

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WALTHAM FOREST
SACRE
HELD ON TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2021
AT 6.00PM VIA ZOOM**

Present:

Group A

Mr Pilling	Buddhism
Ms Vankad	Islam

Group B

Ms Everett	Diocese of Chelmsford
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Group C

Mr I Jasat	Secondary Academy
Mr Whitehead	School Governor
Ms R Yaqoob	Independent Educational Consultant

Group D

Cllr Rehman	Elected Member
Cllr Sweden	Elected Member (left meeting at 7pm)
Ms R Kaufman	Humanist non-faith representative
Gerry Kemble	LBWF Assistant Director, Schools

Clerk: Sinead Safford

Also present: Ms Diamond-Conway, Advisor to SACRE
Katie Youngman, Teacher Observer
Cllr Justin Head, Observer

Summary of agreements and actions:

Minute Ref.	Formal agreements and/or actions identified	Named person(s) for action(s) identified	Completion date
2.1	Members to record declarations via Governor Hub		Asap
4.1	Update on recruitment of Church of England representatives	RE	Next meeting
4.1	Present details of the census to SACRE along with some suggestions as to how SACRE may be more representative.	JDC	When available
7	New training dates to be sent out to schools.	JDC /RE	Asap
8	Attainment and workforce data to be added to the next meeting agenda.	CW/DM	Next meeting
8	IJ to email contacts to JDC regarding attainment data.	IJ	Asap

10	Email AA to see if he could provide a list of faith organisations	CW	Asap
10	School visits to be added to the spring term agenda.	DM/CW	Next meeting
11	Update SACRE on HMD event details	DM	Asap
11	Make schools aware of date for HMD	JDC	Asap
12	Share the Westhill website link.		Asap
12	Review the Westhill website prior to the next meeting.	All members	Asap
12	Review the criteria for this year's award	RK, RE, CW and IJ	Asap
12	To share the email from the Mayor's office to chair and vice to be shared on gov hub.	IJ	Asap

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed all to the online meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from T Khare, H Soar, A Akano, Cllr Lyons, Cllr Mbachu, D Miller and G Kemble
- 1.3 Gratitude was noted for the exceptional service of Mr Ted Cooke who was Chair of SACRE for 25 years before his passing in November. The dioceses were in the process of recognising his service. Sympathies were sent to his family and partner.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 Members were reminded to confirm their annual declarations via Governor Hub.
ACTION – Members to record declarations via Governor Hub.
- 2.2 There were no declarations made pertaining to any of the agenda items for this meeting.

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2021 and agreed these to be an accurate record of the meeting. All actions had been completed apart from the induction pack and this would be rescheduled.
- 3.2 There were no matters arising for discussion.

4. SACRE MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 **Q – Should a pagan be part of our target members?** The clerk noted that this was noted on the agenda as a vacancy. RK noted that the presence of a Pagan representative was historic due to the membership of a particular individual. Is there a local need for this representation in WF (i.e. do we need to actively recruit to fill this vacancy) or can it be left that we will welcome a pagan if one happens to apply?
ACTION - RE confirmed she was working on recruiting Church of England representatives and would update at the spring meeting.

JDC confirmed she had looked at the constitution attached to the annual report. The constitution does not specify the breakdown of individual groups. It could be suggested to the LA that the constitution could be amended.

JDC suggested that the results of the census would be useful to help SACRE review membership within Group A. CW reminded the meeting of earlier discussions regarding the lack of representation from Pentecostal, Charismatic and Free Churches.

ACTION – JDC to present details of the census SACRE along with some suggestions as to how SACRE may be more representative of the community once results were available.

5. SAFEGUARDING

CW advised the board that there were no updates to share at this meeting.

6. ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

It was noted that the annual report had been updated. The meeting agreed that it be submitted to NASCRE and the DfE.

7 ANNUAL SACRE PLAN FOR 2021/2022

JDC updated SACRE. This had been sent out to all prior to the meeting and was shared on screen for the board.

Key Objective 1 RE teacher networks

2 networking meetings had taken place this term and an email list of school contacts was being created following this.

Key Objective 2 Covid recovery plan

The WF Covid recovery plan had now been seen and JDC was looking at how RE could contribute. Part of the plan was to assist schools when they are forced to close in full or part. A contingency plan for access to on-line, resources would be passed to schools for this as soon as possible.

Key Objective 3 Promote understanding and collaboration between schools

This was linked to a project provided by the Faith and Belief Forum. Unfortunately applications for this project closed in September and further schools could not be added. Efforts would be made to disseminate the success and experience of those schools who remain in the project to encourage more WF schools to join this excellent project in 2022/23.

Key Objective 4 Support the development of Primary RE leadership

Places on a pilot project run by RE Today for Primary RE leaders have been secured . 7 WF schools have signed up for the training.

Key Objective 5 Support the subject knowledge of RE teachers

RE had been able to secure some training for WF teachers from the Diocese of Chelmsford. It was noted that some training dates had been postponed

ACTION –New training dates would be sent out by RE.

Key Objective 6 – Improving SACRE impact and effectiveness

Links to Barnet SACRE were also being made with the possibility of making a joint Westhill bid for project funding.

Q – Can you tell us more about the network meetings and how many schools attended? 2 meetings were held this term. The secondary meeting was led by Angela Hill and didn't get any attendees. There was another plan for this being looked at which could form part of a training session once a year for the secondary schools.

Primary meeting was more positive and 7 teachers attended. Feedback on the new syllabus was overwhelmingly positive. Things to work on would be the syllabus had a lot of material in it so need to look at planning for this. KY noted that she had attended the meeting and it was worthwhile going and was nice to see other people from other schools and see their reactions to the scheme. It was noted that over the last term students engagement in RE had improved overall.

IJ noted that the new curriculum had been fantastic, 2 units were trailed last summer and the students found them both very relevant, there were in depth discussions taking place and students wanted to know more about the subject. Feedback from other WF teachers was also noted to be positive.

It was noted that it would be useful to get feedback around the curriculum and get an overview of the year and how schools had found things.

Q – Is your school joining the Faith and Belief Connecting Schools project and if this connects into next year how can we get more WF schools involved in this project? How can we get more schools involved?

IJ noted he would liaise with JDC around this, a virtual meeting would be worth doing along with a presentation around this and it would be good to have other teachers who had been involved in this to be involved also. We have found in WF there had been a lack of training around RE and the move to have this in place is positive. Members agreed that an aspirational target would be for five schools joining the sessions in the next year.

JDC noted that the planned Secondary subject/primary leaders meeting in the summer term could be used for advertising the training now on offer. It was noted that in secondary schools, students came in with a varied level of knowledge at KS2 and would be interesting to see a networking between secondary and primary to look at what can be done at KS2 to prep students for KS3 -there was such a huge variation.

JDC noted that it would be great to allow the schools to hear from each other. KY noted that links had been made with her school and Chingford Foundation School and an RE assembly had taken place. More generally, it would be good to have secondary students working with Primary students on RE to make links between the primary and secondary schools.

IJ agreed that when KS3 deliver to KS2 students could relate and this was worth exploring and something SACRE can push for as it was realistic, this

could also be done virtually. JDC agreed this was great for all students and would build confidence for the KS3 students also.

KY said that if it was not possible for students to come in even creating a video that could be shown in the classroom would be easy enough to put together and this would be another option.

Q – Would this tick the boxes for a Westhill bid? JDC confirmed it would.

8 ATTAINMENT AND WORKFORCE DATA KS4 & 5 2019/2020 (JDC)

This would be picked up at the next meeting.

ACTION – To be added to the next meeting agenda.

ACTION – IJ to email contacts to JDC regarding attainment data.

9. FEEDBACK FROM NETWORK GROUPS (JDC)

Discussed in item 7.

10. SCHOOL VISITS

Katy Youngman updated SACRE on the difficulties that schools faced arranging visits to places of worship as well as contacting members of Faith communities to visits schools and talk to students .

Schools were unsure around places that could accommodate them.

Advice on how to approach Places of worship for school visits and how best to prepare students would be useful. Likewise protocols for arranging faith visitors coming into schools for assemblies and class talks.

CW noted that the current SACRE guidance on collective worship has a useful section on this.

It was agreed that there are wonderful organisations throughout the borough that schools could visit and do assemblies and SACRE should tap into these resources if possible. Lots of schools would be glad to have this as a resource. A mechanism was needed for staff to contact local suitable places to visit or local people to invite into schools. This would be something all schools could access for students from reception to sixth form.

It was noted that Humanist UK ran a school speaker programme. RK is an accredited speaker who regularly visits schools.

CW noted the “Visit my mosque” website gave details of 2 mosques in WF that would accommodate schools visits

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The William Morris Gallery was noted as a place schools could visit locally, to learn about the life and beliefs of a noted humanist with roots in Waltham Forest.

It was noted that school visits could potentially be a problem currently due to Covid restrictions.

CW pointed to the ongoing difficulty of there not being any directory of places of worship or faith organisations in the borough.

ACTION – CW to email AA to see if he could provide a list of faith organisations

Such a list would help schools get in touch with people who could organise visits.

Q – Could this go through JDC? JDC noted that this would take a significant amount of time and would not be able to be completed within the contract. However if SACRE members could contribute with information they know, then this could be added to a shared document.

ACTION – To be added to the spring term agenda.

11. Preparation for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD)

It was noted that there was nothing further to add to this discussion. DM was dealing with this and issues were noted around who was going to do this on behalf of the council going forward. DM would be undertaking this year's event and this would then be passed back to the LA.

Q – Do we know any arrangement for this? JDC confirmed that DM could update SACRE.

ACTION – DM to update SACRE on event details.

CW noted that there are access issues to the event at the town hall due to the redevelopment of the town square.

ACTION – JDC to make schools aware of date for HMD.

RK noted that resources were available on HMD on the HMD website but they are not distributed by the HMD Trust. JDC noted that a link to the website could be sent to all schools. Some Boroughs had created a toolkit for schools. Notice was too short for this year but it could be looked at for future years.

12. Any Other Business (CW)

Barnet SACRE had made contact to discuss linking and potentially working together on a Westhill project.

Q – Can you explain what you mean by a Westhill project? Each year Westhill give out 5 or 6 awards to enable SACREs to do something that they ordinarily wouldn't have the resources to do. The awards are given around April time, and an application process needed to be followed.

Previous years successful bids to be viewed on the website along with the criteria for this year's award..

<https://nasacre.org.uk/westhill-nasacre-awards/awards-2022-23>

ACTION – JDC to share the website link.

ACTION – Members to review the Westhill website prior to the next meeting.

ACTION – RK, RE, CW and IJ to review the criteria for this year's award.

Interfaith day

IJ thanked the chair and vice chair for attending the interfaith breakfast hosted at Eden Girls school. 50-60 attendees from all faiths had joined and the event had been a success. Students had really enjoyed the morning and an email had been received from the Mayor's office following the event.

ACTION – To share the email from the Mayor's office to chair and vice to be shared on gov hub.

Another Event was being planned for the summer term and it would be good to have representation from the SACRE.

CW thanked IJ for the invitation and confirmed that the event was delightful and students were enthusiastic. IJ noted that most of the details around the morning had been planned by the students so credit to them for doing a fantastic job.

RK agreed and noted that this reflected well on the school and IJ.

ACTION – Event to be included in the academic year planner going forward to encourage other schools to do the same.

CW noted that the SACRE were keen to recruit more from schools.

CW thanked JDC for support so far.

13. Date of next and future meetings, and agenda items:

Wednesday 2 Feb 2022.