



# Barnet Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 6.15pm

Virtual Meeting

## MINUTES

### Constitution and Attendance

<b>GROUP A: Christian denominations other than the Church of England and principal religions represented in Great Britain</b>	<b>Present/Apologies /Absent</b>	<b>GROUP B: Church of England</b>	<b>Present/Apologies /Absent</b>
Mrs Vicky Golestaneh (Baha'i)	Present	Mrs Jayne Pavlou (London Diocese)	Present
Ajantha Tennakoon (Buddhist)	Apologies	Rev Robin Sims- Williams (London Diocese)	Present
Mrs Catherine Salinger (Free Churches )	Absent	Mrs Mel Adams (Diocese of St Albans)	Absent
Mrs Mary Karaolis (attending on behalf of Very Revd AC Damiano: Greek Orthodox Church	Present	Vacancy (Diocese of St Albans)	
Mr Sury Khatri (Hindu)	Present		

Mrs Veena Bedi (Hindu)	Apologies		
Ahmad Alkazemi (Islam)	Absent		
Dr Mukal Shah (Jain)	Absent		
Dr. Natubhai Shah (Jain)	Absent		
Rabbi Mark Goldsmith ( Jewish)	Present		
Mr Gerry Cohen (Jewish)	Present		
Vacancy (Sikh)			
Vacancy (Sikh)			
Vacancy (Roman Catholic)			
Monika Cleaver (Roman Catholic)	Absent		
Major Mark Rose (Salvation Army)	Absent		
Joan Scannell (Salvation Army)	Absent		
Mr Mark Leach (Methodist)	Present		
<b>GROUP C: Teachers Associations, including representation from Academy Schools</b>	<b>Present/Apologies /Absent</b>	<b>GROUP D: Local Authority, including elected Councillors LA</b>	<b>Present/Apologies /Absent</b>
Mr Kevin McSharry (Chairman & ASCL)	Present	Agnes Slocombe (L.A.)	Absent
Ms Marina Robb (East Barnet School: NEU)	Present	Cllr John Hart	Absent
Ms Claire Pawlasczek (Frien Barnet School : NEU)	Absent	Cllr Danny Rich	Present (joined at 7pm)
Dr Alan Shaw (Hasmonean Primary School: NAHT)	Present	Cllr Lachhya Bahadur Gurung	Apologies
Ms Sandra Teacher	Present	Cllr Jess Brayne	Absent
		Cllr Reuben Thompstone	Present
<b>Other</b>		<b>Co-opted non-voting members</b>	
Maria Gabrielczyk – Clerk	In attendance	Jan McGuire (JMcG) Independent RE Advisor to Barnet SACRE	Present
		Mr Neil Marlow LA, Head of School Improvement, representing Director of Education and Skills	Present
		Katie Dawbarn	Present

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone present to the SACRE meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted from: Cllr Lachhya Bahadur Gurung, Veena Bedi and Ajantha Tennakoon. Cllr Rich would be late in joining (joined at 7pm).

## **2. MEMBERSHIP AND WELCOME**

A warm welcome was extended to:

Sally Giovenelli from Danegrove School who will speak about the REQM Silver Award received by her school.

Sabah Raza, who is the Chair of Enfield SACRE. Sabah is a practicing teacher at Firs Farm where she leads the RE in her school and it was the first school in Enfield to be awarded the Religious Education (RE) Quality Mark at Gold level in July 2014! The award lasts for three years and she was awarded the Gold Level REQM once again in July 2017.

Sabah is involved in training Newly Qualified Teacher & continuing teacher education including lectures at RE Today events. So, an excellent RE professional!  
Enfield & Barnet SACREs have a long & close history of collaboration:

Both SACREs are committed to supporting high quality RE in our schools  
Sabah was involved in the very successful joint project on places of worship that involved Barnet and Enfield & their religious communities creating a framework for improving the experience of children and young people visiting local places of worship. These materials are still in use by faith communities & schools.

Sabah was also involved when Enfield & Barnet were awarded a Westhill Grant for the young ambassadors in schools project that trained secondary school pupils to speak at their local primary schools about their faith & beliefs

Lesley Urbach and Helen Stone from Generation 2 Generation. They will present the work of their organisation on Holocaust survivors sharing their stories and all the background work, preparation and training that is done.

## **3. INTRODUCTION: Post Pandemic RE: Reflection (Jan McGuire)**

A presentation on reflection - of being in the arena. Reflecting on what should be happening in the area of education and being supportive of schools and teachers.

The remote learning clips will be shared with schools and teachers. **ACTION: JMcG**

## **4. MINUTES OF THE 24th NOVEMBER 2020**

It was noted that on the website the Methodist part is out of date. SACRE members approved for Mark Leach to rewrite that section. **ACTION: ML.**

There was a correction regarding the artefacts. It was an open request for artefacts that would be shared. The artefacts would then be distributed to schools.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

## **5. MATTERS ARISING**

Page 3 – Kevin has written to Connor's family.

Page 3 – Kevin is still looking for a Sikh Community representative.

Page 3 – Cllr Rich is gathering artefacts for schools.

Page 4 – The Annual Report is on the LA's website and has been sent to NASACRE.

Jan informed that Michael Metcalf sent a positive message about the work and progress made on the VAT project. Barnet SACRE may need to have an extension on the project due to the pandemic. Well done for supporting project.

Page 6 – SACRE Constitution – Jerry Cohen, Kevin and Kate Salinger will discuss and review the constitution. It is work in progress.

## **6. COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

There was no compliance to report under this item. There were no determinations.

## **7. REPORTS: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TAKEN FROM MEMBERS**

### **1. LA/RE Adviser Update (please read: item 9)**

### **2. Neil Marlow: LA: update**

Neil reported that primary schools returned yesterday and secondary schools were returning in phases. Schools closed at short notice in January for all pupils apart from vulnerable pupils and Key Worker pupils. All other pupils were being educated remotely.

Attendance has been 12% in secondaries and 22% in primaries, Key Worker attendance 75% and vulnerable pupils 50%. Special Schools, Alternative Provision and Nurseries are open.

The secondary schools are having a week of phased return as they are also having to do Covid testing.

Secondary teachers have face coverings and primary staff are encouraged to wear face coverings. Secondary students are encouraged to wear face coverings. This is a challenge for schools and it will be reviewed at the end of term. Testing for staff and pupils has been ramped up. LFT testing twice a week is voluntary. Secondary schools will be doing 3 tests at school and 2 tests a week at home.

There are 28,500 pupils in Barnet and to date there is 56% attendance in secondaries and 95% in primaries as pre-Covid. Secondary schools have a phased attendance which stands at 18.7%. There are 21 secondary schools on a phased return. 5 schools had 100% attendance.

There were 174 absent pupils across Barnet that were supposed to be in school. There are 137 teachers and 219 TAs and support staff still isolating. Test and tracing will be done if Covid is found and they will have to self-isolate.

The schools are delighted to have pupils back. All subjects were taught online including worship and assemblies. Teachers contributed with Zoom assemblies on HMD in partnership with the History Department. This was encouraging and the assemblies were well done and varied.

It has been difficult for staff to teach in two different styles. Even though most pupils are back, they are still in separate bubbles. Collective worship is done in separate bubbles via Zoom. Supplementary education is being done online. Schools are trying to think ahead eg. youth clubs, sports clubs etc. and how that will take place.

A discussion arose around schools and the bubble system, as well as the testing of secondary school pupils, but not primary school pupils. There were also concerns around keeping bubbles separate and pupils not mixing.

Sandra offered to arrange speakers from the Board of Deputies to come and speak to schools on Judaism. There was also an offer of support and engagement for parents and pupils from the Church of England.

It was questioned how people coming into school can prove that they have been tested and the result of their test, as LFT miss a lot of the positive cases. Schools should also be mindful that there may be a third wave in August/September. Members were informed that pupils are outside for a lot of the sessions, therefore it was safer.

**Q.** Is priority given to staff at school with vaccinations?

**A.** No.

## **8. ACTIVITY/SPEAKER**

Presentation by Lesley Urbach and Helen Stone: Generation 2 Generation  
SACRE members saw a short presentation by the Holocaust Education charity Generation 2 Generation (G2G). It was narrated by Sabina Miller's daughter, Sandra Miller. Sabina was a Holocaust survivor.

G2G started 4 years ago and became a registered charity in 2019. The Co-Chairs focus their training on preparing Holocaust survivors' children, grandchildren and friends to tell their stories. The presenters go through a critical process of panels before they can present. Their team of presenters has grown from 5 to 18 and they have spoken to thousands of people. Speakers undergo rigorous training both online and face to face. The presenter is always a close relative of the survivor. The charity's aim is to ensure that important stories are preserved for future generations.

The prime target audience is students in secondary schools. The presentations are supported with testimonies, photographs, films, letters, newspaper articles and multi-media to create fully engaging presentations for students in order to create empathy and understanding. They are high quality, engaging and historically accurate. The language is age appropriate and presentations are 40 minutes, but can be shorter if need be. They are interactive where possible to stimulate discussion. They also fit in with the National Curriculum – RE and History. Presentations can be online or in person. There is suitable material for pupils aged 10+ and for younger pupils there are presentations eg. on the Kindertransport.

Currently there are 27 more people going through the presenter training.  
Further details and bookings can be found on: [www.generation2generation.org.uk](http://www.generation2generation.org.uk),  
[@Gen2GenUK](mailto:@Gen2GenUK) and at [bookings@generation2generation.org.uk](mailto:bookings@generation2generation.org.uk)

**Q.** Do you have disabled people survivors who are part of the network?

**A.** We would love to have, but they are not on the network.

**Q.** Is there a cost?

**A.** No. Funds are raised, but there is no charge made to schools or organisations. We want to make this information as available as possible.

Mention other groups that were persecuted in the presentations.

The Chair and Jan thanked Lesley and Helen and also congratulated them on the quality and standard of the presentation.

## 9. LA/RE ADVISER UPDATE (PLEASE READ REPORT ITEM 7)

- **Young Ambassadors Programme 21/ WIRE/ Spirited Arts/ VAT in RE**
- **\*\* possible school input from Sally Giovanelli: REQM Silver Award**

Young Ambassador 2021 Programme – The nationally funded programme starts in April 2021. Jan McGuire has been asked to be one of the national leads. It will begin with one primary and one secondary school in Haringey, although flexibility exists around uptake. Barnet is involved with Haringey in this programme. SACREs are trying to raise the profile of RE in schools and are encouraging schools to be part of the initiative. It is hoped that students will speak with members of parliament about RE in schools.

### REQM – Sally Giovanelli

Sally gave a brief presentation of how she implemented and secured a Silver REQM in her school in 2020.

Sally did a lot of research and attended the Enfield SACRE. She amassed folders of evidence and held staff meeting on the subject. She looked for every opportunity to promote RE. Eg. Christmas experience at the Cockfosters church, as well as art, poetry, drama and acting out during an assembly on Diwali. The REQM forms were very supportive and explained what needed to be done as a leader. Sally did NATRE Spirited Arts competition as a whole school.

The REQM is a good tool to progress RE and it made Sally more confident to deliver the RE curriculum. Sally received positive feedback from pupils and parents.

Sandra informed that she is an RE assessor for REQM and on the working group on the REC. Sandra added that there is a new criteria for the REQM because the model has changed. Remote assessments have been done to date. Sandra is happy to help or provide further information to anyone who is interested.

Sally was invited to join the Barnet SACRE, which she agreed to do so.

### WIRE Award for Schools

WIRE has been launched in the Borough with the kind agreement of Bristol SACRE. This is a RE project that involves the widening of inclusivity in RE. The project increases awareness of RE and raises the profile of the subject within the local communities. Schools only have to complete 3 things and once the SACRE feels that the school has met the criteria it can give the school the award and certificate. The award certificate can be presented by SACRE members during school assemblies and at SACRE meetings. If anyone is interested in supporting this initiative they are asked to contact Jan.

### Spirited Arts

This initiative encourages schools to be part of the NATRE competition. It allows teachers and schools to celebrate the positives of working together.

### VAT Project

The VAT Westhill/NASACRE funded project is going well. It is helping a number of teachers to develop their teaching skills in RE as well as supporting schools to review and rewrite elements of their RE curriculum. The VAT project focuses on Vocabulary, Artefacts and Texts – to provide teachers with a pedagogy that enables deep and rich learning in their RE lessons.

## **10. AOB**

- There was a brief discussion about the format of future meetings, with a mixture of virtual and face to face.
- Sabah thanked the Chair for allowing her to observe the Barnet SACRE meeting. The Enfield and Barnet SACREs have developed a partnership working collaboratively. It is hoped that training can be shared with both SACREs.

**Q.** Is the Barnet SACRE Newsletter shared with schools?

**A.** Yes. Neil promotes it through the circular.

## **11. FUTURE DATES**

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 at 6pm – virtual meeting

The meeting closed at 8.15pm