



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2023

Members

Group A: *Patricia Alder, Dr Bernard Arambepola, Hasan Boluceh, Nick Chanda, Rabbi Yuval Keren, Rabbi Emanuel Levy, Marina Robb, Dr John Strange*

Group B: *Sally Moore, Father Vince Sheehan*

Group C: *Hannah Croton, Rebecca Islam (Maternity Leave), Ozlem Onay, Samantha Manipon, Josh Newham, Becky Shah*

Group D: *Cllr Alessandro Georgiou, Cllr Esin Gunes, Cllr James Hockney, Peter Nathan, Lucy Nutt, Cllr George Savva*

Italics denotes absence

Also Attending

Julia Diamond-Conway – RE Advisor (RE Today)

Marianne Page – Clerk (covering Pauline Swain)

The meeting was held at St Demetrious Church, Logan Road, Edmonton N9 0LP and was preceded by a tour of the church led by Marina Robb. The meeting was held in hybrid blended format.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

NOTED apologies had been received from Hannah Croton, Josh Newham, John Strange and Fr Vince Sheehan.

2. MEMBERSHIP AND WELCOME

Lucy Nutt informed the SACRE that a request had been received from the Hindu Education Board UK with details of a local Hindu community member to help fill the vacancy for a Hindu SACRE representative on Enfield SACRE. An invitation to attend this meeting had been extended, unfortunately the Hindu nominated person did not attend the meeting, this will be progressed.

Rabbi Danny Rich, the Interim Rabbi until at least 31 October 2023 at Southgate Progressive Synagogue was expected to attend the meeting and be welcomed as a member. Rabbi Rich is expected to attend the next meeting.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2022

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

4. DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022 – 2024

REPORTED that the previous SACRE Development Plan 2020-2022 had concluded in 2022 it was therefore time to look ahead and prepare the 2022-2024 plan. Previous evaluation of both the 2018-2020 and 2020-23 Plans had demonstrated that all areas had been considered, many key

Enfield SACRE · A partnership for good religious education · Religious communities · Teachers · Local Authority

actions were judged as established or advanced, whilst some areas were judged as developing were on-going and repeated in previous plans.

NOTED that

SACRE continue to measure our effectiveness against each of the five dimensions of the Ofsted 'SACREs and Self-Evaluation: A Guide'

1. The monitoring and improvement of the standards, quality and provision for RE
2. The partnership between SACRE, the LA and other key stakeholders
3. The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus
4. The monitoring and improvement of the provision and quality of collective worship
5. The contribution of SACRE to the promotion of social and racial harmony.

Members were invited to consider which dimension they would like to volunteer to work on with support from the Chair and other LA Officers.

Lucy Nutt explained that there was a list of 21 things SACREs can do. She undertook to put key Issues / Actions into a draft Development Plan, explaining the key strategies to support the five dimensions, detailing how this would be achieved and what was required outlining the success criteria and inviting members to express interest in working on specific strands.

RESOLVED that Lucy Nutt prepare information to circulate to the SACRE. Further discussion would take place at the next meeting on 13 June.

ACTION: LUCY NUTT

The Chair took the opportunity to say the Development Plan was a valuable way for SACRE to contribute to priorities in the local community and in doing so raise its profile borough wide. SACRE's intention is that we are a partnership for good RE: religious communities, teachers' representatives and the Local Authority.

5. ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

REPORTED that borough profile statistical release of RE data had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was hope that members had the opportunity to read this in advance of the meeting and consider the volume of data within it. The data contained within would be used to inform the Annual Report 2022-23 which was currently being drafted and would be shared at the next meeting on 13 June.

NOTED that

Rabbi Levy asked whether there was an explanation that more girls than boys took RE at GCSE level? Julia Diamond-Conway said this was a national trend and was a matter for consideration. In schools it had been identified that disadvantaged pupils were served well in Key Stages 4 and 5. There might be groups however who were not being reached. Rabbi Levy was thanked for his question. Lucy Nutt said she would be interrogating the data on first year results. The issue was shared nationally. There was however no hard data for RE in primary schools, but groups could be identified in the data at secondary level.

SACRE members were reminded that they were able to download the 'Analysis of SACRE Annual Reports 2020-2021 from the NASACRE website, which provided an overview of what SACREs around the country had achieved and the SACRE Annual Reports framework Contents.

RESOLVED that the SACRE Annual Report 2022-23 be shared at the next SACRE meeting on 13 June 2023.

ACTION: LUCY NUTT

A question was raised with regard to a parents' legal right to withdraw their child from RE members were reminded that RE was not worship but teaching about religion. It was suggested that a draft letter to parents be prepared explaining what RE lessons involved. It was noted that some 18% of Muslim parents requested their child be withdrawn from RE and members felt it would be helpful to understand the reasons. All three Muslim representative places were currently vacant. It was agreed that the data be considered in more depth at another meeting.

RESOLVED that a letter be sent out prepared by Lucy Nutt in the Chair's name.

ACTION: LUCY NUTT

6. AGREED SYLLABUS (AS) 2023 - 2028

REPORTED that the Enfield Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2023-2028 had now been finalised and launched to Schools on 19 January at Bishop Stopford's School, Enfield. The soft launch on 19 January allowed Schools at least two terms to transition into the new Syllabus ready for being fully implemented by September 2023.

NOTED that

Of 97 possible schools 83 were represented at the Headteachers' conference launching the Agreed Syllabus. Some Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) had attended representing more than one school. Attendance was not only from faith schools and Bishop Stopford was thanked for being helpful and kindly hosting the well-received session. Workshops had been held taking participants through step by step of details of the new AS.

Dr John Strange (Group A member) had attended for the full day and been very impressed. Josh Newham (Group C Hazelwood Primary) had attended to open the session and welcome participants.

Some Enfield Local Authority schools had bought into the Haringey Education Partnership (HEP) for their school improvement and were therefore using Haringey's AS. However there was a statutory requirement to use the Agreed Syllabus for the geographical Local Authority and all Headteachers needed to be aware of and comply with this. Peter Nathan, Director of Education had included a reminder in his weekly Headteachers' Newsletter.

A poetic minute-taker had attended the conference, Rakaya Fetuga and performed a poem at the end of the day. Lucy Nutt took the opportunity to read out the poem in full and undertook to make a copy available via the SACRE administrator. It had been very well received inspiring participants to take a copy to share in their schools.

ACTION: LUCY NUTT/ SACRE ADMINISTRATOR

A training package for £250 for 5 years was available which was good value and ensured the AS was easy to deliver. A high level of support was included in the price and allowed schools lacking in confidence to alter as appropriate to ensure quality teaching was provided.

Members were reminded that they could view all this information using the password for the SACRE website as not all content was in the public domain (Minute 12(b) below refers).

Members were reminded that the AS was presented to schools two terms in advance of when it was required to be implemented in September 2023. Julia Diamond-Conway undertook to provide Lucy Nutt with a digest of the day regarding the public facing part of the Agreed Syllabus.

ACTION: JULIA DIAMOND-CONWAY

Sabah Raza would share information and would also be offering Teach Meets in the summer term to support headteachers prior to September implementation. This could be offered in school to anyone lacking RE experience and in addition was a good networking opportunity. In response to a question it was agreed that this would go in the Development Plan and Marina Robb and Lucy Nutt were aware of this.

Officers were warmly thanked for their work on this and there were no further questions arising.

7. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2023

REPORTED that Enfield Council commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day on Friday 27 January with a special event at the Dugdale Arts Centre in Enfield. Local religious and civic dignitaries were invited to the event were welcomed by Enfield Council's member for Community Safety and Cohesion, Cllr Gina Needs.

NOTED that

The event included a performance from Wolfson Hillel Primary School Choir, readings by pupils from Chace Community School and St Anne's Catholic School, speeches from the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Opposition, Cllr Alessandro Georgiou, Rabbi Emmanuel Levy from the Palmers Green & Southgate Synagogue and Rabbi Danny Rich from Southgate Progressive Synagogue.

Rabbi Levy commented that he had been honoured to be a speaker at the event which was well organised, and he appreciated the support of the Council.

It was noted that the event was by invitation only and that about a third of the seats were vacant which meant others who may have wished to attend were not given the opportunity. Lucy Nutt undertook to raise this with Shaun Rogan, Head of Corporate Strategy, so that next year empty seats could be avoided. In addition Lucy Nutt was asked to prepare a letter of thanks from the Chair for the event.

ACTION: LUCY NUTT

The 'Ordinary People' themed Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration was a time for all to reflect on how we can be a more caring society and ensure that we do all we can to prevent such abhorrent events from happening again.

The Mayor, Cllr Doris Jagge, leader of the council, Cllr Nesil Caliskan, leader of the opposition, Cllr Alessandro and other councillors signed a 'pledge against genocide' at the event, which will be displayed at the Civic Centre.

The event was filmed, and a recording of the event is available on the Council's Youtube Channel.

<https://www.enfield.gov.uk/news-and-events/2023/01/holocaust-memorial-day-focuses-on-ordinary-people>

8. UPDATE FROM SACRE RE ADVISOR

RECEIVED a National RE update from Julia Diamond-Conway which included details on RE CPD , networking opportunities and RE resources:

Research into parent views on Religious Education

In summer 2021, the Culham St Gabriel's Trust (CSTG) commissioned a survey to understand more about public perception of an education in religion and worldviews. In the summer of 2022, CSTG commissioned another survey, this time exploring the views of parents about education in religion and worldviews. In both cases, the language used in the questions was chosen to try to avoid these misconceptions and to collect a more accurate set of data about what people thought about modern RE. Some key findings about what parents talk about with their children: Around 8 in 10 discuss beliefs about the origins of life and the universe (78%), 7 in 10 discuss beliefs concerning what happens when we die (72%), 8 in 10 discuss beliefs that affect people's behaviour and decision making (77%) and 7 in 10 discuss issues related to religious and non-religious worldviews that appear in the media (67%)

Find out more here: <https://www.cstg.org.uk/activities/campaigns/parent-survey>

How can SACRE capitalise on these findings to further improve RE provision in the LA?

Link between study of RS at examination level and positive outcomes for disadvantaged students

There is a growing body of research linking the study of Religious Education/Studies with improved outcomes for pupils identified as 'disadvantaged'.

This collection of research would suggest that schools that are serious about improving the outcomes for their disadvantaged pupils, should look carefully at their provision for Religious Studies at key stage 4 and 5.

Find out more [here](#):

What do we know about the levels of disadvantage in the schools in our area and their experience of Religious education?

Cross party calls for RE National Plan after Westminster debate

London, 01 November 2022: A Westminster Hall debate heard cross-party calls of support for religious education, as MPs urged the Government to do more to protect the subject, they considered vital for young people in modern Britain.

The debate, entitled 'Religious Education in Modern Britain', was called by Conservative MP Martin Vickers who cited concerns about the number of schools fulfilling their statutory responsibility to teach the subject. At year 11, one school in five reported offering zero hours of RE

[Read more here](#)

How do these figures compare with the picture in our LA?

What action (if any) should SACRE be taking?

Would SACRE like to inform local politicians further about issues facing RE? [This document](#) might support this activity

NATRE survey of provision for RE in primary schools published

Key highlights from the survey show:

- The number of schools where pupils are withdrawn is increasing. 23% of schools report some withdrawal from RE (18.6% in 2020. and 16% in 2018).
- 96% of schools report that they make provision for RE for all pupils in their school.
- More than 40% of teachers report that they received between 0 and 3 hours of training to teach RE in their initial teacher training. 20% received none.
- 63% of schools say some RE is being delivered by adults other than teachers (TAs/HLTAs etc.)
- In 28% of schools, RE receives no budget or no set budget and is 30% less funding than foundation subjects.
- In just under a third of schools (31.5%) insufficient time (less than 60 mins) is being spent on the teaching of RE to ensure that pupils make good progress.
- In 80% of schools, subject leaders receive some training but 25% of other teachers receive none and report reduced confidence.
- In over 30% of schools, time for RE increased and in 30% of these, Ofsted has cited as the main reason: inspection comments, the Framework, or the Research Review in RE.
Read more [here](#) and an infographic [here](#):

To what extent do these findings from primary teachers nationally, reflect the situation in our area?

Office for National Statistics publishes responses to the question on religion in census 2021

For the first time in a census of England and Wales, less than half of the population (46.2%, 27.5 million people) described themselves as “Christian”, a 13.1 percentage point decrease from 59.3% (33.3 million) in 2011; despite this decrease, “Christian” remained the most common response to the religion question.

“No religion” was the second most common response, increasing by 12.0 percentage points to 37.2% (22.2 million) from 25.2% (14.1 million) in 2011.

There were increases in the number of people who described themselves as “Muslim” (3.9 million, 6.5% in 2021, up from 2.7 million, 4.9% in 2011) and “Hindu” (1.0 million, 1.7% in 2021, up from 818,000, 1.5% in 2011).

Wales had a greater decrease in people reporting their religion as “Christian” (14.0 percentage point decrease, from 57.6% in 2011 to 43.6% in 2021) and increase in “No religion” (14.5 percentage point increase, from 32.1% in 2011 to 46.5% in 2021) compared with England and Wales overall.

London remains the most religiously diverse region of England in 2021, with over a quarter (25.3%) of all usual residents reporting a religion other than “Christian”; the North East and South West are the least religiously diverse regions, with 4.2% and 3.2%, respectively, selecting a religion other than “Christian”.

What are the implications of this census for the membership of SACRE?

How are the religious and non-religious traditions, including the smaller ones reflected in the

membership of our SACRE?

How does the data for 2021 compare with 2011? How is our area similar and different to England and Wales as a whole?

Theos Report: Who are the Nones and what do they believe?

This report published on 24th November, shortly before the census data above was released explores the demography, beliefs and practices of Nones and then presents a cluster analysis of this group. It shows that Nones comprise a complex and sometimes counter-intuitive group with, for example, only 51% of them stating they “don’t believe in God,” and 42% believing in some form of the supernatural. [Read more here](#)

New2RE: A great opportunity for Early Career Teachers and Teachers with other specialisms (TWOs) in secondary schools, new to RE

Are you a primary or secondary Early Career Teacher of TWOS (teachers with other specialisms in RE)? If so NATRE’s New2RE is the best support RE teachers can get.

For further information on the benefits of joining the programme as well as how to join click on this link: [NEW2RE - A great opportunity for NEW Secondary RE teachers \(natre.org.uk\)](https://www.natre.org.uk/new2re)

How can SACRE raise awareness and support teachers with access to CPD and networking opportunities?

Welcome webinars for NATRE members

New NATRE members are invited to our monthly welcome webinars. Get started and access free live monthly webinar training designed to help use NATRE membership and enjoy it to its fullest!

What will be covered?

- How to Access NATRE resources
- Access online termly mailing resources
- Access Local Groups area
- Take the best out of the NATRE monthly newsletter
- How to redeem your REtoday library membership
- How to use your membership discount

Interest can be registered at:

<https://www.natre.org.uk/member-login/natre-members-welcome-webinar/>

Free webinars for primary and secondary ECTs

Early Career Teachers of RE have access to a range of free support through a series of online sessions. ‘Café’ sessions give them a chance to talk with experienced teachers and experts from different worldview backgrounds. The taught sessions offer expert input with a focus on practical classroom strategies.

Date – All Monday 4pm-5pm	Topic
13 March	Café NATRE – Subject Knowledge Judaism
8 May	Taught session: Focus on Worldviews
12 June	Taught session: Focus on Sikhi
10 July	Café NATRE: Subject Knowledge Christianity

9. SACRE MEETING DATES 2023

NOTED the dates of the meetings in 2023, Tuesdays at 17.30.

13 June Nick Chanda kindly offered to host the meeting. The venue for the meeting will therefore be the Revival Christian Church of Enfield, 47 London Road, Enfield EN2 6DS (close to the Dugdale Arts Centre which has a large multi-storey adjacent car park. The venue is also served by Enfield Town overground station and several bus routes).

14 November venue to be confirmed – offers to host were invited.

Dates were set in accordance with school terms, religious dates and Council meetings. However, the dates are subject to full Council approval in accordance with the Municipal Calendar.

SACRE groups were warmly invited to make recommendations, through the Chair, on matters and topics of business for future meetings.

INFORMATION ITEMS **Improving SACRE's effectiveness**

10. NASACRE FOI

Noted that NASACRE has submitted a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to LAs on SACRE funding.

11. INTERFAITH WEEK – 12 – 19 NOVEMBER 2023

Members **noted** that Inter Faith Week will take place:

Sunday 12 November to Sunday 19 November 2023.

This was a week to focus on inter faith understanding and cooperation.

Building good relationship and working partnerships between people of different faiths and beliefs was part of the work of the year-round work of many people.

The aims of the week were to strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels, increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to the wider society and to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs
<https://www.interfaithweek.org/>

Historically there was a place of worship available every day of the week, that was open to the community and was organised by the Faith Officer for the Police. It was felt that this had previously been a missed opportunity from Faith Week last year when each evening a different place of worship had been visited.

RESOLVED It was **agreed** that Lucy Nutt raise this with Shaun Rogan, Head of Corporate Strategy on the Faith Forum. It was suggested that perhaps a single bigger event might be explored perhaps at the Dugdale Arts Centre although it was possible some plans were already in hand.

ACTION: LUCY NUTT

Members agreed that Inter Faith Week was considered good Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for RE teachers. It could provide them with an opportunity to exhibit some work from their schools and would encourage them to feel appreciated. An invitation to submit work could be put on the Hub. Councillor James Hockney reminded members that in 2019 Sabah Raza and the then Mayor Kate Anolue had held a successful Inter-Faith Week involving the Police when a wide range of faith groups had held stalls at the Civic Centre. It provided a very good opportunity to raise the profile of SACRE in the borough.

12. NASACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Members **noted** NASACRE will hold its first in-person conference since 2019 on 22 May 2023 at Fishmongers' Hall, London.

Funds would be found to pay for one SACRE member to attend and benefit from seminars and keynote speakers. This could then be fed back for SACRE members at a future meeting.

The Chair had hoped to be able to attend as the Enfield SACRE representative, but had confirmed after the meeting that unfortunately he was unable to do so.

RESOLVED that the opportunity be extended for an interested member of SACRE to attend as the Enfield SACRE representative and to then feedback at the next SACRE meeting.

ACTION: SACRE CLERK

13. AOB / USEFUL LINKS

(a) Recognition

NOTED that on behalf of the SACRE members Father Nikodemus Anagnostopoulos and Marina Robb were thanked for hosting the meeting and Marina Robb for the tour of the church prior to the meeting.

Lucy Nutt and Julia Diamond-Conway were thanked for all their hard work and contributions in the background to SACRE.

(b) Resources

Enfield SACRE Website: <http://enfieldsacre.com/>

NASACRE LINK: <https://nasacre.org.uk/>

Most areas of the NASACRE website are open to all, but log-in is required to access parts of the Resources section.

Username: members

Password: 22N@sAcRE23