

HARROW SACRE
(STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 30 JUNE 2016

Attendance

Group A

A Mercedes Afnan
*Ven Sumaner Sramaner
A Mike Bishop
A Neville Ransley
*Ciara O'Flaherty
*Vijay Hirani
*Julie Crow
*Varsha Dodhia
*Gill Ross
*Doreen Samuels
*Zafar Khalid
~*Zia Baig*
*Asad Omar
~*Beverley Wilson*
*Paramjit Singh-Kohli
A Phiroza Gan-Kotwal

Group B

A Mary Abbott
A Revd. Matthew Stone
*Revd Kate Blake

Group C

~*Manju Radia*
*Alison Stowe (Chair)
*Teri-Louise O'Brien

Group D

*Cllr Camilla Bath Conservative
ACllr Ghazanfar Ali Labour
*Cllr Kareema Marikar Labour (Vice Chair)

A Cllr Simon Brown Labour (reserve)
A Cllr Manji Kara Conservative (reserve)
A Cllr Chika Amadi Labour (reserve)

Officer

* Lesley Prior (Advisor ASC)

Observer

*David Cryer (Harrow Humanist Association)

Clerk

*Vivian Wright (Clerk to SACRE)

Religious traditions and Christian churches

Baha'i
Buddhist
Christian (Free Church Federal Council)
Christian (Catholic)
Christian (Catholic)
Hindu (Swaminarayan)
Humanist (Harrow Humanist Association)
Jain
Jewish
Jewish
Muslim (representing Harrow Muslim Council)
Muslim
Muslim
Rastafarian
Sikh
Zoroastrian

Church of England

Teachers' Associations

Local Authority

* *denotes presence*

A denotes absence with apologies

~ *denotes absence without apologies*

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Revd Kate Blake who has been appointed to replace Revd Philip Barnes as a Church of England representative. There will be no presentation this evening as Nina Will is unable to attend.

2. Apologies for absence:

RESOLVED: To note apologies for absence from Matthew Stone, Mary Abbott, Mercedes Afnan, Mike Bishop, Phiroza Gan-Kotwal (retrospective), Neville Ransley, Cllr Ghanzanfar Ali and Cllr Manji Kara.

The following members were also absent:

Group A: Mr Zia Baig and Ms Beverley Wilson.

Group C: Manju Radia

It was noted that the high number of apologies and absences might be due to the change of date for the meeting owing to the Referendum.

Humanist representative: this will be Julie Crow's last meeting as she is standing down from the committee; she will be replaced by David Cryer who is present this evening as an observer. The Chair thanked Julie for her work on the committee especially for chairing the ASC.

Church of England Representative: Revd Matthew Stone is stepping down from SACRE; this would have been his last meeting but he is unable to attend owing to the change of date. Lesley Prior will approach the Diocesan Council with a view to finding a replacement. Matthew has been a very active and articulate member of the committee and will be much missed.

3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair: the clerk chaired this part of the meeting;

Camilla Bath, seconded by Asad Omar proposed Alison Stowe

There were no further nominations. **Alison Stowe was elected unanimously.**

Alison Stowe then resumed chairing the meeting.

Vice-Chair: there were two nominations:

Varsha Dodhia, seconded by Paramjit Singh-Kohli, proposed Kareema Marikar

Asad Omar seconded by Vijay Hirani, proposed Camilla Bath

Each candidate addressed the meeting briefly while the other candidate left the room.

Cllr Camilla Bath

Cllr Bath has been closely involved with drafting the Agreed Syllabus. She has also held the position of Vice-Chair until last year. She is a governor at St George's school. She attended all the meetings last year.

Question

What attracted her to the SACRE committee? It is the only committee that represents the variety of faiths in Harrow. Members of different faiths and none work together in harmony and recognize the common ground between them.

Cllr Kareema Marikar

Cllr Marikar has learnt a lot from her time on the SACRE committee. She held the office of Vice-Chair last year. She believes in multi-faith co-operation. She works at the grass roots level, visiting different places of worship. She is qualified in Health and Social Care; she is also a qualified nurse with a special interest in the elderly, special needs, autism and mental health. She participated in introducing several SACRE policies last year for different faiths. She would take what she learned from SACRE forward into different communities.

A secret ballot was held. **Camilla Bath was elected as Vice-Chair.**

4. Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd March 2016 (*previously circulated and available at the meeting*)

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

p.3. Item 6. The Director's Nominated Advisor to the Harrow SACRE 2016/2017: an update:

Answer to question about time allocation: "members of SACRE can always apply for additional time from the LA for exceptional and specific projects which require extra input." Cllr Bath asked who would pay for this extra time? The Chair explained that Harrow is very fortunate to be generously supported by the Council through HSIP.

There were no further matters arising from the minutes

6. ASC Update

Julie Crow introduced this item. The ASC has held two meetings since the last SACRE meeting:

15th March: a whole day meeting where members reviewed the Agreed Syllabus.

18th April: vote to agree the syllabus. At this meeting, all four groups approved the text of the Agreed Syllabus with minor modifications. There were no formal minutes to this meeting but Julie made some notes. Julie will send these to the Clerk for circulation with the minutes of this meeting.

Action: Julie Crow and Clerk

Lesley Prior has made the amendments to the Agreed Syllabus:

Time allocation for RE: the committee wished to clarify that assemblies and collective worship do not count towards RE teaching time. Lesley has made sure that this amendment appears in various places in the Agreed Syllabus so it is clear that this applies to all age groups.

The text of the Agreed Syllabus is now complete. The final amendments and the appendices will be circulated to those present at the meeting.

Faith descriptions: members of the faith communities were asked to write faith descriptions in an approved format as part of the introduction. The descriptions for Christianity and Humanism have been completed but others have not yet been received. The following actions were agreed:

The Chair of the ASC will ask Patrick O'Dwyer for the headings and structure to be used in this section and circulate this to the members of the faith communities. She will find out which sections are still outstanding.

Action: Chair of ASC

The members of the faith communities will draft their sections for completion by the end of term. It is important to have this local dimension included in the Agreed Syllabus which is a statutory document that will apply to all community schools in Harrow.

Action: members of the faith communities

Glossary: members also wished to include a glossary as an appendix to the syllabus. Lesley Prior showed members a glossary produced by ?SCA which she felt would make a good starting point. This glossary was produced some time ago and is not, as far as members are aware, available in an electronic format, but could be scanned. It covers the six major faiths: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism but Baha'i, Jainism, Zoroastrianism and Rastafarianism are not included. It is not copyrighted and can be borrowed and expanded. It has been used by other authorities and publishers. Lesley Prior will arrange for a scanned copy of the SCA glossary; this can be used as a basis and terms for the religions not covered can be incorporated. Omar Asad and Alison Stowe will look for the previous Harrow glossary.

Action: Lesley Prior, Alison Stowe and Asad Omar

Forward and Introduction: these sections are complete

Acknowledgements: members of SACRE and the ASC should be acknowledged.

Photographs: Teri-Louise O'Brien, Vijay Hirani and Alison Stowe will supply some photographs from their schools. These will comply with requirements when using photographs in a public document. (Children will not be identified; there will be parental permission for the reproduction of any photographs of children).

Action: Alison Stowe, Vijay Hirani and Teri-Louise O'Brien

Exemplifications and Long term plans: the committee had agreed to revisit this section. The long term plans for KS1 and KS2 have been amended in line with suggestions made at the ASC meetings. There is no sample long term plan for KS3. Lesley has contacted some teachers in secondary schools but has received no response.

Reviews of resources: a member of the Jewish faith community suggested that it might be worthwhile to include reviews of resources, especially in view of the fact that many resources are currently being updated in the light of the new curriculum. This would be complex to implement owing to the multiplicity of Exam Boards and choices within the syllabus itself. It was agreed that the Agreed Syllabus was not the place for such reviews but that links to reputable websites providing resources would be useful.

Agreement by Harrow Council: the syllabus still needs to be agreed by Harrow Council. This will go through the Director of Children's Services.

The Chair of the ASC committee will note the actions decided at this meeting and email them to the Clerk for circulation with the minutes. She will contact Patrick O'Dwyer so that he is aware of what actions are needed from him in order to complete the Agreed Syllabus.

Action: Chair of the ASC Committee

The Chair thanked Julie Crow for her work as Chair of this committee.

At this point (8.30pm) Asad Omar left the meeting.

Launch: will there be a formal launch of the Agreed Syllabus? This is in hand. It will probably in the Autumn term, where it might be arranged to coincide with Interfaith week.

7. Update on Published Reports and Guidance

Fasting during Ramadan

Guidance on PE

Lesley Prior reported on the very positive feedback received for these two guidance documents; Hertfordshire has made use of the Guidance on Fasting during Ramadan. This advice will continue to be relevant for the next few years as Ramadan will still fall in the spring and summer months. Lesley felt that these two documents were among the best she has ever seen and congratulated those responsible.

8. Report from NASACRE Conference

NASACRE is the national body that provides advice and support to local SACREs. Lesley Prior is a member of its executive committee. Harrow SACRE is a member. The Clerk will re-circulate the log in and password for the members' areas and ensure this is included on future agendas.

Action: Clerk

NASACRE holds an annual conference. This year the keynote speakers were Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss who chaired the *Report on Religion and Belief in Public Life* and Adam Dinham, Professor of Faith and Public Policy at Goldsmiths who is co-author of *RE for REal*. Members can view clips from the speeches on the website.

Currently there are many important issues concerning the legal status of RE and Collective Worship. It is suggested that RE should be administered nationally and that Collective Worship should be taken off the statute books. Lesley suggested that now the Agreed Syllabus is nearing completion, it would be useful for the committee to look at what other SACREs are doing and take on another project. This could be discussed at a future meeting.

Item for future agenda

The turbulence of the present political climate adds to the uncertainty surrounding the future of RE.

Next year's conference will be held in Birmingham on Tuesday 16 May 2017. It is generally considered to be a very enjoyable and useful day.

9. Report by Linda Woodhead and Charles Clarke

Charles Clarke has been invited to be a patron of NASACRE. Although SACRE members do not always agree with him, he is a person of influence with direct links to government; he can keep NASACRE informed of government developments and it is useful to have his input.

10. Harrow SACRE Constitution (*previously tabled at the last meeting*)

For the benefit of those members who had not received a copy, the Chair read out the draft terms of Reference for the committee. She will obtain an electronic copy from Patrick O'Dwyer and circulate this to the committee.

Action: Chair

Attendance at meetings: the terms of reference stipulate that if a member misses three consecutive meetings without giving apologies, they will lose their place on the committee. A member who loses touch with the committee might be the only representative of their faith community so their absence means that their faith community is not represented.

Deputies: a member of the committee who is unable to attend a meeting can send someone to deputise for them; the voting rights of such deputies needs to be clarified. At present only council members have reserves with voting rights.

Quoracy: the terms of reference need to include the representation needed to be quorate (one member from each group must be present).

The NASACRE website contains guidance on constitutions.

Lesley Prior and the Chair will meet to make these additions to the terms of reference and bring the revised draft to the next meeting.

Action: Lesley Prior and Alison Stowe

11. School RE SEFs

Norbury SEF: this was sent to the email address on the form but does not appear to have reached its destination. Teri-Louis O'Brien will send it to the Chair.

Action: Teri-Louise O'Brien

The Chair encouraged other schools to submit SEFs.

12. News from Faith Groups

- **British Humanist Association** has launched a new website called Understanding Humanism (<http://understandinghumanism.org.uk>) This is a very user-friendly website and gives access to a wealth of age related resources. The website has links to visiting speakers, lesson plans and a button for further suggestions.
- **Mitzvah Day is Sunday 27 November.**
- **A new Jain Centre** (<http://www.jainnetwork.com/jaincentrelondon.php>) is being built in Colindale. Varsha Dodhia is willing to take a SACRE group to the existing centre near Potters Bar. This is a very beautiful site. If members visited on a Friday, a lunch would also be provided.
- **Date of E'id:** this is a lunar festival. Norbury school apologised for issuing a date that had not been officially "called".

13. Any other business

- **New members:** the Chair welcomed new members, Revd Kate Blake and David Cryer.
- **Leaving members:** the Chair paid tribute to the work of Revd Matthew Stone and Julie Crowe

14. Dates of Future SACRE Meetings:

Tuesday 27 September (*Apologies Neville Ransley*) – the committee noted that the 27th September is a Tuesday, not a Thursday.

Wednesday 7 December

Thursday 9 March

NASACRE Conference: Tuesday 16 May 2017

The Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed:

(Chair)

(Date)