

SACRE MEETING

TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2019 at HENDON TOWN HALL

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>Group Representative</u>
Committee A	
Mrs Vicky Golestaneh	Baha'i
*Ajantha Tennakoon	Buddhist
*Mrs Catherine Salinger	Baptist
*Mrs Mary Karaolis (attending on behalf of Very Revd AC Damiano)	Greek Orthodox Church
*Mrs Veena Bedi	Hindu
*Mr Sury Khatri	Hindu
Mr. Ghanshyam	Hindu
Ahmad Alkazemi	Islam
*Dr N Shah	Jain
Vacancy	Jewish
Rabbi Mark Goldsmith	Jewish
Vacancy	Sikh
Vacancy	Sikh
Mr Connor O'Halpin	Roman Catholic
Monika Cleaver	Roman Catholic
Major Mark Rose	Salvation Army
*Mrs Joan Scannell	Salvation Army
*Mr Mark Leach	Methodist
Committee B	
Mrs Jayne Pavlou	London Diocese
Robin Sims-Williams	London Diocese
Vacancy	London Diocese
Mrs Mel Adams	Diocese of St Albans
Vacancy	Diocese of St Albans
Committee C	
*Mr Gerry Cohen	NASUWT

*Mr Kevin McSharry (Chairman)	ASCL
*Ms Marina Robb (East Barnet School)	NEU
*Dr Alan Shaw (Hasmonean Primary School)	NAHT
Committee D	
*Mrs Agnes Slocombe	LA
Cllr Brian Gordon	LA
Cllr Danny Rich	LA
Cllr John Hart	LA
Cllr Lachhya Bahadur Gurung	LA
Cllr Jess Brayne	LA
*Ms Jan McGuire	LA, RE Consultant
*Mr Neil Marlow	LA, Head of School Improvement, representing Director of Education and Skills
Ms Katie Dawbarn	LA, Learning Network Inspector
*Jan Peyton-Johnson	Acting Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the academic year, and had great pleasure in introducing Jan McGuire, the new RE consultant.

Apologies were received from Vicky Golestaneh, Mark Rose, Jayne Pavlou, Robin Sims Williams, Mel Adams and Connor O'Halpin. Katie Dawbarn also sent apologies, however it was noted that Neil Marlow is attending in her place.

2. MEMBERSHIP AND WELCOME

The membership list was amended for minor changes. It was noted that there are two member vacancies on Committee D and that no members were present at the meeting from that Committee.

3. MINUTES OF THE 25th JUNE 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting were CONFIRMED as an accurate record.

The Chair thanked everyone involved in the Launch of Barnet's agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which was an excellent event attended by children, teachers and parents, the Mayor and The Most Reverend Athanasios, Bishop of Tropaeou (Greek Orthodox Church). The Chair then read a letter from the Mayor thanking everyone for the organising the event and for the flowers; the Mayor also asked to be included in the invitation list for any future events.

Dr Anna Sallow also thanked members from for the generous gifts given on her retirement.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising not covered by the current agenda.

5. COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Jan McGuire introduced this item and informed members that the headings followed the format which matched with the reporting requirements for submission to DFE/NASACRE for ease of reference.

As one of the statutory requirements for compliance was to examine complaints, it was a crucial part of the role that every SACRE meeting examines any complaints of parents who want to take children out of school collective worship or RE. In answer to a query, it was confirmed that this information is passed on to SACRE.

ACTION: Neil Marlow to inform schools that if there is such a request from parents, the Headteacher needs to inform the Borough and this information will be forwarded to SACRE. It was noted that, should the Headteacher need support in this respect, this too will be passed to SACRE.

Regarding a check-list for members to see what is happening in schools, Jan McGuire will ensure there will be a check-list drawn up for teachers and members. It was noted that the compliance guidelines are contained within the termly notice to governors.

ACTION: Jan McGuire to draft an article for Neil Marlow to put in the circular that parents' requests to withdraw children from RE or collective worship be sent to Barnet.

ACTION: Gerry Cohen to send NATRE compliance guidelines to Neil Marlow and Kevin McSharry.

6. RAISING STANDARDS AND QUALITY OF PROVISION OF RE: SACRE

Jan McGuire delivered a short presentation to summarise the role of SACRE.

SA: Special Authority C : Curriculum RE: Research and Education
SACRE has been awarded 'Special Authority' from the Government to ensure compliance and, through the monitoring process, has powers to enforce compliance which has been prioritised of late. Members of SACRE can request to visit schools, monitor school websites to see if RE is mentioned and ensure parity with other subjects; SACRE can also to check if an RE co-ordinator is referred to within the school literature. SACRE are required to monitor that schools are delivering RE and that the schools are meeting the requirements of the locally Agreed Syllabus.

It is important that Barnet SACRE has relevant and up to date information on schools. It was suggested that pro-active monitoring would enable SACRE to gather this data.

Curriculum remains a clear focus for SACRE. It is important that SACRE supports schools to meet the requirements of the locally Agreed Syllabus. Well designed curriculum that is delivered by confident RE teachers, helps to raise standards in RE In answer to a query regarding the elements of enforcement, it was clear that SACRE must be supportive of schools and teaching staff whilst ensuring that schools meet the statutory duties.

In answer to a member's query, it was confirmed that community and academy schools would be monitored in the first instance but that faith schools would also be included. Part of the SACRE message as well as a good way of reaching out to schools, should be to explain that SACRE are checking school compliance in preparation for Ofsted. Members did note that RE had been subject to a deep dive in a primary school in Barnet.

Research and Education: Religious Education training opportunities should be relevant in order to attract good attendance and provide high quality development. nd Relevant and current training in RE will help SACRE to raise the bar in religious education. As it is thought teachers do not feel skilled in this area, SACRE should support RE teachers and coordinators by sharing local, regional and national updates and providing training to meet their needs. training (CPD).

The RE Adviser is offering training opportunities for schools to gain a greater understanding of the Agreed Syllabus. The training sessions will also examine the Ofsted focus on implementation, intent and impact, in relation to Religious Education 'Deep Dive' inspections.

Jan McGuire suggested that Barnet teachers and schools could benefit from receiving support and training around auditing their RE departments and curriculum. The REQM (religious education quality mark) is a respected national auditing process that has 3 award levels :bronze, silver and gold. The audit is a useful way for schools to prepare for Ofsted.

Barnet schools were recently informed of the Farmington scholarships research opportunities via the briefing to schools. It was suggested that an article about someone's personal learning experience at Farmington would be a good way of encouraging others to undertake this training.

ACTION: Gerry Cohen to send around stories to share with other teachers.

The national RE Leadership REvitalise Programme is underway for the next group of leaders to ensure RE is protected. Barnet teachers will be encouraged to join the programme.

Members agreed that SACRE'S profile needs to be raised and the Chair told the meeting that any suggestions or comments welcome.

The Chair thanked Jan McGuire for her presentation.

Members learnt of the "All of Us" campaign film clip which had places for 30 teachers to attend a training session and has won awards within the wider community. Information will be sent out via the School Circular and members were also asked to further the message in their communities.

- **Launch of agreed syllabus**

Members were pleased to note that this was about to go to print.

ACTION: Neil Marlow to post a PDF document on to the website together with papers from this meeting and links to other organisations. Neil explained that the SACRE website was part of Barnet Council but the management of the website was contracted out to Cambridge Education.

The Chair requested a volunteer to monitor the SACRE website to ensure it is updated. Mark Leach volunteered to give feedback on the website design and, although he did not have capacity to monitor everything, he would check to see the links to other organisations and training are working and are relevant, and that the basic information is covered and is up-to-date.

ACTION Mark Leach

It was agreed a communications strategy needs to be established and that Neil Marlow would look into this to capture the basic principles. Neil would also ensure a generic inbox for external enquiries is set up so these can be easily actioned.

ACTION: Neil Marlow

It was noted that the BPSI (Barnet Partnership for School Improvement) website also includes the SACRE website, and members asked that the SACRE website must incorporate a public area to ensure that information is easy to find for members of the public as well as teaching professionals.

7. REPORTS: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

- LA/RE adviser Annual SACRE Report to NASACRE
- LA/RE adviser Report: National updates

The above reports were noted by members.

8. ACTIVITY: THE WORLD AS A VILLAGE ACTIVITY

To be carried forward to the next meeting.

ACTION: Jan McGuire

9. MANAGEMENT OF SACRE: GOVERNANCE

- **SACRE Member School Visit Policy**

A development plan has been drawn up with standard reporting areas which can be progressed to other areas going forward, together with links to documents.

School visits can also be added to the website once these have taken place.

ACTION: Constitution to be circulated to members (Kevin McSharry/Jan McGuire)

ACTION: Chair to ask Anna Sallnow to forward the list of school visits she had drafted.

In order not to overload schools, school visits by SACRE members need to be arranged and members agreed with the suggestion that a letter is sent to schools asking if they would like members to visit prior to any arrangements being made. **ACTION:** Neil Marlow to action.

Members were also pleased to note that the information pack was now completed.

It was important that SACRE needs to be promoted within schools and teachers need to be informed of the objectives of the organisation as some schools are under the impression that this only applies to faith schools.

It was agreed to send hard copies of the syllabus to RE Coordinators in schools and that once the syllabus has been received by schools, contact is then made with Headteachers regarding SACRE.

ACTION: Neil Marlow.

Members were supportive that a document explaining acronyms will be posted on the website, and asked that record-keeping is given priority to ensure basic records are kept and updated, and to ensure relevant documents are posted on the website, all of which can be progressed going forward.

10. AOB

Dr Shah told the meeting the Jain Multi-faith Library Resource centre is open for all faiths and that a Christmas lunch has been arranged at Flightways Centre, Grahame Park on 1/12/19 between 11am to 1pm; an invitation will follow and the event will be posted on the website.

There is an open day at St Andrew's Church where 6th formers from local schools visit different churches in Whetstone.

There was a suggestion of an annual visit for members, similar to the previous one to the Buddhist Centre and St Margaret's Church.

Dr Shaw thanked Jan McGuire for her presentation.

11. FUTURE DATES

Wednesday 11th March 2020 at 17.00-19.00 Hendon Town Hall

Tuesday 23rd June 2020 at 17.00-19.00 Hendon Town Hall

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked suggestions for future agenda items are welcomed.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 18.55
