

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

Minutes of the Lewisham SACRE meeting

which was open to the press and public and was held on
Monday 21 November 2022

On Zoom

These minutes were approved by the SACRE/ ASC on: 23 February 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 (Assemblies of God) Substitute | Vacant | |
| A | Free Church (Baptist) | Vacant | |
| A | Free Churches (URC) | Vacant | y |
| A | Hinduism | Mukunthan Sathasiva Sharma | y |
| A | Hinduism | Vallipuram Bala | y |
| A | Humanism | Jennifer Sutherland | y |
| A | Humanism | John Turner | y |
| A | Independent Evangelical | vacant | |
| A | Islam | Ms Aisha Lodhi | |
| A | Islam | Imam Ashraf | y |
| A | Islam | Imam Sabir | y |
| A | Judaism | Gerald Rose | y |
| A | Judaism | Joan Goldberg | y |
| A | Pentecostal Layo's Substitute | Cheryl Abbam | |
| A | Pentecostal | Layo Segun | y |
| A | Pentecostal Substitute | Br 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 | Ap |
| 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 |

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

The meeting begun at 6.05pm.

1 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

1A WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, expressing a particular welcome to Daniel who was observing the meeting.

Sandra committed to confirm whether she would be the regular Director of Education representative or Angela's substitute in future.

1B APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These are indicated in the register above.

1C CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF ITEMS FOR THE MEETING

The order of items as circulated was agreed by all.

2 Minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held on 28 September 2022 at Emmanuel church, Lee

Shaun proposed an amendment to the fourth paragraph on page 5

3 Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda

3A SYNAGOGUE VISITS

Denise reported that she had spoken to Joan early to seek clarity on whether visits to the synagogue would resume when daylight hours had changed and the premises did not require lighting.

Joan responded that she had yet to find out.

Denise and Kim K suggested inviting the Rabbi and the new chairman to SACRE, which Joan committed to mention and feedback to the committee about.

3B SACRE VACANCIES

Denise reported the following vacancies:

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| Christianity | Denise expressed concerns and encouraged all to let her know of prospective members to approach but also to let one's connections know of these vacancies. |
| Baptist | |
| Hinduism | Bala committed to find someone. |
| Independent Evangelical | |
| Sikh | |
| Church of England | There are 2 vacancies; Shaun reported that one prospective member has declined involvement while he is considering a second individual. |
| Academies | Sandra committed to speak to Angela about this |
| Headteacher and Deputies | Sandra questioned if there was mileage in ensuring the committee had school representatives per se rather distinguishing between academy and maintained schools. Denise advised that the value of this distinction lay in there being different rules for academies with regard to teaching RE. |
| NEU | This vacancy has arisen following the departure of Andrea Kelly. Kim to take responsibility |
| Rastafarians | Denise reported that she has requested a report on Lewisham's demographics, which will enable the committee to check that its membership is broadly representative. She suggested that the Rastafarian community had a local base but had since relocated this to Brixton. |
| United Reformed Church | Denise reported her intention to approach these also. |

4 The Education White Paper / School Bill – an update

Denise reminded the committee that this had been carried over from the previous meeting. As patron of NASACRE, Charles Clarke has reported on last week's NASACRE webinar.

She reported that despite the local authority having one of the five lowest sum number of academies in the country, the committee's work would be significantly affected if schools are pressured to academies. She acknowledged the instability cause by the changes of government, in response to which NASACRE has been helping the committee to make sense of the territory.

Denise played the recording of RH Charles Clark's speech the following of which is a summary:

The extreme instability of government has made educational reforms difficult. The White Paper stated the aim of converting schools to academies by 2030. However, the Lords had amended the paper by order of the Secretary of State for Education. It wasn't necessarily safe to assume that the white paper would be the basis for further decisions. The new Education minister is driving technical and skills education, which Charles surmises as the reason she was brought in. It is hard to see how this is realised without a bacallaureate but we don't yet know the government's policy regarding continuing the academisation agenda

The Chancellor has committed to a financial boost for education but this is possibly to relieve tensions in education before a general election which is likely to take place in 2024. Charles does not think, furthermore, that the government will want to make any reforms in the lead up to the election.

Charles suggested that Labour would be more likely to restore the Local Authority role in Primary schools although admitted that a colleague of his contests that Labour's view on this would differ from the Conservative one.

He concluded that SACREs and NASACRE should continue its focus on the quality of RE, looking at RE in the context of worldviews and pushing the needs of RE up the agenda.

There was a detailed discussion with several SACRE members agreeing that the instability of the government meant this was probably not going to be the huge issue it once appeared.

The Chair asked what the sense of the meeting was.

Denise responded that there was anxiety that local authorities would cut back on financing SACREs in LAs with large numbers of academies. Some academies are operating like community schools and committees need to ensure that, if SACREs have to hand their responsibilities over in time, these are handed over in the best health.

Sandra noted that the majority of the Lewisham's's academies are faith schools or, in the case of Sedgehill, have Trusts with a Christian ethos.

The Chair commented that, given the government's focus on ensuring stability, there was unlikely to be much change.

5 SACRE monitoring using the website trawl process – progress update and discussion of process

Denise reported that some members had yet to submit their form. Of the schools whose websites had been trawled she reported that at least four seem to not be teaching the syllabus; she committed to consult with Angela/Sandra on how best to approach these after the school inspections.

6 Websites

6A LEWISHAM COUNCIL WEBSITE

Denise reported that a message had been sent to schools notifying them that the site was now active. Pippa is able to monitor and report on the site's traffic.

6B SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS WEBSITE – SACRE'S PRESENCE UPDATE

Booking events for teachers much be done through the Services for Schools website but as SACRE's webpage has been incomplete, no events have been able to be set up.

However, Denise expressed her intention to hold an event guiding teachers through the subject management materials in the new year.

She reminded committee members that there was a link to the Agreed Syllabus and associated materials on the site.

Sandra commented that she would want to assist in the follow up for this.

Denise reported that four trawls remained to be completed.

Kim Griffiths asked how the Services for Schools system worked, which Sandra then explained. It was clarified that there was both a governor-focussed and school-focused bulletin circulated weekly.

Kim K expressed her concern that in schools there was no way to know that either bulletin existed, reporting that in her school the personnel with access to the bulletins is limited and most only know about the information that is forwarded onto them. Citing the fact that she'd never been told about either site as a teacher, she voiced the need for the local authority to communicate broadly with teachers to make them aware of it, suggesting hardcopy flyers may also be useful.

Sandra asked if the committee knew who the RE leads were; Denise replied that she had a dated list. She suggested, and Sandra concurred, that Headteachers ensure their staff are aware of the site. Sandra said she would ask them to do so.

Denise requested that Sandra speak to Pippa about this, given the importance of the bulletins as the key channel for communicating with the school.

Kim K added that she doubted that there was a designated person in each school for disseminating this information.

Denise questioned whether School Business Managers could send the RE subject leaders' email addresses to her to enable her to email them directly.

The Chair commented that the increase of deep dives in the future Ofsted inspections would prompt teachers to seek readymade solutions, which the site offers.

Kim G suggested that a member of staff beyond a Head teacher would be the better choice for communicating with given how busy most head teachers are.

SACRE were informed that that the request from Lewisham Governance that SACRE minutes are uploaded to the Council website (rather than just the Services for Schools site) should help to enhance SACRE's role as a Council body. Stephen was going to proceed with this.

Cllr Pashoud suggested that the SACRE meetings should also appear in the Council calendar, which would elevate its status, and added that Emma Ayo Kumi would be able to facilitate this.

7 SACRE annual report – progress and plan

Denise reported that Sandra was attempting to obtain Summer 2022 examination data which will be incorporated in the annual report and tabled as a separate point in the next meeting.

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| Stephen is to send copies of the year's completed minutes to Denise. |
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Sandra reported that the data will be available in around a week's time; she confirmed that SACRE wouldn't be charged for this data which an external company is paid to produce but is subsequently owned by the local authority.

8 South London Multifaith and Multicultural Resources Centre – moving the remaining items stored near Millwall

The Chair reported that the plan to position a skip at the resource centre was still being worked out; the difficulty was securing a commitment from the Council to pay for the skip.

Denise added that Angela had committed to speak to Suhaib about this, and added that personnel need to agree an optimal time when they could attend the site. Items to be disposed of would need to be identified, and the more personnel involved in this activity the better. Cars/minibuses would probably have to be used to transport items; she reported that there were several items of furniture including a large chest, a glass cabinet with double doors, a coffee table and chairs.

Schools could claim these if they arranged to collect them.

She suggested that aiming for the February half term wouldn't permit the committee sufficient time to arrange this. Joan asked what had happened to give this item prominence again, in response to which Denise summarised the status of the resources.

9 Information Exchange and AOB

9A INTER FAITH WEEK – KIM AND OTHERS

Kim K reported that the Lewisham InterFaith forum has fallen into disrepair, having found it difficult to agree dates that sufficient personnel could attend. The Peace Walk was cancelled with the Queen's passing but attempts were being made to reinvigorate the forum at the start of December.

The Chair thanked Kim K for her work on this.

Gerald reported that Prendergast School has invited several faith leaders and representatives to attend a Monday lunch-time event. Gerald had attended and presented to a packed library of pupils from years 7 to 13.

He had been due to attend two other similar events but both schools had to reschedule.

9B HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY – GERALD AND JOAN

HMD steering group will meet shortly to discuss the details of the community event. Children will be creating work on the theme of 'Ordinary People'

Chanukah celebrations and a candle lighting ceremony will take place on 19 December.

Gerald agreed to share any further information he received regarding this.

9C GENERAL CENSUS

(This was already reported on.)

Alfonso requested that Denise send him information regarding Bahai's by email.

10 Date of next meeting: Thursday 23 February 2023 – on Zoom at 6.30pm

At 8pm the meeting finished.