

MINUTES
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
Thursday 30 January 2020 at 4.30 pm in Brent Civic Centre

Attendees:

<p>GROUP A <i>(A committee of persons representing such Christian denominations and other religions as, in the opinion of the authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area)</i></p>	<p>Basma ElShayyal (Sunni Islam, Chair) Farjad Farid (Baha'i) Bhupinder Singh (Sikhism)</p>
<p>GROUP B <i>(A committee of persons representing the Church of England)</i></p>	<p>Steve Taylor (Church of England)</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>Ian Slade Shaun Cremin Helen Mooney (Associations Representing Teachers)</p>
<p>GROUP D <i>(A committee of persons representing the authority)</i></p>	<p>None.</p>

<p>In attendance:</p>	<p>Lesley Prior (RE Adviser/Consultant to SACRE) Brian Grady (OD, Safeguarding Performance and Strategy) John Frankis (Systems and Partnerships Manager, School Effectiveness Service) Stacey Burman (Adviser to the ASC) Kunwar Khan (Governance Officer)</p>
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<p>Apologies:</p>	<p>Rupa Monerawela (Buddhism) Sheralyn Snaith (Baha'i) Malcolm Deboo (Zoroastrian) Cllr Tariq Dar (Representing The Authority) Cllr Neil Nerva (Representing The Authority) Cllr Orleen Hylton (Representing The Authority)</p>
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Agreed Syllabus Workshop

Before the start of the SACRE meeting, the Agreed Syllabus Workshop took place between 4.30 and 6.00 pm.

The Chair welcomed and introduced Stacey Burman (Adviser to the Agreed Syllabus Conference, ASC) who gave a presentation, facilitated smaller workshops amongst the members about the Brent Agreed Syllabus and invited their feedback. At the end of the allotted time, there was a possibility of follow up work/session and John Frankis (Systems and Partnerships Manager, School Effectiveness Service) and the Chair undertook to explore this further outside of the meeting. A copy of the key outcomes, in consultation with Stacey Burman, would be provided by John Frankis in due course.

Action: John Frankis

1. Welcome and Introductions

At the start of the formal SACRE meeting, Basma ElShayyal, Chair, formally welcomed everyone to the meeting. Kunwar Khan, Governance Officer, advised that the meeting was inquorate and could not make any formal decisions. The Chair noted the advice and the meeting continued on the basis that information items would be noted. Any formal decision making required would need to be properly ratified.

Brian Grady (Operational Director, Safeguarding Performance and Strategy) thanked the participation and efforts of SACRE members and highlighted the need for all represented groups to ensure the quorum requirement was met.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held on 17 October 2019 were approved as an accurate record.

In relation to matters arising and updates, the following points were noted:

Item 3 – Constitution:

- Lesley Prior (RE Adviser/Consultant to SACRE) had some correspondence with Helen Tulloch (Governor Support Coordinator, School Effectiveness Service) about the constitution. She stated that if this was not already carried out while she was away, there was a need to ensure/document that it was the will of the Local Authority (LA) to formally convene the ASC with the same membership as that of SACRE. The organisations would need to be contacted by the LA to ask if they were happy to proceed with the same nomination on the ASC. A member highlighted that this process might already have taken place but it needed to be checked. In any case, SACRE could make appropriate recommendations to the LA about this matter.
- SACRE constitution was drafted before the amalgamation of TUs and could do with some further tidying up. In addition, there was no legal requirement to have teachers on SACRE from various sectors like Early Years,

Secondary, Primary etc. but it provided (if possible) a great advantage and combined wisdom.

- SACRE could benefit from reviewing the latest available religious demographic data since the census and then to reflect this in its membership with the constitution being a standing item every 5 years.
- Review of the constitution and membership was to be undertaken by John Frankis, Lesley Prior and Helen Tulloch.
- The Chair acknowledged the excellent contribution of Roger Butler in developing SACRE in Brent.
- Brian Grady welcomed the refresh of the constitution and membership in an up to date document, noted the comment about the formal appointment of the ASC by the Local Authority. He suggested that an offer to join the Brent SACRE should be extended to unrepresented organisations according to the updated demographic data.
- Bhupinder Singh (Sikhism) informed that the Central Sikh Gurdwara was hosting a PGCE workshop and members were welcomed to attend and inform within their networks.

3. Election of Vice-chair

Deferred.

4. SACRE Priorities 2020

John Frankis, Systems and Partnerships Manager, introduced the report setting out draft priorities, related actions for 2019-2021 to be considered by SACRE members.

Action:

- The Chair invited all members of SACRE to consider the draft Brent SACRE/Agreed Syllabus Development Plan 2019-2021, ahead of discussion and approval at the SACRE meeting in the summer term.

Action: All SACRE Members

5. Determinations under The Education Act 1996:

The Chair introduced the item and stated that an application for determination had been received from Kingsbury Green Primary School in Brent since the last SACRE meeting as set out in the agenda pack. As the meeting was inquorate, it was agreed that there could only be a provisional view/decision, which then had to be ratified by the sector representative who were not present at the meeting.

During the consideration, the following key points were noted:

- SACRE had appreciated the effort put in by the school in filling out the application and in providing the supporting paperwork.
- Page 16 - 18 it had been identified that parents did not want the school to continue with the multi-faith approach.
- The application form could be more specific and amended to reflect that all required information was requested in an even more structured manner so that it ensured that the school/headteacher provided any relevant reassurance and clarity. The form should also say that this was required every five years.
- Lesley Prior stated that there was no reason why the dispensation could not be granted/withheld, at least in principle.
- The minutes had to be signed/or agreed by the Governing body/Chair of Governors.
- Clarity was required about page 16 – consultation in terms of the request to withdrawal. Was it for RE or collective worship?
- Once agreed, the letter/email going to school would need to say that it would be granted subject to the school providing any requested details and clarification.
- There was a lot of good material and guidance in the application.
- The process had to be watertight to protect SACRE and the schools.

As no further comments were raised, it was unanimously agreed by those present that determination for the listed school, i.e. Kingsbury Green Primary School be granted subject to clarification about the parental concerns about the activity, whether it was a request to withdrawal from RE or collective worship and in which language (considering any language barriers and challenges) were the parents informed.

Action:

- That John Frankis undertake to write to the school listed above and confirm that their determinations had been granted in principle subject to clarification/information requested highlighted above.
- Future Headteachers Bulletins to contain a reminder and clear message about determination along with a clear criteria/check list that could be used by SACRE and schools for this item.

Action: John Frankis

6. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural comments from Ofsted reports

John Frankis introduced the report highlighting key comments made by Ofsted following school inspections undertaken in the 2019/20 academic year.

In considering the report, the following key points were noted:

- The comments made by Ofsted following school inspections in Brent undertaken in the 2019/20 to date, since the introduction of the new Education Inspection Framework.
- The latest publication from NATRE, which surveyed all Ofsted reports published in the 2019/20 term mentioned RE (attached as appendix 1). The Chair highlighted a point from the NATRE survey 2019 that 32% schools withdrawals were carried out for two reasons – not wanting to know about any other religion or not wanting to learn about Islam. In contrast, there was an excellent practice in Brent, which needed to be developed further and be appreciated.
- The essential role of SACRE in supporting the Local Authority (LA) and local authority schools in meeting the entitlement of pupils across the local authority to engage in high quality Religious Education and Collective Worship.
- The Chair and Lesley Prior, both highlighted the NATRE report and survey. Ofsted had now appointed subject specific inspectors.
- Lesley Prior had completed the annual report except the examination data released in the last few days, which would be included and then circulated.
- Page 27 – the key summary points were highlighted and should be sent to all concerned as part of SACRE bulletins. The Chair thanked John Frankis in sending helpful updates and requested that this information be publicised.
- The significant results and progress made in terms of RE provision at Alperton Community School.

Action:

- After consideration, it was agreed that members of SACRE note the comments made relating to religious education and/or spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Action: All SACRE Members

7. Any Other Urgent Business

None.

Date of Next Meeting: 30 April 2020 at 4.30 pm at Brent Civic Centre.

BASMA ELSHAYYAL
Chair