

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

Minutes of the Lewisham SACRE meeting

which was open to the press and public and was held on
Wednesday 10 July 2024

At the London Sivan Kovil, 4a Clarendon Rise, London SE13 5ES

These minutes were approved by the SACRE on: 26 September 2024.

GROUP	REPRESENTING	NAME	PRESENT
A	Baha'i	Aaron Ayala	
A	Buddhism	David Hutchens	Ap
A	Free Church (Assemblies of God) Chair	Pastor Nick Hughes	Ap
A	Free Church (Baptist)	Vacant	
A	Free Churches (URC)	Vacant	
A	Hinduism	Sharmila Manoharan	y
A	Hinduism	Vallipuram Bala	y
A	Humanism	Jennifer Sutherland	y
A	Humanism	John Turner	Ap
A	Independent Evangelical	Elizabeth Maxted	Ap
A	Islam	Imam Ashraf	Ap
A	Islam	Imam Sabir	Y
A	Judaism	Gerald Rose	Y
A	Judaism	Joan Goldberg	Y
A	Pentecostal Substitute	Cheryl Abbam	
A	Pentecostal	Layo Segun	Ap(late)
A	Pentecostal Substitute	Deacon Ogbu Olu	
A	Roman Catholic	Rt. Rev. Monsignor Nicholas Rotherham	Y
A	Sikhism	Vacant	
B	CofE Diocesan Board of Education Diocesan RE Adviser (Primary) (Deputy Chair)	Shaun Burns	Y
B	The Church of England Primary RE Subject Leader	Karen Hansen	Y
B	The Church of England Primary RE Subject Leader	Gwen Carney	Y
B	The Church of England Governor and HeadTeacher	Daniel Meyer	
B	The Church of England Secondary teacher / Clergy	Vacant	
C	Lewisham Headteachers & Deputies	Vacant	
C	Academy/Free School	Vacant	
C	NEU (Chair ASC)	Kim Knappett	Resigned

C	NEU	Janey Joauvel	Y
C	NEU	Sian Blackwood-Carlyle	Y
C	NASUWT	Korkor Burnett	Y
D	Director of Education Services	Angela Scattergood	
D	LA members	Cllr Liz Johnston-Franklin	Y
D	LA members	Cllr Aliya Sheikh	
D	LA members	Cllr Hau-Yu Tam	Ap
D	Substitute for Director of Education Services	Anthony Doudle	Ap
D	Elected member substitute	Cllr Jacq Paschoud	
D	School Governors (Primary)	Caroline O Kalu	
D	School Governors (Secondary)	Vacant	
D	Alternative Substitute for Director of Education Services	Ruth Griffith	
OTHER	Primary teacher	Judith Nweze	
OTHER	Rastafarian (co-optee)	Vacant	
OTHER	RE School Improvement Officer	Denise Chaplin	Y
OTHER	Young Mayor Team	Katy Brown	Ap
OTHER	Young Mayor Team	Nicholas Gunner	Y
OTHER	Parent/media co-optee	Daisy Scalchi	Ap
OTHER	SACRE Clerk	Stephen Sealy	Y
OTHER	Visitors/members of the public	Vicki Ashmore	Y

Boxed text signifies action to be taken, while underlined text signifies decisions that have been made.

Following a tour of the Temple for members, the meeting began formally at 6.40pm. Shaun Burns was in the Chair.

1 WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Shaun welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Bala for hosting.

1A APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These are noted in the above table.

1B CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF ITEMS FOR THE MEETING

This was confirmed.

1C MEMBERSHIP UPDATE - ELECTED MEMBERS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

Denise reported that Daniel Meyer had joined the committee as a Church of England representative and Shaun said he expected him to be at the next meeting.

2 Minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held in April at Emmanuel Church

The following corrections were advised:

- A Councillor Amanda Deryke's name should be corrected on the sixth paragraph of section 3C;
- B The spelling for 'Bonus Pastor' in the third paragraph of agenda point 4 should be corrected;
- C The spelling for 'Philip' re 'St Philip Neri' in this paragraph should be corrected also.
- D The penultimate paragraph in agenda point 4 should read "... academisation was being considered by a few of the borough's Church of England schools...'

Subject to these changes, these minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda

3A HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Gerald advised that after receiving more information about the event from Amanda ??? he would report back.

Cllr Johnston-Franklin advised that Cllr Deryke was the Chair of the Holocaust Group and would ensure the SACRE was represented on the group.

The new Mayor, who is also involved with the arrangements, was scheduled to visit the synagogue on the following Saturday, providing them a further opportunity to discuss the event with her.

Shaun advised that the national theme of next year's event would be 'For a better future'.

3B PRIMARY AND SECONDARY NETWORK MEETINGS

Denise advised that Anthony, Shaun and herself had met on the date previously scheduled for the SACRE meeting that had to be cancelled because of the election. They had discussed having a secondary RE Leads meeting next term and accessing funding to enable schools to release teachers who attend. The pending Agreed Syllabus review would likely be the focus of this meeting, possibly held at either the mosque or the synagogue.

Both Joan and Iman Sabir indicated that both their venues would be available, if wanted.

3C NASACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM – FEEDBACK (two attachments)

Denise reported that Cllr Tam had attended in person, while Cllr Johnston-Franklin and herself had attended online.

Some of the presentations have been posted on the NASACRE website and Denise had circulated an event handout and copy of the program.

Cllr Johnston-Franklin reported that technical difficulties had made hearing the speakers difficult for those attending virtually. It was also disappointing – particularly for those

attending in person – that some of the key speakers presented online. The Children’s Commissioner, Rachel De Souza, for example had done this.

Further details can be found on the NASACRE website: <https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/2024-how-can-sacres-support-high-quality-re-collective-worship/>

A number of members regretted that Rt Hon Charles Clarke has now resigned as NASACRE patron.

Cllr Johnston-Franklin reported that the issue about the development of RE in schools and the recruitment of teachers was mentioned. OfSTED’s recent report on RE in schools had confirmed what NASACRE and local SACREs had communicated about the necessity for greater funding.

Denise advised that the review of the Agreed Syllabus would need to be supported from the local authority. Lewisham SACRE was performing well in term of its membership and attendance, but many SACREs around the country were poorly resourced leading to collapse when key personnel leave.

Shaun advised that he could confirm this as part of his job was coordinating and supporting Church of England (Group B) representatives within SACREs across the Diocese.

4 ‘Manifesto’ for RE and SACREs – election communication from the Chair (attachment)

Denise reported that this item had arisen from the previous year’s NASACRE AGM. The Rt Hon Charles Clarke had encouraged SACREs to contact local politicians and when a general election was called, prospective candidates, to raise awareness of the need for RE to be taken seriously in any educational reviews. Therefore, as soon as the general election was called, the attached letter was circulated to all political candidates in Lewisham by the Chair.

Denise had also sent to all SACRE’s elected members, asking them to engage, where possible, on the same topic with prospective candidates.

Following Denise sharing with SACRE about an online webinar on the following Tuesday in which the new Secretary of State for Education would set out Labour’s vision for education, Shaun advised that a link to would be distributed.

5 Jewish Life Exhibition (discussion)

Shaun introduced Vicki Ashmore who has been involved with the Jewish Life Exhibition when it was hosted at Bromley Synagogue. A brief power point presentation of the exhibition had been shown at the last meeting.

Gerald advised that he had been introduced to this exhibition in Bromley having also assisted when an earlier version was exhibited in Woolwich and Thornton Heath. Denise reported that some years ago all schools in the country had been sent a CD of the earlier exhibition.

Vicki introduced herself as an ex-head teacher and a member of the Bromley SACRE. She reported that the exhibition in Bromley had run for two weeks and had 650 visitors. Packs were sent to schools in advance and activities at the exhibition differentiated based on

those attending, with younger children encouraged to handle items at the exhibition. The event was staffed entirely by volunteers to whom the Board of Deputies had delivered training. A local band had provided music at the launch. The project has developed into an interfaith project which is a cause close to Vicki's heart.

When it will be hosted at Catford, the exhibition will be housed in the separate building used as a youth club but will incorporate a full tour, in smaller groups, of the synagogue, through the sukkah and a Q&A session in the sanctuary. It is planned to have 2 sessions take place in the morning and afternoon.

Denise advised that an item has already been published in the Head's Mailing with booking details and a small flyer attached.

Gerald endorsed and advised that artefacts are shown as part of the exhibition although the Lewisham synagogue wouldn't be erecting their own wedding chuppah.

Joan confirmed that the exhibition can be tailored to complement the topics that schools are currently studying. Gerald added that the booking form that is sent out is being revised, but asks what students have learnt about Judaism and what the purpose of the visit is intended to be.

He advised that the Board of Deputies had stipulated food not be included in the exhibition.

He added that the exhibition would be aimed at KS2 and the bottom of KS3. Shaun suggested that the exhibition appeared to be pitched below KS3.

Vicki advised that the Bromley team had used the resources available to it to answer visitors' questions, but that additional volunteers were needed for more difficult questions.

Gerald suggested that possibly arrangements could be made for the rabbi to be present for older groups.

Gerald advised that the synagogue had asked if SACRE would endorse the event, which would be launched on 4 November 2024 due to the late timing of Rosh Hashanah and Sukkot.

Shaun asked for SACRE members' views on the words 'Endorsed by Lewisham SACRE' being used. Cllr Franklin-Johnson suggested that 'supported by' was a more apt phrase than 'endorsed by'. This was unanimously agreed.

Vicki advised that she would send members a link of the short film from Anna Silver of the Board of Deputies, as the link Denise had previously forwarded had now expired.

Denise advised that the second week of the exhibition coincided with Interfaith Week.

Vicki signalled her willingness to be involved in this and to answer any questions on Judaism and the current Israel / Gaza situation.

Denise advised that SACRE had been informed that unfortunately there wasn't an active Interfaith Forum currently, although Shaun expressed hope that this would be revived.

In view of the situation in the Middle East and misinformation or negativity about groups of people, Cllr Franklin-Johnson emphasised the importance of the committee working towards taking a lead to counter this, knowing that young people will be talking to each other about this.

Denise emphasised the importance of young people feeling listened to and suggested the Young Mayors would be a good starting point for this.

Joan requested that the personnel running such events be trained to avoid misrepresentation.

Denise suggested that the Faith and Belief Forum could support this, being skilled at working through uncomfortable topics. <https://faithbeliefforum.org>

Denise committed to contact them to see if they can arrange training for SACRE; this will be tabled for the next meeting.

6 SACRE Self evaluation

Shaun suggested that, due to a lack of time at this meeting, the SACRE Self Evaluation be deferred for a future meeting.

7 Establishment of a working group to update a support document for schools on SMSC (attachment)

Denise introduced the document, explaining that it provides questions to ask within schools and gives schools a handle on how they are doing with regard to the areas of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development across the whole school. She suggested the committee should revise the document, adding that there was a second A4 glossy booklet that fed into the main document.

She invited anyone interested in joining the working party to contact her, advising that anyone involved in schools would find this helpful in the long term. Some of the work could be done remotely or by email and the activity should be completed by the Spring 2025.

Janae, Sharmila and Shaun expressed an interest in this.

8 Lewisham Agreed Syllabus review (Future plan for review of the local agreed syllabus and monitoring schools in the Autumn term – information and discussion)

Denise advised that work on the review of Lewisham's Agreed Syllabus would begin in the Autumn term, and that a budget would be requested for this work after it had been scoped.

She requested that all members review the document, considering if it's still an appropriate representation of their faith group.

Gerald questioned whether the SACRE had to make a request to the local authority to establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference, commenting that he wasn't aware of a vote being taken at a meeting like this in Lewisham, although this was asked for in another local authority.

Denise advised that this will happen once the size and scale of the task is assessed and then in partnership with Anthony Doudle, a funding request would be made alongside SACRE formally requesting the Local Authority to establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

9 Information Exchange & AOB

9A INTER FAITH WEEK NEWS

Denise advised that Inter Faith Week will take place, with an education focus. She encouraged members to sign up to NASACRE's Noticeboard. to receive alerts on this.

The NASACRE clerk will be asked to provide a countdown to Inter Faith Week.

The organising committee is trying to find a way for schools etc. to publish planned events on the Inter Faith Week website, despite the Inter Faith Network now sadly having closed, while resources from other sources would also be signposted there.

She advised that funding for the Inter Faith Network had been cut, but action was being taken to keep the network alive, particularly in view of the change of Government.

The Inter Faith Week theme for educational establishments is 'Sharing my story, building our future'.

9B

Bala advised that the next local Hinduism festival would take place on 23 August, with the Chariot Festival from 10am to 3pm on 8 September.

He committed to forward an invite to Denise for circulation.

He advised his willingness for schools to visit the temple on weekdays, except Tuesday and Friday, that the temple's administrative issues had been resolved.

9C

Shaun reported that The Venerable Alastair Cutting, who had been the Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich, had been appointed Bishop of Woolwich, an appointment which he considered to be a positive one.

10 Dates of future meetings

To be advised

The meeting ended around 7.50pm