dates of the working group meeting, but that the working group had discussed doing something differently for next year.

Denise suggested that after members read the theme paper, they'll be able to discuss how schools link to the event.

The Chair requested that Joan/Gerald report back to the committee on this.

8 Future meetings

8A TRAINING FOR NEW SACRE MEMBERS ON ZOOM – SEPTEMBER

Denise committed to circulate information on this training, but advised that it was open for established members as well as new members and would give members a chance to make acquaintance with members from other SACREs.

16 September is the set date, although she advised that a different date would be considered (in view of the fact that this date coincides with Yom Kippur).

(The next SACRE meeting is on Thursday 30 September 2021)

The meeting ended at 7.45pm.

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A	Hinduism	Narmadha Saravanan	
A	Humanism	Jennifer Sutherland	✓
A	Humanism	John Turner	
A	Independent Evangelical		
A	Islam	Imam Sabir	
A	Islam	Imam Ashraf	
A	Islam	Ms Aisha Lodhi	
A	Islam	Imam Shakeel Begg	
A	Judaism	Gerald Rose	✓
A	Judaism	Joan Goldberg	✓
A	Judaism	Revd David Rome	
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	PREVENT (Associate for consultation)		
	RE School Improvement Officer	Denise Chaplin	✓
	Minuting clerk	Stephen Sealy	✓

The meeting begun at 7.55pm with Kim taking over as the Chair.

1 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous SACRE and ASC joint meeting not on the agenda

(Website and a look at the syllabus online)

Denise demonstrated how to access the SACRE webpages through a search engine.

The Chair encouraged all members to familiarise themselves with the SACRE online content.

2 Updating the Directory of Places of Worship

The Chair introduced the tabling of this agenda point to give members a last chance to offer inclusions to the directory.

She asked that members check that links to their faith group are up-to-date and correct.

3 Understanding Faith and Belief in Lewisham

Denise reported that she had received a request through the mayor's office from a school asking for resources to deliver this unit. She acknowledged that there are gaps in the resources and that the Directory of Places of Worship would also be useful for this unit.

Members were asked to bolster the resources by using their contacts in local places of worship and requesting the list of questions if required.

4 Primary RE reboot and RE Assessment Advice Key Stages 1 and 2 proposal to hold a twilight online meeting in late September / October

Denise reported on the need to have a meeting for Primary RE leads as well as Secondary colleagues to advice on assessment. The document will have to be agreed to enable it to be made available to schools in the autumn term.

She suggested that a working group for secondary teachers would be useful if the appropriate members would help make this happen.

The Chair reported that participants from groups B and C were known but invited those in groups A and D particularly to let her know if they were interested in this, noting the intention to set up the primary meeting early in the Autumn term.

Sam noted the difficulty in assessing at Key Stage 3 with schools approaching this in different ways. She added that schools' assessments are very much dependent on how much time is allocated for the lesson, with OFSTED reporting that this was the weakest part of the subject.

The Chair invited members to send any comments on the document to Denise.

She cautioned teachers who were not holding a TLR for RE not to attend deep dive sessions without members of the SLT present, emphasising the importance of this for Primary schools.

5 Information Exchange and AOB

AK reported that she'd attended the first of a series of three webinars through the National College. She found it engaging and suggested others may do also, noting that the second session would be about deep dives in the subject.

The Chair requested that details be sent to Denise to circulate.

The Chair reported that she had engaged with a Data and RE session organised by NASACRE which she found interesting.

6 Future meeting dates as SACRE

The Chair confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for 30 September 2021.

She invited all members to email Denise, Nick, Shaun or herself with any questions or ideas that they had about the work of the SACRE and ASC going forward.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.