

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BRENT SACRE
30 October 2018
Alperton Community School

Start: 16:35

Attendees:

<p>GROUP A <i>(A committee of persons representing such Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as, in the opinion of the authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area)</i></p>	<p>Basma ElShayyal (Chair, Sunni Islam) Manhar Mehta (Jainism) Farjad Farhad (Bahá'í) Bhupinder Singh (Sikh)</p>
<p>GROUP B <i>(A committee of persons representing the Church of England)</i></p>	<p>Laurence Hillel (Vice-Chair, Church of England) Ian Slade (Alperton Community School) Dawn Titus</p>
<p>GROUP C <i>(A committee of persons representing such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area)</i></p>	<p>Lea Murray (Barham Primary School) Florence Agbugba (St Marys CoE school) Helen Mooney</p>
<p>GROUP D <i>(A committee of persons representing the authority)</i></p>	<p>Cllr Neil Nerva Helen Tulloch John Frankis</p>

<p>In attendance:</p>	<p>Roger Butler – Adviser to SACRE Abraham Wilson (observer - Baha'i) Emily Barnes (observer-Jewish Museum) Nikoleta Nikolova (Brent Council – Governance Team)</p>
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<p>Apologies:</p>	<p>Gillian Crow Mark Newton Thamar Bennett Malcolm Deboo Lesley Prior Rabab Alsafi Rupadevi Cllr Orleen Hylton Cllr Tariq Dar Graham Noyce Deva Samaroo (Hinduism)</p>
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1. Welcome and apologies:

- Apologies were noted as above. Members were informed that for health reasons, Lesley Prior could not attend the meeting. Members expressed their sympathies and offers of support to Ms. Prior during this difficult time.
- The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked Alperton Community School for hosting the meeting.
- The Chair introduced Mr Abraham Wilson and Ms Emily Barnes (Jewish Museum) as observers to the meeting
- The Chair announced that as of 4.35pm, the meeting was inquorate due to lack of any councilors present but as no votes were planned to be made meeting would continue.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

- The minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held on 24 April 2018 were approved as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising:

The Chair ran through the actions noted at the previous meeting and commented on the following:

- Members were informed that Alan Hennes had resigned as a Humanist member of the SACRE. Members expressed gratitude for his commitment and long service to SACRE. Members noted that as a result of his resignation a vacancy was created on the Humanist group and a suggestion was made that Andrew Copson (CEO of Humanists UK) would be approached to recommend a substitute from the Humanist group.
- Emily Barnes commented on the need to recruit a Jewish member representative and proposed Ms Tamar Barnett from the Jewish Museum as a suitable candidate. Speaking in support of Ms Barnett's application, Members heard that Ms Barnett was part of the Jewish Museum learning team, had excellent knowledge of the school curriculum and was familiar with the Jewish religion. The Chair and SACRE members endorsed the recommendations and unanimously approved Ms Bennet's application.
- Query arose on existing membership processes. Helen Tulloch advised that the SACRE Constitution and Terms of Reference were being reviewed to ensure adequate processes were in place and that she would update at a future meeting. The Chair thanked Brent Council representatives for their reactivity and involvement in the process and stressed the importance of applying due diligence and ensuring legal requirements in terms of membership are met.

ACTIONS:

- Nikoleta Nikolova (Governance Officer, Brent Council) to add Farjad Farhad to the mailing list and ensure copies of agenda papers are sent accordingly.

- SACRE to consider appointing a substitute member to the Humanist group
- Update on RE coordinators meetings to be provided at the next SACRE meeting
- Helen Tulloch to provide update on membership processes at next SACRE meeting.
- That SACRE seek Andrew Copson's recommendation on who the Humanists UK might recommend as a representative.

4. The Clark/Woodhead Report:

- Roger Butler (Adviser to SACRE) introduced the report and ran through the main recommendations. He noted that it was unclear if the report would result in any substantial changes and added that issues around religious education remained. He continued to say that religious education was currently seen as an outlier within the school curriculum and as such its position needed to be strengthened.
- The Chair acknowledged the excellent work of grassroots agencies and noted the recent publicity around religious education, which had resulted in raising greater awareness on the topic.
- She reminded members that the main aim of religious education was to be inclusive and non-judgmental. In so doing she drew members' attention to the recommendations set out in the report and their potential implications on the work of SACRE going forward.
- In the discussion which followed, a member stated that there was a lot of separation and ill-feelings between different religions leading to a greater need to focus teachings on commonality of religions. The idea was seconded by Mr Butler who suggested that a list of virtues be compiled as a starting point of a wider discussion.

5. Statutory legal requirements:

Item noted – circulated for information only.

6. Free teacher training:

Item noted – circulated for information only.

Emily Barnes informed SACRE members of training opportunities offered by the Jewish Museum and encouraged everyone to attend.

7. Any other business:

RE Coordinators meeting:

- Florence Agbuba informed members that the last RE coordinators meeting was held on 25th September 2018 at the Village School in Kingsbury during which the group discussed children with severe learning disabilities and RE was delivered to those children as well as spotlighted on how to better include children with SEN in lessons. A key point raised at the meeting was

also for teachers to have the confidence to teach other religions and use a range of resources (eg BBC Religion, religious calendars, inter-faith week, and newsletters) in the classroom.

- Next RE coordinators meeting scheduled for 29th January 2019. Overall aim was to support teachers, allow creativity on RE. Meeting aimed to move discussion around changes resulting from the Clarks/Woodland report forward in terms of documentation.

Lesley Prior:

- Laurence Hillel asked how the education advisers were appointed and what would happen in Lesley Prior's absence. The Chair stated that it would be useful to identify colleagues who may be able to step in. She stated that Ms Prior spearheads a lot of activity through the various meetings and trainings she holds and showed commitment to ensure this continues in her absence.

End: 5.20pm

Notice of Next Meeting: Thursday, 7 March 2019 - 4.30pm - Alperton Community School

BASMA ELSHAYYAL

Chair