

Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on Monday, 13th June at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Group A – Christian and Other Religious Denominations:

Mr Dominique Joseph Clem (Seventh-day Adventist Church)
Ms Sharon Coussins (Wimbledon Synagogue)
Mr Colin Perry (Buddhapadipa Temple),
Mr Paul Phillips (Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is)
Mr Charan Singh (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara)
Imam Khubaeb Raja (Balham Mosque and Tooting Islamic Centre)

Group B – Church of England:

Group C – Teachers' Associations:

Ms Clare Hewitson (NEU)
Ms Claire Wood (NAHT)

Group D – Local Authority:

Councillor Juliana Annan (Chair)
Councillor Sana Jafri
Councillor Mrs Angela Graham
Councillor Rosemary Birchall

In attendance:

Mr Andrew Hough, Head of School Participation and Performance
Ms Lesley Prior, SACRE Advisor
Mrs Angela Rundle, SACRE Officer
Mrs Samineh Richardson, Democratic Services Officer

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

Apologies for absence were received from:

Ms Ewa Bednarek (Church of England)
Mr Shaun Burns (Church of England)
Mr Nabhinandan Das (Hindu Society).
Ms Saffi Haines (Society of Friends)
Mr Mahmood Khan (Ahmadiyya Muslim Association)
Councillor Norman Marshall
Ms Rachel Croft (NASUWT)

2. Minutes – 21st March 2022

RECCOMENDED –

- a) That the minutes of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education meeting held on 21st March 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.
- b) To note the matters arising from the minutes and the actions agreed.

3. Membership and Welcome

Mrs Samineh Richardson (Democratic Services Officer) informed the SACRE that Ms Deirdre McDonald (Roman Catholic) was resigning from the SACRE.

The Democratic Services Officer explained that there was training available from NASACRE on the 29th June for SACRE members who wished to gain a better understanding of their role, how SACRE works, its statutory responsibilities and how members could contribute.

It was noted that the meeting was not quorate, so no decisions could be made.

RECCOMENDED – to note:

- (a) that Ms Deirdre McDonald (Roman Catholic) was resigning from the SACRE
- (b) To inform the Democratic Services Officer if they would like to take part in the training.
- (c) No decisions could be made because the meeting was not quorate.

4. Code of Conduct.

The Democratic Services Officer informed the SACRE that on the 17th June 2022 SACRE members agreed to sign a new code of conduct annually. The Code was based on the NASACRE model code.

5. Report Back from the NASACRE Conference

Ms Rundle (SACRE Officer) informed the SACRE that the conference was held online and there were several presentations provided during the event. In particular, the worldviews draft handbook was discussed which is available [here](#). It was considered that this could be topic for a future meeting. Science and nature were an emerging subject for pupils.

The SACRE discussed the protected status of Religious Education (RE) and the legal obligation for schools to provide RE. It was highlighted that in practice the legal requirements were not strictly enforced and a school that did not provide sufficient RE could still receive a top grade in an OFSTED inspection. The SACRE advisor informed the SACRE that 6th forms in schools should also be providing RE, even if it is not chosen as a GCSE option. Schools had provided

this to their 6th form pupils through seminars or conferences throughout the year. The SACRE officer felt this could be firmed up in the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

The SACRE officer also highlighted that there were bids to write an exemplar curriculum that may be available later on, one of the main challenges facing SACREs was monitoring due to resource constraints, some SACRE's were meeting in schools and RE leads were showcasing what they were providing. It was suggested that Wandsworth SACRE may want to meet in schools. The SACRE Officer also highlighted Wandsworth SACRE had successfully submitted the SACRE annual report and were performing well and compliant with expectations.

The SACRE Officer informed the SACRE Dr Richard Kueh discussed a Research Review Series: Religious Education, a link to the report can be found [here](#). In particular, depth vs breadth was discussed and the importance of finding the right balance and preparing young people for the complexity of modern life in Britain.

The SACRE Advisor would provide a summary of the conference for circulation with the minutes. It was suggested that SACRE decide who to send to the next conference at the Autumn meeting. The Conference would be in person but would be supported by online resources. It was highlighted that NASACRE offered a range of opportunities and workshops.

RECCOMENDED – To note the update.

6. Update on the Faith Trails

The SACRE Officer explained a full report had been provided at the previous meeting. It was highlighted that two additional schools would be taking part in the Wimbledon Faith Trail the following week. A pilot for the Balham Faith Trail was launching the week after and if successful additional dates would be offered in September or October.

RECCOMENDED – To note the update.

7. Update on the Secondary Network.

The SACRE Officer informed the SACRE a remote meeting had been scheduled for the following week.

RECCOMENDED – To note the update.

8. The Locally Agreed Syllabus Review

The SACRE Officer informed the SACRE the Locally Agreed Syllabus had been written 5 years ago and a review was due, as there was a legal requirement to review the syllabus every 5 years. It was highlighted that Jo Taylor Campbell had

led the writing of the existing version and was keen to be involved in the review. She had ideas to refresh the document. The glossary, resources and book list, suggested websites and places of worship and speakers would be updated.

The SACRE Advisor explained the SACRE conducts a review and then makes a recommendation to the local authority about how it wishes to proceed, e.g leave it as it is written, purchase a syllabus from elsewhere or amend the syllabus. It then sets up an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). The ASC membership should include the same groups as the SACRE however the nominating bodies should be contacted to ask who they wish to represent them on the ASC. In practice, it can often be the same representatives that sit for SACRE. Working groups are set up to inform the ASC. The working group is involved in editing but sign-off is by the ASC. There would be one vote per group and the council group cannot vote.

The SACRE Advisor highlighted the collaborative working between people from all backgrounds was positive and affirming as other counties would look at documents denominationally.

The SACRE discussed amending the existing document. It was highlighted that teachers had received training on some of the topics and had implemented them well and it would not be appropriate to fundamentally change the document. The SACRE Advisor highlighted areas of improvement could be around updating language, e.g 'attainment targets' wasn't terminology used in schools anymore, RE for 6th forms, looking at changes to the Early Years parameters and ensuring learning is framed through enquiry,

RECOMMENDED – To note the update.

9. Future meeting dates

RECOMMENDED –

To note the proposed schedule of SACRE meetings in 2022-23 as follows;

- Monday 3rd October 2022
- Monday 6th March 2023
- Monday 12th June 2023
- Monday 2nd October 2023