

## HARROW AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 1 MARCH 2023

Via Zoom

#### Attendance

##### Group A

\* Mercedes Afnan  
\* Ven Sumana Sramaner  
\* Ciara O'Flaherty  
\* Camilla Bath  
\* Karen Collier  
\* Vijay Hirani  
\* David Cryer  
\* Varsha Dodhia  
*A Gill Ross*  
*A Doreen Samuels*  
*A Asad Omar*  
\* Paramjit Singh-Kohli  
*A Phiroza Gan-Kotwal*

##### Religious traditions and Christian churches

Baha'i  
Buddhist  
Christian (Catholic) (last meeting)  
Christian (Catholic) (replacing Diana Ohene)  
Christian (Free Church Federal Council)  
Hindu (Swaminarayan)  
Humanist (Harrow Humanists)  
Jain  
Jewish  
Jewish  
Muslim  
Sikh  
Zoroastrian

##### Group B

\* Mary Abbott  
\* Alison Stowe  
\* Revd James Power

##### Church of England

##### Group C

\* Fatema Rahemani  
\* Heena Mistry  
\* Elizabeth Boulter

##### Teachers' Associations

NASUWT  
NAHT  
NEU

##### Group D

*A Cllr Salim Chowdhury Conservative*  
*A Cllr Janet Mote Conservative*  
\* Cllr Sasi Suresh *Labour*

##### Local Authority

*A Cllr David Ashton Conservative (reserve)*  
*A Cllr Hitesh Karia Conservative (reserve)*  
*A Cllr Ghazanfar Ali Labour (reserve)*

##### Advisor to the SACRE

*A Lesley Prior (Advisor to Harrow SACRE) on long term leave of absence on grounds of ill health*  
\* Lisa Kassapian (RE Advisor)

## **Clerk**

\* Vivian Wright (Clerk to SACRE)

## **Observers**

\* Arvind Halai from the Swaminarayan temple on Kenton Road

*\* denotes presence*

*A denotes absence with apologies*

*~ denotes absence without apologies*

### **1. Feedback from RE Teachers Network meeting**

Alison reported back from the RE Teachers network meeting in January. Teachers had compared the Harrow ASC with the Hounslow syllabus: Lesley has advised that it is possible to draw on this with proper attribution. Teachers commented on the syllabus. Alison thanked David for attending this meeting.

For the next part of the meeting, the committee was divided into break-out rooms:

- Break-out room 1: teacher representatives and C of E representatives; Look at the aims.
- Break-out room 2: faith representatives and councillors. Look at the faith descriptions in the “Religions and Worldviews” section and update in the light of the new Census information.

### **2. Report Back**

Mary reported back from Room 1. Lisa highlighted the discussion to refine the aims and update the focus on learning about and learning. The group discussed wording to replace ‘tolerance’ and to use ‘critically’ instead of ‘seriously’. Mary will send revised wording to Alison.

**Action: Mary**

Alison reported back from Room 2. She explained changes required for page 4 ‘Religion in Harrow’. Lisa explained how some language has changed since the last syllabus, for instance “sacred texts” has replaced “special texts”. Members fully supported this change. There was a discussion regarding the naming of the Dharmic religions and the use of the phrase ‘worldview traditions’. There was some ambivalence about whether the syllabus should open with the aims and statutory requirements instead of with the faith descriptions as in the previous syllabus. Members like the present opening which gives such a positive portrayal of Harrow’s diversity; on the other hand, they were willing to adopt the change if this made the syllabus more accessible to teachers’ requirements.

Alison and Lisa are meeting on 27 March: they will make a decision about the order of the syllabus and incorporate the revisions that have been agreed.

Members should email any suggestions to Alison by 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Action: Members**

### 3. Future Dates:

- **Tuesday 27 June following the SACRE committee**

### 4. Closing remarks

- Alison thanked Lisa for her input and everyone for attending and negotiating the technology. Lisa thanked everyone for welcoming her and being so supportive.
- Alison will arrange a card and flowers for Lesley; she asked members to email any messages they would like included in the card.

**Action: Members and Alison**

**The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm**

**Signed:**

**(Chair)**

**(Date)**