



Wandsworth

Chief Executive
Mike Jackson

Wandsworth Borough Council
Chief Executive's Group
The Town Hall Wandsworth High Street
London SW18 2PU

Date: 31st May 2023

For further information on this agenda, please contact the Democratic Services Officer: Ruth Wright on ruth.wright@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk, 020 8871 6035

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**MONDAY, 12TH JUNE, 2023 AT 7.30 P.M.
ROOM 123 - THE TOWN HALL, WANDSWORTH HIGH STREET, WANDSWORTH SW18 2PU**

SACRE Membership:

Group A – Christian and Other Religious Denominations: Mr Jatin Bhatt (Hindu Education Board), Mr Dominique Joseph Clem (Seventh-day Adventist Church), Ms Sharon Coussins (Wimbledon Synagogue), Ms Saffi Haines (Society of Friends), Rev. Rosamund Hollingsworth (the Methodist Church of Great Britain) (Society of Friends), Mrs Maria Liddy (Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark), Mr Colin Perry (Buddhapadipa Temple), Mr Paul Phillips (Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is), Imam Khubaeb Raja (Balham Mosque and Tooting Islamic Centre), Mr Usman Shazhad Butt (Ahmadiyya Muslim Association) and Mr Harbans Singh Mehta (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara).

Group A Substitutes: Ms Shanta Chellappoo-Phillips (Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is), Mr Nabhinandan Das (Hindu Society) and Mr Charan Singh (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara),

Group B – Church of England: Mr Shaun Burns and Ms Rachel Croft.

Group C – Teachers' Associations: Mrs Claire Beecher (NEU), Ms Clare Hewitson (NEU), Ms Brigitte Sayers-Eugster (NASUWT) and Ms Claire Wood (NAHT).

Group D – Local Authority: Councillor Sana Jafri (Chair), Councillor Mrs Rosemary Birchall, Councillor Angela Graham and Councillor Denise Paul.

Co-opted member – Mr Jon Fayle, Humanists UK

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes - 27th February 2023

(Pages 5 - 8)

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the SACRE held on 27th February 2023 and to consider any matters arising.

3. Membership

To receive a verbal update on the membership of the SACRE.

4. Wandsworth Community and Partnerships Service

To receive a verbal update the Service's needs analysis.

5. New Locally Agreed Syllabus update

To note the verbal update regarding the approval of the new syllabus.

6. Locally Agreed Syllabus primary school presentation

Brigitte Sayers-Eugster from Shafesbury Park Primary School to provide a presentation on how the Wandsworth Locally Agreed Syllabus has been used in her school.

The presentation can be viewed via:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1mNDQqsLGLx2zuDMA1vR2LNLb6h6Ss8qr-AOo0vSF8mk/edit?usp=sharing>

7. Faith Trail update

To receive a verbal update on the Wandsworth Faith Trails.

8. NASACRE Conference feedback

To receive verbal feedback about the conference, held in May 2023.

9. Future Meeting Dates

To note the future scheduled SACRE meetings:

- Monday 2nd October 2023 at Upper Tooting Methodist Church, 290 Balham High Road, SW17 7AL
- Monday 4th March 2024 at Wandsworth Town Hall

All meetings start at 7.30pm.

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Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
held at the Town Hall, Wandsworth, SW18 2PU
on Monday, 27th February, 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

Group A – Christian and Other Religious Denominations:

Mr Dominique Joseph Clem (Seventh-day Adventist Church)
Rev. Rosamund Hollingsworth (the Methodist Church of Great Britain)
Mrs Maria Liddy (Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark)
Mr Paul Phillips (Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is)
Mr Charan Singh (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara)

Group B – Church of England:

Mr Shaun Burns (Southwark Diocesan Board of Education)
Ms Rachel Croft (Church of England Rep.)

Group C – Teachers' Associations:

Mrs Claire Beecher (NEU)
Ms Clare Hewitson (NEU)
Ms Brigitte Sayers-Eugster (NASUWT)

Group D – Local Authority:

Councillor Sana Jafri (Chair)
Councillor Rosemary Birchall

In attendance:

Mr Andrew Hough, Head of School Participation and Performance
Mrs Angela Rundle, SACRE Officer
Mrs Ruth Wright, Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs A. Graham and Marshall, Ms Sharon Coussins (Wimbledon Synagogue), Ms Saffi Haines (Society of Friends), Ms Ewa Bednarek (St. Cecilia's CE School, Church of England Rep.), Imam Khubaeb Raja (Balham Mosque and Tooting Islamic Centre), Mr Harbans Singh Mehta (Khalsa Centre Gurdwara), Mr Nabhinandan Das (Hindu Society), Ms Claire Wood (NAHT) and Ms Lesley Prior (SACRE Advisor).

2. Minutes - 3rd October 2022

RESOLVED –

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education meeting held on 3rd October 2022 were a correct record.

3. Membership

The Chair thanked Councillor Annan for being the Chair of SACRE since May 2022. She added that other than the change of Chair, there had been other changes to SACRE membership. New members to SACRE were Mrs Claire Beecher for the NEU and Ms Brigitte Sayers-Euguster for the NASUWT, both in Group C. Ms Sharon Docherty from the Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark, who was part of SACRE temporarily, had been replaced on SACRE by Mrs Maria Liddy, who had previously been within Group C, as a rep. for the NAHT.

4. Wandsworth Community and Partnerships Service

Ms Willis (Voluntary Sector Development Manager) explained that her new role was to develop and strengthen communities in the borough, including faith groups' links. She added that there was a borough-wide voluntary and community needs analysis, taking place by the organisation 'Rocket Science', until July 2023. Ms Willis asked that faith group members consider being part of the collaborative work and the analysis, so welcomed SACRE members and faith leaders to contact her to be involved. A flyer regarding the Rocket Science survey was provided and would be emailed to all members after the meeting.

Ms Willis agreed to attend the next SACRE meeting to provide an update on the progress of her work, including the possibility of re-starting the Multi Faith Forum.

5. SACRE Annual Report 2021/22

Mrs Rundle explained that she used the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) new template for the report and drew out some highlights of the report. There was some discussion on the Wandsworth schools' Religious Studies (RS) GCSE and A-Level results, which were said to be better than the national average, with some very good individual school results. Although nationally numbers of participants in RS courses had decreased in the last eight years, Wandsworth's levels fell less than the national average. No AS levels results were reported, and it was thought that was because none were sat by Wandsworth schools that year.

It was commended that Francis Barber Pupil Referral Unit had offered RS GCSE, despite their small cohort. However, it was noted that Ark Putney Academy had not offered the subject for GCSE or A-Level. Saint John Bosco College had not offered A-Level, and no-one had sat the exams at Southfields Academy. Although RS is compulsory in all government funded schools, (which includes academies) it does not have to be offered as an exam option, but it does have to be taught. This could be a reason why some schools do not have an exam cohort. Furthermore, there might be timetabling clashes with other humanities courses that prevented uptake.

Mrs Rundle would send the report to the DfE and NASACRE. Also, in light of the overall positive results, she agreed to write to Wandsworth school headteachers to commend their results and encourage those who did not offer RS as an examination subject to do so.

RESOLVED –

That the briefing paper be received for information.

6. 2021 Census Data on Religion

A correction was made to the published statistics on page 19 - the percentage of Wandsworth residents who stated that they were Christian was 42.6%.

Mrs Rundle reported that there were some direct correlations between the England and Wandsworth's statistics between 2011 and 2021, such as the decrease in percentage of those who were Christian, and an increase in those with no religion. The Jewish and 'other religion' percentages were the same as the English results. Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu numbers were listed at a higher percentage and Sikh at a lower, within the borough than the whole of England.

Members also discussed the breakdown of the 'other religion' Wandsworth figures for 2021. It was mentioned that the question box was for free text and so may have led to the creation of the large number of various groups listed. Mr Phillips added that the numbers for Baha'i followers was lower than expected. Due to the numbers listed, consideration could be made to ask whether Jain and Zoroastrians representatives would want to join SACRE.

RESOLVED –

That the briefing paper be received for information.

7. Government White Paper regarding schools changing to academies

Mr Hough, Head of School Participation and Performance, conveyed that the White Paper had been put on hold. He added that although the Government still wanted schools to become academies, there was now no timescale for it. Therefore, liaison with schools on that matter would continue.

RESOLVED –

That the briefing be received for information.

8. National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) Update

The following points were highlighted from the January (most recent) paper:

- The RE Hubs were a new initiative and Mrs Rundle had signed the SACRE up to it. Flyers about the RE Hubs were distributed at the meeting and were to be sent electronically for all members/faith leaders to consider participating in their repeated training sessions.
- The FOI request mentioned had been dealt with and covered the standard annual questions.
- The annual NASACRE Conference on 22nd May 2023 would be attended by Mrs Rundle. If any other member wanted to attend in person, or the online sessions, they needed to inform her or Mrs Wright, as space was very limited.

- The NASACRE training schedule included sessions for new SACRE members. Costs would be covered if requested to Mrs Rundle or Mrs Wright.
- The teacher voice training survey would be sent again to teacher members and RE subject leads.

RESOLVED –

That the briefing paper be received for information.

9. Agreed Syllabus Conference

The Chair informed members that the Conference would take place after the SACRE meeting.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business on this occasion.

11. Future Meeting Dates

It was confirmed that the agreed dates for 2023 and the proposed early 2024 date were:

Monday 12th June 2023 at the Town Hall

Monday 2nd October 2023, location to be confirmed

Monday 4th March 2024, location to be confirmed.

Members were asked to inform Mrs Rundle and Mrs Wright of any clashes that the dates had with religious celebrations that they would be involved with. Mrs Rundle asked if anyone would be willing to host the October meeting to let her know.

The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.