

**MINUTES OF THE SACRE MEETING HELD AT HENDON TOWN HALL ON  
TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2015**

**MEMBERS**

<b>Committee A</b>	<b>Group Representative</b>
Mr H Alaei/Mrs Vicky Golesaneh	Baha'i
Vacancy	Buddhist
Vacancy	Free Churches
Mrs Judith Smith	Free Churches
Mrs Mary Karaolis (attending on behalf of Very Revd AC Damiano)	Greek Orthodox Church
Mr Himangshu Bose	Hindu
*Mr Rakhal Saha	Hindu
*Mrs Veena Bedi	Hindu
Edward Barbor	Humanist
Mrs Amreena Husain-Ali	Islam
Dr N Shah	Jain
Mr Arnold Levin	Jewish
*Rabbi Mark Goldsmith	Jewish
Mr Surinder Singh Attariwala	Sikh
Mr S Chadha	Sikh
*Mr C O'Halpin	Roman Catholic
Vacancy	Salvation Army Citadel
<b>Committee B</b>	Church of England
Mrs Jane Pavlou	London Diocese
Revd Dr Gregory Platten	London Diocese
Mrs Mel Adams	Diocese of St Albans
The Revd Tristan Chapman	Diocese of St Albans
<b>Committee C</b>	
Vacancy	ATL
*Mr Kevin McSharry (Chairman)	ASCL
Ms Anne Dyas/Mr Neil Enright	NASUWT
Vacancy	NUT
<b>Committee D</b>	
*Cllr Alison Cornelius	
Cllr Claire Farrier	
Cllr Brian Gordon	
*Cllr Sury Khatri	
*Cllr Joan Scannell	
Cllr Mark Shooter	
*Cllr Agnes Slocombe	

\* denotes member present

**IN ATTENDANCE**

*Dr Anna Sallnow	LA, RE Consultant
Mr Neil Marlow	LA, representing Assistant Director & Interim Director of Children's Service
*Mrs Janet Robinson	Clerk to SACRE

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<b><u>NON-VOTING OBSERVER</u></b>	
Mr D Shepherd,	Ex Barnet Community Relations Council/Race Equality Council

15/01 **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed the Members to the spring term meeting.

15/02 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members were informed that news had been received that Buddhist member, Mr Anil Goonewardene, had recently passed away. Members took a minute to reflect on their thoughts in sympathy with Mr Goonewardene's passing. The Chairman, on behalf of the Members, conveyed prayers and sympathy to the family members on their loss and stated that a card of sympathy would be sent to them on behalf of the SACRE Members.

*Action: Chairman*

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of: Mr Neil Marlow who had to attend Local Authority (LA) business; Mr H Alaei; Mrs Vicky Golesaneh; Mrs Judith Smith; Mrs Mary Karaolis; Mr Himangshu Bose; Mrs Jane Pavlou; Mrs Mel Adams and The Revd Tristan Chapman.

Cllr Scanlon submitted her apologies in advance and stated that she had to leave the meeting early due to her attendance at a council meeting.

15/03 **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST WITHIN THE CURRENT AGENDA**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest within the current agenda.

15/04 **MINUTES OF THE SACRE MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2014, a copy of which had been distributed earlier, were checked for accuracy. They were then confirmed and signed subject to the following amendment:

**Pgs 3-5: 14/38 Presentation by Local Authority(LA) REPRESENTATIVE, Neil Marlow: Pg 4 – para 2:**

Remove sentence: '... A SACRE representative explained that as from 2010, it was a statutory requirement that all faith schools had to take 50% of its children from other faith groups...'.  
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15/05 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

15/06 **PRESENTATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITY (LA) REPRESENTATIVE, NEIL MARLOW**

**The new curriculum – Secondary Schools**

Members noted the document 'The new curriculum – Secondary Schools' a copy of which had been distributed earlier. They were informed that due to Mr Marlow's absence, it was advisable that they contact him with their comments and queries regarding the content of the document.

15/07 **FUTURE TRAINING FOR SACRE MEMBERS – SUGGESTIONS**

Members were informed that if required, regular training for SACRE Members could be arranged. Dr Anna Sallnow stated that she would distribute information to the Members regarding this, and that they should contact her with their suggestions. .

*Action: Dr Anna Sallnow and SACRE Members*

Dr Sallnow stated that the training information would also be placed on the SACRE webpage, in addition to a short statement related to 'how Britain leads the World about the teaching of faith'.

*Action: Dr Anna Sallnow and Clerk*

15/08 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chairman reminded Members that, in response to the previous discussions with Cllr Brian Gordon concerning SACRE; its work with the schools within the LA and SACRE representation at the council meetings, the Chairman had written to the Chair of the LA's Education Committee, Cllr Reuben Thompstone. Cllr Gordon stated that he would raise this at the next council meeting scheduled to take place on 23 March 2015 and at the next Chair's Committee meeting on 20 April 2015. It was **AGREED** that the Chairman, Mr Kevin McSharry and SACRE's RE Consultant, Dr Anna Sallnow, would represent SACRE at the council meetings.

*Action: Cllr Brian Gordon, Mr Kevin McSharry and Dr Anna Sallnow*

15/09 **REPORTS**

**Anna Sallnow**

Dr Sallnow explained that the Department for Education (DfE) had issued literature to schools to promote British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. This would support schools to implement the requirements of section 78 of the Education Act 2002, in their provision of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) and to prepare children for life in modern Britain. This would be monitored to ensure that pupils were protected

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from extremist views in schools . A SACRE member expressed concern at the manner in which recent Ofsted inspections had been conducted in some Jewish faith schools. Dr Sallnow stated that a number of schools had raised this enquiry with Ofsted. A briefing paper had been circulated to all Headteachers and SACRE members

At this point, Cllr Gordon stated that due to a previous engagement, he had to submit his apologies and left the meeting.

Dr Sallnow reported that:

- She had visited many schools within the LA
- She had regular meetings with the schools' RE Coordinators
- Student bursaries that had previously been taken away, had now been put back in place

### **LA provision**

Members were informed that the LA support for schools would be changing. It was anticipated that the LA schools would work in partnership schools, some of whom had already set up their partnerships. Members were reminded that it was anticipated that the LA would be outsourcing many of its services and would become a joint group with a third party. Members would be updated on the progress of this.

*Action: Dr Anna Sallnow and Clerk*

### **Mr Kevin McSharry**

Mr McSharry stated that he had no items on which to report.

### **15/10 SACRE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2013 – AUGUST 2014**

Dr Sallnow explained that it was a statutory duty for SACRE to provide an annual report, which should include the LA's school exam results.

The draft Barnet SACRE Report September 2013 – August 2014, a copy of which had been distributed earlier, was noted by the Members.

Members were informed that some schools now entered pupils for the RE qualification. As from 2016, the RE exam would revert to texts and religious content.

Members noted the impact of the EBacc had severely reduced the number of students studying religious studies at GCSE & that the increase over the last ten years had been halted. Some schools continued to enter the Year 12 cohort, whereas, some schools only entered pupils from option groups. Governors noted that RE is compulsory in the Barnet Agreed Syllabus at Key

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Stage (KS) 4, whilst it was noted that some of the schools had become Academies and were allowed to follow a syllabus of their choice.

15/11 **SACRE SPRING NEWSLETTER**

The Barnet SACRE Spring Newsletter, a copy of which had been distributed earlier, was noted by the Members. Members noted that a briefing paper entitled 'Trojan Horse' which linked on the recent Ofsted inspections and implications for schools and British values. had been sent to all schools and SACRE members

15/12 **SACRE WEBSITE**

Members were informed that the SACRE Newsletter; agenda papers and minutes; the Agreed Syllabus and guidelines; the Directory of Places of Worship; the Holocaust pack, which Dr Sallnow and ex SACRE member, Revd. Bernd Koschland updated annually; events and other information and documents, would be placed on the SACRE website. Dr Sallnow suggested that Members should contact her with their suggestions for inclusion of other information. Following Member suggestions, Dr Sallnow said that she would discuss the comments with the LA representative, Mr Neil Marlow. She said that she would prepare a booklet, which would be placed on the SACRE website entitled, 'What is SACRE and what does it do? .

*Action: SACRE Members and Dr Anna Sallnow*

Dr Sallnow stated that the website would be easily accessible to all Members and arrangements would be made to ensure that the information was regularly updated.

*Action: Dr Anna Sallnow*

15/13 **REVIEW OF SACRE MEMBERSHIP ~~14. DIRECTORY – PLACES OF WORSHIP~~**

It was noted that vacancies were outstanding for some faith groups. Members noted that the Vice Chairman, Mrs Amreena Husain-Ali, had not attended many SACRE meetings and had failed to submit apologies for absence. Dr Sallnow stated that it would be preferable if more teacher representatives were members. She would contact the representative of the Quaker group to enquire if they wanted to provide a representative for SACRE.

*Action: Dr Anna Sallnow*

15/14 **DIRECTORY – PLACES OF WORSHIP**

Members noted the document, Directory – Places of Worship, a copy of which had been distributed earlier. Dr Sallnow explained that the Directory was used by schools.

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Dr Sallnow explained that she was working on a joint project with Enfield LA and had applied to the National Association of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (NASACRE) for young ambassadors to take part in the project. Secondary schools would link with primary schools and this would help towards the work for community cohesion. Each child participating in the project would be accredited and they would also receive an artefact as a thank you for their involvement. Dr Sallnow stated that she would update Members on the progress of the work.

*Action: Dr Anna Sallnow*

Members were reminded that they should inform the Clerk of any changes to the Directory.

*Action: SACRE members and Clerk*

#### 15/15 **FAITH PRESENTATION: JUDAISM – LED BY RABBI MARK GOLDSMITH**

SACRE member, Rabbi Mark Goldsmith, provided a presentation linked with Liberal and Orthodox Judaism. He explained that:

- The borough of Barnet; Finchley, Barnet and Golders Green, has a wide Jewish area of different denominations within the synagogues. They are
  - United
  - Masorti
  - Reform
  - Liberal
  - Orthodox
- A collection of local businesses work with specific parts of the community.
- Children from one group, may not be accepted at a more orthodox school
- There are 39 forbidden tasks which vary for each group
- The LA permitted all of the different denominations within the borough to celebrate their faith. Many homes were used for prayer meeting groups. Further information could be found on the Alyth Synagogue website.

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions associated with the presentation.

A SACRE member enquired if a presentation could be provided about women and Jewish life. Rabbi Goldsmith stated that this would require a panel of Jewish women from the mixed groups to arrange this.

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Rabbi Goldsmith stated that Members should contact him if they required a copy of the full presentation, which would be placed on the SACRE website. It was noted that all faith presentations would provide a useful resource for teachers.

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked Rabbi Goldsmith for his clear presentation.

**15/16 FUTURE FAITH PRESENTATIONS**

The following faith presentations were confirmed:

- 2015 summer term: Jainism – Led by Dr N Shah
- 2015 autumn term: Quakers – Led by Cllr Claire Farrier
- 2016 spring term: Hinduism – Led by Mrs Veena Bedi.

**15/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business for discussion.

**15/18 DATE OF SACRE MEETING**

It was confirmed that, the 2015 summer term SACRE meeting would take place on Tuesday 16 June 2015, at Hendon Town Hall, 5.00 pm for a prompt 5.30 start.

**15/19 CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chairman thanked the Members for their attendance.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting closed.

Kevin T Sherry  
16/06/15