

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Tuesday 30 October 2018 at 4.00 pm

**Alperton Community School - The Library - Ealing
Road, Wembley, HA0 4PW**

Chair: Basma El Shayyal (Chair)

Advisers:

- Roger Butler
- Lesley Prior

Councillors:

- Cllr Tariq Dar
- Cllr Orleen Hylton
- Cllr Neil Nerva

Representatives of:

- Local Authority
- Church of England
- Brent's other faiths and denominations
- Teachers unions

For further information contact: Nikoleta Nikolova, Governance Officer
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Agenda

Item	Page
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1	Welcome and Introductions
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2	Minutes of the previous meeting
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Reports	
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3	Issues for discussion	1 - 4
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a)	Draft SACRE Annual Report
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To follow

b)	Charles Clarke and Linda Woodhead, A New Settlement Revised: Religion and Belief in Schools	5 - 6
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This policy pamphlet, which updates an earlier one published by the same authors in 2015, examines religious education in the school curriculum, the act of collective worship and faith schools. It argues that the current legal relationship between religion, belief and schools is outdated in such a way that the law itself has become a barrier to schools' ability to help their children understand their own situation and the world in which they are growing up. It calls for a reform of the law that undergirds the way religion is handled in schools and makes 16 detailed recommendations about the curriculum, collective worship and faith schools.

For full details please visit : <http://faithdebates.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Clarke-Woodhead-A-New-Settlement-Revised.pdf>

c)	Final Report of the Commission on Religious Education, Religion and Worldviews: the Way forward
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The Final Report of the Commission on Religious Education, Religion and Worldviews: the Way forward which has just been published by the RE Council of England and Wales. It sets out a National Plan for RE comprising of 11 recommendations, and calls on the Government to consider and adopt it.

For full details please visit: <https://www.commissiononre.org.uk/final-report-religion-and-worldviews-the-way-forward-a-national-plan-for-re/>

Updates

- a) Statutory legal requirements (for information) 7
- b) Free teacher training link (for information) 8 - 9

6 Any Other Business

Date of the next meeting: To be confirmed



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MINUTES OF MEETING OF BRENT SACRE

24 April 2018

Alperton Community School

Attendees

GROUP A	Basma El-Shayyal (Chair, Sunni Islam), Alan Henness (Humanism) and Manhar Mehta (Jainism), Deva Samaroo (Brent Hindu Samaj) and Rupa Monerwala (Buddhism)
GROUP B	Laurence Hillel (Vice-Chair, Church of England)
GROUP C	Shaun Cremin
GROUP D	No representatives were present.
Others	Stephen McMullan, Nancy Rose, Lesley Prior, Roger Butler, James Kinsella, Nikolay Manov and Maura Docherty.

Apologies: Mark Newton (Church of England), Graham Noyce (Church of England), Malcolm Deboo (Zoroastrianism), Marlene Knepler (Orthodox Judaism), Councillor Neil Nerva, Councillor Lia Colacicco

1.	Welcome / Apologies	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies as above This was the last meeting attended by Nancy Rose and Stephen McMullan. Members of Brent SACRE expressed their gratitude to Ms Rose and Mr McMullan for their support throughout the years. Alan Henness informed Members that Josh Kutchinsky had passed away at the age of 68. Mr Kutchinsky was a member and a former Chair of Brent SACRE, representing Humanism on the Council. Throughout his life, Mr Kutchinsky had played a key role in the development of Humanism in Africa where his work had helped change the lives of hundreds of young people. Members of SACRE placed on record their condolences to Mr Kutchinsky's family. 	
2.	Minutes of the previous meeting and actions arising	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the previous meeting, held in October 2017, were approved as an accurate record. It was noted that a revised application for determination by Stonebridge School would be discussed under Agenda item 5. Basma El-Shayyal would email the Brent SACRE annual report to the Governance Team. 	Basma El-Shayyal
3.	Updates / news	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesley Prior informed members that Roger Butler and she had made a submission to the consultation of the Religious Education Interim Report on behalf of Brent SACRE, the final version of which was expected to be published in September 2018. It was unlikely that there would be any major developments on Religious Education (RE) as SACREs across the country awaited the publication of the report. The Annual General Meeting of the National Association of 	Basma El-

	<p>SACRE (NASACRE) would be taking place on 24 May 2018 and Brent SACRE would be represented by Ms El-Shayyal. Any interested members would be welcome to attend at a cost of £100.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following dates for future meetings were agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday - 30 October Thursday - 7 March 2019 Tuesday 27 June 2019 Members resolved not to hold a meeting during the summer. Brent SACRE would make reasonable efforts to engage stakeholders such as Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) in future meetings. 	Shayyal
4.	Feedback and summative responses from RE Co-ordinators' meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesley Prior pointed out that this item was linked to some of the points raised at the previous meeting in October 2017. In late 2017 the National Association of SACRE (NASACRE) published a research paper on the state of religious education in secondary schools. Ms Prior said that she had circulated a breakdown of Brent's position and noted that no secondary schools remained under local authority control so SACRE would not apply to any of them. The note had been compiled by looking at school timetables and syllabi, using 'Religious Education' (RE) as a key word. Ms Prior pointed out that information might not be complete as some schools might have re-branded the subject (for instance, it could be called 'Philosophy and Ethics'). Brent SACRE could write to schools to find out what they did in terms of RE and encourage them to share best practice. Ms Prior would circulate a draft of the letter to all members. The report published by NASCRE did not cover primary schools as it had been difficult to obtain information due to lack of data on primary provision. A potential way to tackle this would be for members of SACRE to look at schools' websites and try to obtain the missing data. However, it had be noted that information on websites could be different from actual practice so visiting schools might be considered. It was resolved that next steps in relation to engaging schools would be agreed once the response to the letter had been evaluated. 	Lesley Prior
5.	Determinations	
	<p><u>The Stonebridge School</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Prior informed members that a revised application for a determination had been submitted by the Stonebridge School. It provided part of the information that had been requested by Brent SACRE, but details on specific practices were still missing. It was noted that the SACRE determination had been discussed at the Governing Board meeting on 14 March 2017, the minutes of which had been attached to the submission. Governors had 	

	<p>unanimously supported the application for a determination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair added that there had been an issue with the Headteacher's signature as it had not been submitted from their work email address, but this had been resolved. • The determination was granted, subject to a copy of the application being provided to Elected Members (Group D) to seek their agreement with the outcome of the application. <p><u>Oliver Goldsmith Primary School</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that Oliver Goldsmith Primary School had submitted a re-application for a determination as the school had first applied in 2013 with the determination granted coming to close in June 2018. It was pointed out that 98.9% of parents approved the school's re-application, with two of the objectors being members of the same family, and no children were withdrawn from Religious Education (RE) or collective worship. • It was noted that children were consulted as part of the process and the school council had provided a list of reasons why pupils supported the Oliver Goldsmith Primary School to remain a multi-faith school. • Brent SACRE commended Oliver Goldsmith Primary School for the consultation carried out and the opportunity for the wider community to contribute their views on the application. • The determination was granted, subject to a copy of the application being provided to Elected Members (Group D) to seek their agreement with the outcome of the application 	
6.	Any other business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members placed on record their appreciation of Andria Zafirakou, a teacher at Alperton Community College, who had won the prestigious Global Teacher Prize. • In relation to Group D members, it was noted that Councillors would be appointed to Brent SACRE following the outcome of the Local Elections scheduled to take place on 3 May 2018. • In response to a member's question about the number of determinations that had been granted to Brent schools, Ms Prior explained that details for maintained schools were provided in the Annual Report of Brent SACRE. Data on determinations of academies was not included in the paper as applications were considered by the Department for Education. 	
	<p>Notice of Next Meeting:</p> <p>5.30pm Tuesday 30 October</p> <p>Venue – TBC</p>	

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