

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

Held as an online virtual meeting on Thursday 10 February 2022 at 4:30pm

### Attendees (in remote attendance):

<b>GROUP A</b> <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>	Basma EL Shayyal (Islam) – Chair Michelle Goldsmith (Humanism) Rupa Monerawela (Buddhism) Manhar Mehta (Jainism) Bhupinder Singh (Sikhism) Sheralyn Snaith (Baha'i) Sally Strauss (Judaism)
<b>GROUP B</b> <i>(A committee of persons representing the Church of England)</i>	Steve Taylor
<b>GROUP C</b> <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 (Vice-Chair) Florence Quainoo Kim Wilson
<b>GROUP D</b> <i>(A committee of persons representing the authority)</i>	Councillor Orleen Hylton Councillor Neil Nerva

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

The Chair took the opportunity to welcome Sally Strauss to her first meeting as the newly confirmed member of Brent SACRE representing the Judaism faith.

There were no apologies for absence received.

## **2. Election of Chair**

It was **AGREED** that Basma El-Shayyal be re-elected as Chair and Helen Mooney re-elected as Vice-Chair of Brent SACRE for the remainder of the 2021/22 academic year.

In reaching the above decision it was noted that in accordance with the SACRE Constitution the local authority had agreed not to exercise their right to appoint the Chair and Vice Chair, meaning the appointments were a matter for SACRE to agree.

## **3. Minutes of the last meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held on Thursday 14 October 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

## **4. Determinations**

Basma El-Shayyal introduced the item, with SACRE being asked to consider the determination applications received from Phoenix Arch School and Preston Park Primary School.

In considering the determination applications SACRE were asked to note:

- In relation to the application submitted by Phoenix Arch School the minutes confirming approval of the application by their Governing Body were still to be received. Members were advised, that whilst supportive of the application, the Governing Body to formally confirm the application had been delayed due to an Ofsted inspection. All other elements of the application had been completed, with SACRE therefore advised that if minded to support the determination this would be subject to receipt of the final Governing Body minute.
- The good quality nature of the application submitted by Preston Park Primary School.
- 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.

- In terms of expired determinations SACRE noted the ongoing contact with all schools regarding their determination status. Members noted that an application was still to be submitted from Uxendon Manor School with a further reminder sent regarding the lapsed determination and inviting the submission of an application.

Having considered the applications it was unanimously **RESOLVED** (with each of the four membership groups voting in favour) to approve and grant the renewal of the following determinations:

- (1) Phoenix Arch School – subject to receipt and approval of the Governing Body minute; and
- (2) Preston Park Primary School.

## **5. SACRE Annual Report 2020/21**

SACRE received a final draft of the 2020/21 Annual Report from Lesley Prior (RE Advisor and SACRE Consultant), which members noted had been prepared following the newly introduced template provided by NASACRE.

In considering the draft report members noted the details to be included regarding the RE subject lead meetings within community secondary schools and membership update to be provided. Members were also asked to consider the potential inclusion of data relating to GCSE and A Level assessments within the Annual Report.

Recognising that many secondary schools were now operating as Academies, members were advised of the difference in approach taken by many SACREs on this issue. In addition, attention was drawn to national guidance from the DfE which had been clear that data regarding assessments should not be published. Brian Grady (Brent Council - Operational Director Safeguarding, Partnership & Strategy) advised that whilst officers would support completion of the Annual Report the recommended approach in terms of data relating to assessments would be to comply with the national guidance and not include for publication within the report. As an alternative, it was agreed that the report should refer to the success of Religious Education more generally as part of the curriculum.

Members thanked everyone involved in preparing the draft for comment and as no additional comments were highlighted it was **RESOLVED** to note and endorse (subject to the approach identified above) the 2020/21 Annual Report for completion.

## **6. Religious Education National and Local Update**

In providing an update on local and national issues relating to the provision of RE and collective worship, Lesley Prior began by updating SACRE on progress with the draft syllabus for Religious Education which was due to be presented to the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) for final consideration and approval in advance of its adoption.

In considering the update, members were asked to consider the current membership of the ASC and whether any further expressions of interest should be invited. Members were advised that the existing membership of the ASC currently comprised of the same four Groups as made up SACRE membership, with members serving on SACRE also invited to participate as members on the ASC. As a result of the discussion at the meeting it was felt the existing basis of ASC membership should be retained, subject to vacancies being replaced by those new members also appointed to service on SACRE.

In considering the general update on the Agreed Syllabus, SACRE was advised:

- Of the extensive consultation and work which had been undertaken as part of the drafting of the syllabus with different groups and teacher representatives (including RE subject leads) in order to prepare the final document and range of supporting materials and address comments previously raised on earlier versions of the draft syllabus. This had included the trialing of various materials to support practical implementation of the syllabus, once formally agreed and adopted, within schools.
- In terms of the approval process for the Agreed Syllabus, this would require consideration and approval by the ASC for recommendation on to SACRE (with both meetings arranged for the same evening). Subject to approval by SACRE it would then need to be referred to the Local Authority to formally adopt and launch alongside the range of supporting materials which had been developed to accompany the syllabus.

In terms of other issues, Members also noted:

- The update provided in relation to lobbying currently being undertaken around the ability for schools, where RE was not being offered or sufficient provision maintained, to still achieve an “outstanding” rating in terms of Ofsted assessment. The lobbying was focused around inclusion of RE provision as a criteria for outstanding assessment as part of Ofsted inspections, with work ongoing nationally to seek support for the necessary change.

As no further issues were raised it was **RESOLVED** to note the update provided and to agree the scheduling of an ASC to meet in conjunction with the next SACRE meeting in order to consider the final draft of the Agreed RE Syllabus.

## **7. NASCRE Briefing**

SACRE noted the update provided with the agenda in relation to NASACRE.

Members were also advised that the date had also been set for the next NASACRE Annual Conference, which would be taking place on 23 May 2022 in Birmingham. The programme would include Dr Richard Kueh as a keynote speaker, who had been appointed as Ofsted subject lead for RE. It was agreed that a representative from SACRE would be funded to attend, with expressions of interest welcomed outside of the meeting.

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:

### **8.1 Programme of dates for meetings during 2022/23**

Members were asked to consider the provisional programme of dates for 2022/23.

It was **AGREED** to confirm the provisional dates identified for the October 22 and February 23 meetings (as set out below) with the first date (June/July 22) to be confirmed following additional consultation between the Chair, Vice-Chair Lesley Prior and officers at Brent Council regarding availability and need to incorporate the ASC on the same evening.

- June/July – date to be confirmed
- Thursday 6th October 2022 at 5:00pm
- Thursday 9th February 2023 at 5:00pm

The meeting closed at 5.30pm

**BASMA EL-SHAYYAL**  
Chair