

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the meeting held virtually on Monday July 04, 2023 at 6.00pm – 8.00pm

SACRE Membership and Attendance

GROUP A: Faiths and beliefs other than C of E	Present/Apologies/A bsent	GROUP B: The Church of England	Present/Apologies/A bsent
Jo Backus Buddhist Vice-Chair	Present	Shaun Burns - (Southwark Diocesan Board of Education) Chair	Present
Andrew Dart Christianity - Methodist	Absent	Esther Moorey – (School Chaplain)	Absent
Christianity - Majority Black Churches	<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>Vacancy</i>	
Christianity - Roman Catholic	<i>Vacancy</i>	Sarah Thorley (Retired Independent RE Consultant)	Present
Christianity - United Reformed Church	<i>Vacancy</i>		
Caribbean Hindu	<i>Vacancy</i>		
Umar Mahmood Islam	Absent		
Judaism	<i>Vacancy</i>		
Lady Kanwaljit Kaur Singh Sikhism	Present		
Charley Jarrett Humanism	Absent		
GROUP C: Teachers	Present/Apologies/A bsent	GROUP D: LA	Present/Apologies/A bsent
NEU	<i>Vacancy</i>	Cllr Saleha Jaffer Elected Member	Absent
Denise Henry NEU	Absent	<i>Elected Member</i>	<i>Vacancy</i>
NAHT	<i>Vacancy</i>		
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	Apologies	Prevent Officer Lydia Nixon	(Absent)

1. **Welcome and Introductions.**

Shaun Burns as Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Summer Term Lambeth SACRE meeting. Welcomes were warmly made to the 3 teachers from Wyvil Primary School, who have attended as observers and special guests, invited by Penny Smith at the Summer Teacher network meeting. Due to the unavailability of the Clerk, Maria Gabrielczyk, Kathryn Shaw the LA Representative, took the minutes.

2. **Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Saleha Jaffer.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th December 2022 and matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2023, were agreed and signed by the Chair as an accurate record. The following actions from the matters arising were discussed and categorised accordingly.

• **Outstanding Actions carried over from the previous meeting.**

- Cllr Jaffer offered to send the Inter Faith Membership to Maria. **ACTION: Cllr Jaffer to follow up.**
- Shaun to send Maria details of the Archdiocese for RC. **ACTION: Maria to contact the Archdiocese who have agreed to find a member to represent.**
- United Reformed Church – check the website for contact details. **ACTION: Maria to follow up**
- Methodist Association of free churches – check the website for contact details. **ACTION: Maria to follow up.**
- Marl from the Caribbean Hindu Temple would like to join Lambeth SACRE initially as an observer. **ACTION: Maria to contact Sarah who has Marl's details and then invite her to the next meeting.**
- Shaun to send an e-mail to Jason McInnis regarding his non-attendance. **ACTION: Shaun to follow up.**
- NEU/NAHT vacancy - contact their respective HQ. **ACTION: Maria**
- Youth members on SACRE – Youth Council. Kathryn to find out contacts and liaise with CJ. **OUTSTANDING ACTION: Kathryn to continue to pursue as so far has had no response to her emails. Penny to ask her daughter who may have some interested young people who go to school in Lambeth and who attend her Academy. It was agreed that is important that the voice of young people is represented in Lambeth SACRE.**
- The roles in Group D need to be formalised. **ACTION: Maria to chase up who are the current elected Councillors on SACRE.**
- Spring Agenda to have more detailed information for Lambeth on the Census. The information should be held by a department in Lambeth. It is also available on the Office for National Statistics website. **ACTION: Maria to provide the more detailed report in order to provide discussions for the next meeting regarding membership.**
- Maria to contact Sabina Williams about vacancies. **ACTION: Maria**
- Ecumenical Borough Dean. Shaun to send Maria details. **ACTION: Shaun**
- The Methodist Church – check the website for contact details. **ACTION: Maria**

• **Update on Actions completed from previous meeting.**

- Shaun to send Maria details of the Archdiocese for RC. **ACTION UPDATE: Shaun has re-sent Maria details of the person in the Archdiocese responsible for co-ordinating their SACRE representatives.**

- Shaun to write to Esther Moorey regarding her non-attendance. **ACTION UPDATE: Shaun informed the group that Esther has resigned. He asked the group to extend their warm thanks for her attendance and commitment.**
- Penny will send off the SACRE Annual Report by the end of term. **ACTION UPDATE: Annual Report completed and now on the NASACRE website.**
- Penny to find 2 people from the RE Subject Leaders' Network. **ACTION UPDATE: 3 Teachers from Wyvil Primary attended today's meeting, thanks to Penny.**
- Umar will speak to Sarah regarding the Inter Faith work in the Inter Faith areas, with a possible Faith Trail start in Stockwell at the Mosque. **ACTION UPDATE: Umar is keen for there to be a Faith Trail in the North of the borough.**

It was agreed that lots have been achieved regarding the identified actions but there is still lots to carry on achieving over the summer.

4. Membership.

A discussion arose around the number of vacancies as these impacts on the meeting quoracy. It was agreed that this item would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting as there are a number of actions above which when achieved should help to complete the gaps in membership representation.

5. Any urgent matters arising not on the agenda.

There were no urgent matters arising other than those highlighted, when discussing outstanding actions.

6. Membership updates and Census information.

Membership attendance was low at the meeting held today. Penny suggested that the papers and the invitation to attend the meeting are sent out two to three weeks in advance and then a reminder a few days before the actual meeting date. This might help encourage and ensure better attendance. In terms of membership there are a number of actions set to try help increase membership. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

7. Lambeth SACRE Constitution

The Lambeth SACRE Constitution was discussed with SACRE members as it has not been reviewed since April 2018. Shaun pointed out that the constitution includes membership, which should reflect and represent the current make up of religions and beliefs practiced in Lambeth. With this in mind the latest census data, needs to be taken into account and as we have not as yet received all the information, we can look at this in more detail once we have this information by the next meeting. ***New ACTION: Maria to share the Census information at the next meeting.***

A discussion followed on areas where changes could be recommended for the local authority to then consider.

- Page 3, Terms of Office of Members: It is stipulated that if a SACRE Member is absent for two or more consecutive meetings without an apology that the clerk will write to the member and ask whether they want to nominate a substitute or refer their membership back to their sponsoring body. This has not always been actioned.
- Page 4, Agendas: It is stipulated that the agenda will be distributed at least 7 working days in advance of the next listed meeting. It was felt that this should be changed to 14 working days, to give enough time for members to send apologies and read the required documentation. It was also agreed that the following sentence should be added to this section – 'Papers for each meeting will be made available on the Lambeth Council Website and the Schools Services Website.'

NEW ACTION: Maria to draft the above amendments in the Constitution and circulate to members for a final discussion and sign off at the next planned meeting.

8. Report from the NASACRE Conference and AGM

The in person NASACRE Conference and AGM took place as planned, on Monday 22nd May 2023 in London, Fishmongers Hall – London Bridge. Shaun, Jo and Kathryn attended. This was the 30th anniversary of NASACRE. Feedback was extremely positive, such as the quality and variety of the keynote speakers, the value and importance of the round table discussions, the opportunity to meet in person and network and the healthy representation from Lambeth.

The papers and presentations from the conference and AGM can be found on the NASACRE website: [2023: SACREs for the Future - NASACRE](#)

Lambeth SACRE congratulated Jo on her successful nomination and her election to the Executive Board of NASACRE. Lambeth SACRE looks forward to regularly hearing from Jo about the latest work of NASACRE to support our SACRE practice. Going forward, this would be a Standing Item on our agendas. ***NEW ACTION: Maria to include this item as a standing item on the agenda.***

9. RE Consultant's Report.

Penny informed the group that 7 teachers attended the RE Subject Leaders' Network meeting in the summer term. Areas of discussion included: -

- Resource books and webinars by Gill Vaisey is an independent religious education consultant and former primary school teacher.
- Promoting the take up of schools attending the Lambeth Faith Trails.
- A discussion also took place around the current Syllabus and the fact that detailed Units of Work have not been included. There is reference to what to teach, but no guidance for teachers on how this should be done. Penny is currently looking at the Units of Work included in the previous Syllabus and will decide how these may be included in the current Syllabus, as teachers are not confident in just having a list to cover. It was also discussed how it would be useful to have a bank of resources, to signpost teachers.

NEW ACTION: Penny to set dates for the termly RE Subject Leaders' network meeting for the next academic year 2023-2024 so that the network meetings can be promoted as soon as possible at the beginning of the new term.

NEW ACTION: Maria to circulate dates in advance to SACRE members in case a SACRE member wished to attend a network meeting to represent SACRE. If so, they would need to contact Penny beforehand to arrange this.

10. Lambeth Faith Trails for schools.

Sarah informed the group that since the start of the school year, 3 of the 6 places of worship are, sadly, no longer able to support the Lambeth Faith Trails. These are:-

- South London Orthodox **Synagogue** - closed down.
- Hyderi **Islamic Centre** - has moved to larger premises in Croydon.
- Streatham **Baptist Church** - unable to host as the Youth Leader and Trail Guide, has moved on and has not yet been replaced.

Furthermore, St Leonard's Anglican Church has withdrawn participation, but is kindly on standby if the neighbouring English Martyrs RC Church is unable to host. Sarah suggested that it would be good practice to send cards of appreciation for the commitment that these 3 places of worship have shown to the Faith Trails and to show our gratitude for the positive contribution that they have made over several years to the education of children and accompanying adults. At the same time, it would be

helpful to send cards of appreciation to the existing hosts. ***NEW ACTION: Maria to liaise with Sarah to enable cards to be sent out.***

It has taken Sarah a lot of work and time to find alternative places to visit. The good news is that there are now three new places within easy walking distance.

This is how the two Trails now look:-

NORTH TRAIL:

- **South London Liberal Synagogue.** Prentis Rd. Rabbi Nathan Godleman. New venue.
- **English Martyrs Roman Catholic Church.** Dinusha Fernando
- **South London Islamic Centre.** Imam Mumtaz

SOUTH TRAIL:

- **Swaminarayan Hindu Temple.** Colmer Rd. Dipak Valand
- **Immanuel and St Andrew Anglican Church** on Streatham Common. Reverend Sarah Simpson. New venue.
- **Norbury Islamic Academy.** Imam Ismail Pijvi. New venue: Located just over the south Lambeth border, in Croydon.

SCHOOLS PARTICIPATION

Since September 2022: 12 Trails have taken place: one class max 30 children on a Trail (Year 6 or 5) = 360 children.

Accompanying adults - teachers, classroom assistants and some parents
= 48 adults

Term 1. Granton (3 classes), Hitherfield (2) St Luke's (1)

Term 2. Wyvil, Christchurch, St Saviour's

Term 3. Holy Trinity (2), St Andrew's CofE (2)

The booking system is now up and running and schools should be encouraged to use it. Dates for September will be made available soon, so that they can be added to the school calendar.

The Faith Trails need to continue to take place all year round, not just in the Summer Term.

NEW ACTION: Maria to circulate to SACRE members the dates of the visits once these have been finalised with an invitation and encouragement for them to attend a Faith Trail.

11. Places of Worship List.

The download for the Places of Worship is out of date and the maps still need to be updated. Sarah has very recently received the current list of Places of Worship in Lambeth from the Lambeth Interfaith Group.

NEW ACTION: This item to be discussed at the next meeting when the Places of Worship in Lambeth List will be made available by Sarah and explored further with a fuller representation of the group, to enable a wider discussion.

12. AOB.

There was no AOB. Shaun shared a fun quiz with the group from the NASACRE conference. Shaun thanked the teachers from Wyvil Primary School for attending the Meeting. They all confirmed they had found the meeting interesting and beneficial.

13. Dates, Venues and Times of Future Meetings.

The annual SACRE Executive meeting will take place on 03 August 2023, where dates and venues for the next academic year – 2023/2024 will be agreed and then circulated to members.

Appendix 1:

A summary of outstanding actions from previous meetings and new Actions from the last meeting on 04 July