

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the meeting held virtually on Monday 8th November 2021 at 6.00 pm

SACRE Membership and Attendance

GROUP A: Faiths and beliefs other than C of E	Present/Apologies/ Absent	GROUP B: The Church of England	Present/Apologies/ Absent
Jo Backus Buddhist Vice-Chair	Present	Shaun Burns - (Southwark Diocesan Board of Education) Chair	Present
Andrew Dart Christianity - Methodist	Present	Esther Moorey – (School Chaplain)	Apologies
Christianity - Majority Black Churches	<i>Vacancy</i>	Sue Musgrove (Children and Families Minister)	Present
Christianity - Roman Catholic	<i>Vacancy</i>	Sarah Thorley (Retired Independent RE Consultant)	Present
Christianity - United Reformed Church	<i>Vacancy</i>		
Shanti Briody Caribbean Hindu	Present		
Umar Mahmood Islam	Present (Joined at 7pm)		
Rabbi Stewart Myers Judaism	Apologies		
Lady Kanwaljit Kaur Singh Sikhism	Present		
Charley Jarrett Humanism	Present		
GROUP C: Teachers	Present/Apologies/ Absent	GROUP D: LA	Present/Apologies/ Absent
Pat Bennett NEU	Present	Cllr Marcia Cameron Elected Member	Present (Until 6.30pm)
Denise Henry NEU	Absent	Cllr Pauline George Elected Member	Apologies
NAHT	<i>Vacancy</i>	Cllr Martin Tiedemann Elected Member	Absent
Primary RE Subject Leader	<i>Vacancy</i>	Penny Smith-Orr RE Consultant for Lambeth SACRE	Present
Jason McInnis Secondary School RS Teacher Rep.	Absent	Kathryn Shaw LA Officer	Present
Other		Co-Opted.	
Maria Gabrielczyk – Clerk	In attendance	Prevent Officer Lydia Nixon	Absent
		PC Adam Berry Lambeth Faith Liaison Officer	Absent

1. **Welcome & Introductions.**

Shaun opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

2. **Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr George, Rabbi Myers and Esther Moorey.

3. **Urgent matters arising not on the Agenda**

There were none.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th May 2021 and matters arising**

The minutes of the 17th May 2021 were agreed and signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising:

- The Determinations on Collective Worship Policy is an Agenda item for the meeting on 8th November 2021.
- Shaun will write to Mike Cullinane, Denise Chaplin and Mark Minott to thank them for their contribution. **Action Carried Forward.**
- Umar to send Maria details of the new police rep. Umar cc'ed Maria into the email to Pc Scottie Frost. Jo Backus also has a contact which she is following up.
- Quality of learning & teaching – View website and increase teachers in Group C. **Action Carried Forward.**
- Maria to recirculate the NASACRE training. **Action completed.**
- FOI Request – How SACRE is funded – cost of syllabus and other costs. **Action outstanding: KS**
- Ofsted review on literature. **Action: PS-O**
- Ramadan guidance was informed by Umar and this went out to schools. **Action completed.**

5. **Draft Determination Document**

The SACRE holds the legal responsibility to consider and, if it sees appropriate, grant a determination if a school applies to hold Collective Worship (CW) that is not “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, or that is a variation to the law on Collective Worship in some other way. No school in Lambeth has put in a determination in the last 20years.

The following points of clarification or suggestions were made:

- CW to take place needs to take place usually on school property.
- A 1 year determination should be set and not 5 years, which is too long.
- On grounds of religious conscience – not stopping CW, but making a different CW.
- The Ealing document on engaging and guidance on good CW. If Lambeth wanted to discourage determinations and give advice to help schools make their Collective Worship provision more appropriate for their school communities, then this document could be drawn upon. It would point them towards those things to discourage determination. If they were to apply for a determination, the Ealing document could point them to resources for CW they are to provide, but also to make it flexible for the school.
- Leave it to half a page for the ability to put in a determination?
- Our Policy for Determinations should give an indication of how it is done as regards the process, but not encourage them to do it.
- A determination is provision for alternative CW for more than one pupil whose parents apply.
- Individual pupils can withdraw from CW, but a whole school can decide on a determination if a school feels that collective worship as set out in the law is not appropriate for a lot of pupils of the school.
- A determination comes from a school and not from the parents.

SACRE Members generally found the Ealing document helpful. Shaun thanked Charley for the contribution. Whilst SACRE would not encourage schools to apply for a determination, there is a process if they feel they need to go through a determination.

A Determination Policy is therefore required to be in place. This would be published on the Lambeth SACRE website. The first function is to support CW in schools and for it to be inclusive, so that pupils can take part whatever their faith and belief is. There could be a document of Guidance on Collective Worship.

There could also be a signpost and link to Assemblies for All – (Humanists)

Collective Worship and Assemblies are not the same thing and this would need to be made clear. Collective Worship should be a meaningful experience for all and not threatening or compromising anyone's faith, religious or non-religious belief or integrity.

Q. How complaint are schools at holding Collective Worship at primary and secondary schools?

A. Generally at primary level, but the standard varies, less so with secondaries. The Collective Worship time in lockdown was embraced by schools.

It was agreed that Penny would draft some guidance. If any SACRE Member wishes to contribute they should contact Penny. **Action: PS-O** – anyone that wishes can contribute.

The Determination Policy can be placed on the website, but it will be reviewed after the Determination Guidance is done.

3 amendments were suggested.

3.3 – Parents withdraw on religious conscious. This wording is to be taken out.

P2 – Second bullet point

Finding out the views of Governors, teachers and other staff: – support staff and views of pupils too, where appropriate.

The Determination should include good guidance on Collective Worship. It was suggested that the Ealing document could be an appendix as it contains useful information. The Application Form and flow chart are helpful as part of the process.

A map of places of worship could be included which has numbers and data.

It was agreed that the current Determination Policy will be a temporary holding document which will be revisited when the Determination Guidance is finalised.

6. Completing Section 3: Collective Worship. (RE Tool)

SACRE members discussed the Section 3 questions and agreed the following:

3A. Supporting pupil entitlement. What strategies are in place to enable the SACRE to support the delivery of pupil entitlement in the LA's schools?

SACRE members felt this was at the **Developing** stage as teacher networks were being set up to support.

3B. Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship. How does SACRE seek to influence the quality of collective worship in the LA's schools?

SACRE members agreed that this was at the **Developing** stage. SACRE needs to focus on RE and the syllabus and see how many schools are doing it.

3C. Responding to requests for determinations. How robust are SACRE's procedures for responding to requests from schools for a determination?

SACRE members felt that this was **Established**. See item 5 of the Agenda above.

7. **RE Consultant's Report- Verbal Update**

Penny informed that the second Lambeth RE Co-ordinators' meeting took place in September. Dates were shared of events coming up, (festivals, etc.) A thinking game and an activity were done. It was also an opportunity for the Co-ordinators to talk amongst themselves. The next meeting will take place on 25th January 2022.

There have been three training sessions on the new agreed syllabus, including two twilight sessions.

Teachers have been asking for detailed teaching plans on the syllabus, but the syllabus was not written to that detail so as to allow for the teaching units to be adapted to the particular context of the pupils and schools and to enable teachers' creativity. The syllabus contains key questions, activities and units for teachers to plan their own lessons, which they are finding challenging, (particularly more recently-trained teachers,) as they are not used to doing this. Help with creating lesson plans from the teaching units will be an on-going item in future RE Co-ordinator meetings.

The new agreed syllabus has been shared with Headteachers.

Shaun stated that the SACRE is now more outward-looking through having the Lambeth RE Subject Leaders Network.

8. **Annual Report 2020-2021**

Penny informed that there is a new format for the Annual Report. NASACRE had a meeting with the DfE and the new template was decided on. NASACRE will analyse all the Reports from all the SACREs, as they will all be written to this same template.

SACRE Members will see a draft of the Lambeth SACRE Annual Report, which will be a report on the past academic year.

The completed Annual Report has to be sent to NASACRE and the DfE by 31st December.

9. **Islamophobia and Support for Schools in Tackling This**

This item has been deferred due to Jason, who had asked for the item to be on the SACRE agenda, being absent from this meeting.

Umar informed that November is Islamophobia Awareness Month. Umar will provide a flyer that can be circulated to schools. **ACTION: UM.**

10. **Religions and worldviews where are we now? - Slides from a presentation by Prof Trevor Cooling**

Penny informed that the Commission on RE (CORE) had requested the large report. All the responses were put in the CORE report. It was on religion and worldviews as opposed to RE.

It was found that pedagogy needed to be more considered, as it was shown as possibly being rather narrow thinking and that things do change.

The report is not law, but a useful resource to know what is being talked about.

The new Lambeth Agreed Syllabus has world views and local faiths. SACRE will look at it through the Lambeth lens to make sure that there is good quality RE for Lambeth schools.

11. **NATRE school workforce data**

Cllr Cameron asked what the reasons were on why RE was not being taught in some schools and whether it was because schools do not have the time. Cllr Cameron stressed that RE was about understanding other religions, British Values and tolerance. She offered to speak to other Cllrs and also to Cabinet about this matter.

In the notes, the figures and next steps, the statutory remit is to advise the LA and suggest that where there is non-compliance with the law, the requirement to write and inform the DfE. All pupils registered in school must be taught RE. Pupils should be covering RE for 5% of their curriculum time, which is recommended. This should be reported to the LA to investigate and then the LA should report back to SACRE.

It was suggested that maybe SACRE could write to those schools and remind them of the new Lambeth agreed syllabus and that all pupils should be taught RE. Perhaps support is needed.

This should be shared with the Education department and with Headteachers as a starting point. There are some SACREs that monitor school websites and then write to the schools.

Members felt that Governors should also be spoken to about issues of school non-compliance for statutory issues, as the data the DfE have is now in the public domain.

Kathryn informed that there are Headteacher Breakfasts run by the LA and for School Improvement Advisers where they have been informed of the new Lambeth agreed syllabus. These meetings are then repeated for Governors. Peter Compton (Governor Services) also sends out Governor Newsletters where he included information on the new Lambeth RE agreed syllabus.

12. **Update on Lambeth Faith Trails for Schools**

Sarah informed that she was hoping to get the trial ready, but schools are not ready yet for educational visits, however they do want to get the trails going next term. Sarah is still in touch with the hosts and the schools.

It is hoped to maybe restart the visits next term, but it is dependent on the current situation with COVID-19. Sarah also informed that, sadly, two of the venues on the Faith Trail will be closing.

The website is difficult to get up and running and the information is still not correctly or accurate. Sarah is meeting with Brett tomorrow and Kathryn is supporting Sarah with this project. There will be another update at the next SACRE meeting as this project is a rolling agenda item for SACRE.

ACTION: ST/KS

13. **AOB**

There were no items raised under AOB.

14. **Dates, Venues and Times of Future Meetings:**

- 7th February 2022 – SACRE meeting 6-8pm via MS TEAMS
- 30th March 2022 – SACRE meeting 6-8pm via MS TEAMS
- 27th June 2022 – SACRE meeting 6-8pm via MS TEAMS/(St. Martin-in-the-Field or Lilian Baylis)

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chair of Lambeth SACRE