

MINUTES OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Held as an online virtual meeting on Thursday 14 October 2021 at 4:30pm

Attendees (in remote attendance):

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>	Sheralyn Snaith (Baha'i) Manhar Mehta (Jainism) Bhupinder Basin (Sikhism) Michelle Goldsmith (Humanism)
GROUP B <i>(A committee of persons representing the Church of England)</i>	Steve Taylor
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>	Helen Mooney (Chair) Florence Quainoo Kim Wilson
GROUP D <i>(A committee of persons representing the authority)</i>	Councillor Orleen Hylton Councillor Neil Nerva

In attendance:	Lesley Prior (RE Advisor/Consultant to SACRE) Brian Grady (Brent Council OD Safeguarding, Partnership & Strategy) Helen Tulloch (Brent Council Governor Support Coordinator) Andrew Phillips (Brent Council – Governance Team) James Kinsella (Brent Council- Governance Team) Also present: Councillor Stephens (Lead Member Education, Employment & Skills – Brent Council) Suzan Tokcan (Humanism – alternate member attending as an observer)
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1. Welcome and apologies:

It was reported that apologies for absence had been received from Basma El-Shayyal (as Chair). Helen Mooney (as Vice-Chair) advised that she would therefore chair the meeting and thanked members of SACRE for their attendance.

2. Election of Chair

Given the apologies for absence submitted by Basma El-Shayyal (Chair) it was agreed that the election of Chair/Vice-Chair for the 2021/22 academic year be deferred until the next meeting of SACRE.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held on Thursday 22 June 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

4. Determinations

Lesley Prior (RE Advisor and SACRE consultant) introduced the item, with SACRE being asked to consider the application for a determination received from Roe Green Junior School.

In considering the determination application SACRE were asked to note:

- The work undertaken to support the school with their application, which it was confirmed had met the necessary requirements including consultation with governors, pupils and parents.
- There was no specific requirement within the current application process for schools to provide examples of how worship would be undertaken in practice, although NASACRE was currently working on further guidance related to collective worship including the determination process. The guidance could be shared once available along with examples, as required, of best practice within schools in relation to collective worship.

Having considered the application it was unanimously **RESOLVED** (with each of the four membership groups voting in favor) to approve and grant the renewal of the determination for Roe Green Junior School. It was noted that in accordance with DfE guidance the determination would be backdated to the date on which the previous determination was originally due to have expired, with the school to be advised accordingly.

In terms of outstanding expired determinations SACRE noted the ongoing contact with all schools regarding their determination status and an application still outstanding from Uxendon Manor. Given the advice previously provided to

SACRE from the DfE that any initial determination extensions allowed during the pandemic should now come to an end and new applications be submitted, it was **RESOLVED** that further contact be made with the school:

- (a) to offer support and encourage the submission of a new determination application; and
- (b) to confirm, pending any new determination being submitted and approved, that given the guidance from the DfE their previous determination had now lapsed meaning they would be required to offer collective worship of a broadly Christian character.

5. SACRE Annual Report 19/20 and 20/21

5.1 2019/20 Annual Report

SACRE received a final draft of the 2019/20 Annual Report from Lesley Prior, which members were being asked to approve for final sign off.

Members thanked everyone involved in preparing the final draft for comment and approval and as no additional comments were highlighted it was **RESOLVED** to approve the 2019/20 Annual Report.

5.2 2020/21 Annual Report

In terms of the 2020-21 Annual Report, Lesley Prior advised that NASACRE had now completed work on the development of a standard template for SACRE Annual Reports, which had been designed as a means of providing a more consistent approach and reflecting and sharing best practice. This had been released the week prior to the SACRE meeting and as a result work to prepare the 2020/21 Annual Report was now underway based on the new template, with it noted that a further update and draft would therefore need to be provided for the next meeting in February 2022.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that a final draft of the 2020-21 Annual Report should be presented to the next meeting for sign off, which would be based on the new standard template.

6. Religious Education National and Local Update (Brent workforce data)

In providing an update on local and national issues relating to the provision of RE and collective worship, Lesley Prior presented SACRE with the details on the release of school level data from the 2020 DfE School Workforce Census relating to the provision of RE from those schools sampled in Brent. In considering the update SACRE was advised:

- Of the need to recognise that SACRE would have no direct remit over any of the schools included on the sample list which were outside the control of the Local Authority i.e. Voluntary Aided, Academies or Free Schools.
- The data provided was on hours taught in subjects RE & Philosophy in years 7 -13. Whilst a useful starting point, SACRE noted that the data should not be treated as a definitive indicator provision being offered within schools and the fuller position needing to be considered alongside other information such as the school website, public examination results (where available) and school visits. As an example it was pointed out that not all schools had reported RE or had classified it under a different subject heading such as Philosophy and Ethics, making the collection of data more difficult.
- In terms of terms of the overall position regarding provision this had highlighted a mixed picture with increases in some areas but decreases in others.
- The aim in providing the data had been to enable SACRE to consider the position locally and what, if any, further action it was felt needed to be taken in reminding schools of their obligations in relation to the offer of RE on the curriculum.

Whilst noting the limited remit in terms of schools outside the direct control of the Local Authority, SACRE were advised that this would not prevent them contacting each school in order to clarify the position regarding their legal obligations in relation to the offer of RE, which would also be included as part of the funding arrangements for Academies. Members were supportive of this approach, with the preference for a reminder to be issued on behalf of SACRE regarding all schools of the need to ensure these obligations were being reflected in terms of the offer provided for RE, which Lesley Prior advised she would be willing to prepare.

As no further issues were raised it was **RESOLVED** to note the update provided.

7. **NASCRE Briefing**

SACRE noted the update provided with the agenda in relation to NASACRE, including the 2021-22 training programme. Members were also advised that the date had been set for the next NASACRE Annual AGM and Conference, which would be taking place on 23 May 2022 in Birmingham. This would include Dr Richard Kueh as a keynote speaker, who members were reminded had been appointed as the Ofsted subject lead for RE. It was agreed that a representative from SACRE would be nominated to attend at the next meeting in February 2022.

Members also noted the updated included within the NASACRE bulletin circulated as part of the agenda, regarding the arrangements and programme for Inter Faith week, which would be taking place between 14 – 21 November 21. Members were referred to the Inter Faith week website, which contained a newly

established section for schools and included a number of resources for those wishing to hold events. Lesley Prior advised she would include further details and the relevant links within the regular newsletters provided for local schools.

As no further issues were raised SACRE **RESOLVED** to note the update provided

8. Any other business:

The following issues were raised as matters under Any Other Business:

81. Agreed Syllabus Update

- An update was provided on the status of the work being undertaken to complete the agreed syllabus review. Brian Grady (OD Safeguarding, Partnership & Strategy) advised SACRE of the feedback received to date from teaching and faith groups in support of the development and mapping of the syllabus and supporting materials, which would now need to be checked and shared on a wider basis over the next term. It had been recommended that a Sub Group of the Agreed Syllabus Conference be convened in order to lead on this process with a view to arranging a full Agreed Syllabus Conference towards the start of 2022.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next SACRE meeting had been scheduled as follows:

- Thursday 10 February 2022 – 4:30pm (to be held as an online meeting)

The meeting closed at 5.30pm

HELEN MOONEY
Vice Chair in the Chair