



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2020

Members

Group A: *Patricia Alder, Dr Bernard Arambepola, Hasan Boluceh, Nick Chanda, Andrew Gaudion, Muhammad Ibrahim, Rabbi Yuval Keren, Rabbi Emanuel Levy, Revd. Mark Meatcher, Marina Robb, Jill Saxton, Navaratnam Shanmuganathan, Rubbina Umar, and 3 x vacancies*

Group B: *The Revd. Ian Crofts, The Revd. Gordon Giles, Stephen Miller, Sally Moore, The Revd. Tina Kelsey and 1x vacancy.*

Group C: *Sabah Raza (Chair), Hannah Croton, Becky Shah, Ozlem Onay and 2 x vacancies.*

Group D: *Cllr Ergin Erbil, Cllr James Hockney, Cllr Michael Rye OBE, Clara Seery and Cllr Mahtab Uddin*

Italics denotes absence

Also Attending

Julia Diamond Conway – RE Advisor

Pauline Swain – SACRE Administrator

Louise McNamara - Minute Clerk

Josh Newham – Head Teacher Forty Hill School

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Group A

Apologies for absence were received from Revd. Mark Meatcher.

Group D

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr James Hockney and Cllr Michael Rye OBE.

2. MEMBERSHIP AND WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

The following amendments to membership were reported by the Chair:

Appointments

- Ozlem Onay – Chesterfield Primary School (Enfield Learning Trust) – Group C
- Becky Shah – Highlands Secondary School – Group C

The Chair thanked the new volunteers and welcomed Josh Newham back to SACRE as an observer and said that the contributions from the two new school representatives were important and valued.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2019 were confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendment

- The Revd. Ian Crofts was marked as absent but had attended the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The following issues arose through consideration of the Minutes:

- (a) Item 4(c)(a) - the secondary school survey had been kept open as planned to collect more responses. Exam results had now been received from most secondary schools.
- (b) Item 4(c)(b) – as recommended by Peter Nathan, Director of Education, at the last meeting, the Chair had started to research new Schemes of Work to ensure that the selected scheme met the agreed syllabus. The research was ongoing, and an update would be provided at the next meeting.

Action: Chair

- (c) Item 4(e) – members had suggested varying the time of the Summer term meeting in order to be as flexible and inclusive as possible. A list was circulated to the group for them to indicate their preferred time for the meeting. The most popular time was 17:30 - 19:00pm.
- (d) Item 12 (a) – members had noted that the Places of Worship list was out of date. The list was circulated to members for them to provide updates as required.

Action: SACRE Administrator

BUSINESS ITEMS

Improving standards in religious education and collective worship

5. LAUNCH OF NEW SACRE WEBSITE

The Chair welcomed Chris Chrysanthou, ICT Technical Manager, to the meeting.

Chris provided an update on the development of the new SACRE website which was almost ready to launch. Chris demonstrated some of the website features including

- Menus and search features
- Rotating slide show
- Calendar to include training dates and events
- Newsletter
- Membership details
- Policies
- Contact Us – emails would be directed to Pauline Swain in first instance
- Schools Section – information still to be added

The website was still a work in progress and would be formally launched in March 2020. The link to the website was as follows

<http://www.enfieldsacre.co.uk/>

Members discussed including minutes from their termly meetings on the website. They agreed that at the end of each meeting they would determine if any issues were confidential and record these under Part 2 minutes. The Part 1 minutes would be added to the website.

The group thanked Chris for his work on the website to date. Members were asked to review the website and email any additions/comments to Pauline Swain.

Action: Members, SACRE Administrator

Clerk's Note: Chris Chrysanthou left the meeting.

6. FEEDBACK ON THE HMD EVENT and INTER FAITH HANUKKAH EVENT

(a) Holocaust Memorial Day

Feedback was provided from the recent Holocaust Memorial event. The Chair, Rabbi Levy and Rabbi Yuval attended the event.

The theme of the evening had been 'Stand Together'. Students from Enfield County School had given a presentation on their recent trip to Auschwitz which had been moving and thought provoking.

There had also been presentations from three Rabbis and a video presentation of Bosnians returning to their country after the conflict. This had been followed by time for personal reflection to music. Kosher refreshments had been provided by the Local Authority.

Members discussed attendance at this event, which was generally by invite. They felt that it would be good to hold the event at a larger venue, possibly Millfield Theatre, so that everyone interested could attend. It was agreed to liaise with Ilhan Basharan, LA Community Engagement Manager, to research alternative venues.

Action: SACRE Administrator

(b) Faith Forum

Reported that the Faith Forum was going through a period of transition. Nick Chanda would provide feedback at the next meeting.

Action: SACRE Administrator, Nick Chanda

(c) Inter Faith Hanukkah Event

Feedback was provided from the recent Inter Faith Hanukkah Event.

The event had been open to all faiths and had been a successful community event. There had been lots of interactive activities for visitors to learn about the faith and refreshments had been provided.

Members thanks the Jewish community for holding this event and felt it would be beneficial if other faiths could hold similar events.

7. WELCOME AND UPDATE FROM JULIA DIAMOND-CONWAY

Introduction

The Chair welcomed Julia Diamond-Conway, SACRE's new RE Advisor, to the meeting.

Julia introduced herself and informed members that she had worked in Redbridge for 14 years as an Advanced Skills Teacher for RE and Behaviour for Learning, before joining RE Today in 2014. In her current role she worked as a RE Advisor, providing school training, advice to SACREs and writing books and guidance for schools and the wider community.

Julia was pleased to join Enfield SACRE as their RE Advisor and informed members that at each meeting she would provide an update on national issues. This could either be emailed to members in advance of the meeting and they could come with questions or she could discuss the updates at the meeting. Members felt that due to the large amount of information to read for meetings, they would prefer Julia to discuss the updates at the meeting and then email a summary to members for future reference.

Update

(a) Ofsted Update

The new Ofsted Framework was introduced in September 2020 and had a greater emphasis on all schools offering pupils a broad and balanced curriculum. In initial reports from inspections carried out under the new framework, it was pleasing to note that inspectors had reported where improvements were needed in RE or where it was being taught well.

During inspections under the new Framework, inspectors would look at particular subjects in detail which was known as a 'deep dive'. RE can be chosen as a subject for a deep dive.

The results of the monitoring for the first 101 reports to mention RE can be found here:

<https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/101-re-mentions-in-ofsted-primary-and-secondary-reports/>

Another feature of new inspections is that inspectors would expect pupils to demonstrate that they remembered their learning. Schools were preparing for this in different ways, reminding pupils what they had already learnt and how that was built on and developed. Schools also needed to make the RE curriculum interesting and engaging to make learning more memorable. Ways of doing this included visits to places of worship, inviting visitors from different religions into school and use of religious artefacts.

(b) RE Teacher Recruitment

Based on UCAS figures, there had been a 30% increase in the number of trainee RE teachers. This was felt to be a very positive development as numbers had been low for several years. Julia informed members that some SACREs were proactive in recruiting these trainees to schools in their authority.

(c) Sacred Texts

The British Library were now offering free online learning resources to all to share and discover their sacred texts. The library had an extensive range of materials and the website included over 250 items including short films and articles which could support teaching. At this stage, the resources mainly related to KS4 but there were plans to add

resources for primary schools. This was a rich and useful resource and a link to the website would be shared with members and schools.

Westminster Abbey also provided a range of workshops for schools, mainly focused on RE but also related subjects such as history and British values. Their outreach programme included visits to schools followed by a visit to the abbey. The organisers of the outreach programme had indicated that Enfield was one of the authorities they hoped to engage with.

(d) Diary Dates

Julia highlighted the following conferences which may be of interest to members

- NASACRE AGM and Conference – Monday 18th May 2020, The Crowne Plaza, London City
- AREIAC Conference 2020 – 6th-7th July 2020, Coventry
- REXChange – 3rd October, Birmingham. A conference to promote researcher/teacher engagement.

(e) Member Questions

(i) Are Ofsted taking RE more seriously?

Members asked Julia if she felt Ofsted were now taking RE seriously.

Julia felt that it was a positive development to see greater reference to RE in Ofsted inspection reports and she felt this change had made teachers look at their RE curriculum and provision more closely. She added, however, that she felt some inspectors were not fully familiar with the RE curriculum and this was reflected in some of their comments. Ofsted had recently interviewed for an RE HMI and this was felt to be a positive sign which would help to address the current situation.

Members were encouraged to view the comments relating to RE in recent Ofsted reports via the link provided above. Members asked if it would be possible to summarise any RE comments from Enfield inspection reports and it was agreed that this would be provided at termly meetings.

Action: SACRE Administrator

(ii) RE Curriculum

Members asked if Julia felt that schools had been reducing their RE offer and curriculum.

Julia felt that some schools had been reducing their subject options and this often impacted on RE. Some schools had drastically narrowed their RE offer and teaching which had an impact on pupils learning and understanding.

Julia felt that under the new Framework, Ofsted wanted the same breadth and ambition for all subject areas and although this was a positive development the position in relation to RE would have to be monitored and assessed over the next couple of years.

Some schools now bulked RE lessons together and provision was via 'drop down' days. Members felt that this method was not effective and did not support the 'know more/remember more' focus of the new Framework.

Members thanked Julia for her interesting and informative update.

Resolved that

- Julia's written update would be circulated to all members
- Links to the British Library Sacred Text resource and the Westminster Abbey Outreach Programme would be circulated to schools.

Action: Chair/SACRE Administrator

8. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Received the RE Collective Worship Circular 1/94.

The Chair read out an extract from the circular regarding determination, as detailed below, and proposed that this was added to the Collective Worship Policy.

Exemption from broadly Christian collective worship ('determinations')

68. The requirements described above (paragraphs 60-66), that collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, should be appropriate for most pupils across the country. The 'determination' procedure, however, allows these requirements to be lifted in respect of some or all the pupils in a school where they are inappropriate. In determining this, the standing advisory council on RE (SACRE) is to have regard to any circumstances relating to the faith backgrounds of the pupils which are relevant for deciding what character of collective worship is appropriate.

69. The 1993 Act allows any grant-maintained school equivalent to a county school (i.e. to which section 7(1) of the 1988 Act applies) to apply for a determination in similar circumstances to a county school.

Applying for a determination

70. If the head teacher of a school considers that the requirements for collective worship in paragraph 60 could conflict with what is required by paragraph 64, he or she can apply to the local standing advisory council on RE (SACRE) to lift or modify the requirements in paragraph 60. Before doing so the head teacher must consult the school's governing body who in turn may wish to seek the views of parents.

Members felt that this was good practice and agreed with this proposal.

9. UPDATE ON SCHOOL WEBSITE MONITORING

Members had reviewed 45 school websites since the last SACRE meeting, and the Chair thanked them for their efforts. Common findings from this exercise were as follows:

- No reference to collective worship or assemblies
- No named RE Leader
- No RE Policy
- No link to the SACRE website
- No photos of RE events other than the Nativity play

- Faith schools generally included their RE Policy and supporting information

Members discussed the findings of the review and felt that no reference to collective worship did not necessarily mean this did not take place in schools. It was not a compliance requirement to include this information on the school website, but it was hoped that the new Ofsted requirements would improve this. Members felt that some school staff did not include information and photographs of RE events on the school website as felt this could attract negative comments if not all religions were represented.

Members discussed the most effective way to monitor collective worship and considered whether a survey would be more useful. SACRE members would also visit schools to observe their collective worship as a learning experience. The Chair reminded members that SACRE was an advisory body who could offer help and support but could not enforce practice.

Members were encouraged to continue monitoring school websites on an ad hoc basis to note any changes in the information included.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(a) Teach Meets

Noted that the following RE TeachMeets had been arranged

- Primary – 11 March 2020
- Secondary – 25 February 2020

A summer term workshop for Secondary schools was also being arranged.

Members felt this was a positive development, as RE training/CPD had not been held for some time.

(b) Special School RE Provision

Following a query from a school, members discussed the RE provision for pupils with ASD (Autism). Clara Seery advised them that special schools should follow the RE curriculum as far as was practical and offer all pupils a broad curriculum. Members agreed that it was important for all pupils to learn about real life experiences.

Members suggested that representatives from special schools in Enfield could get together for RE training specifically for children with special needs.

Action: Chair/Julia Diamond-Conway

11. **ANNUAL REPORT**

Received the SACRE Annual Report 2018/19.

Members thanked the Chair for her work on this document.

12. **SACRE MEETING DATES – ACADEMIC YEAR 2019 - 2020**

Noted the following dates all on Tuesdays:

16 June 2020 – 17:30 – 19:00pm

17 November 2020 – 17:30 – 19:00pm

The Chair informed members that she would be standing down as a member of SACRE at the end of the academic year due to personal reasons. She said that she had really enjoyed her time on the group and the role of Chair and encouraged other members to consider taking on the Chair role from the 2020/21 academic year.

CLOSE OF MEETING