

HARROW SACRE
(STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING
ON 25 JUNE 2020

Attendance

Group A - Religious traditions and Christian churches

<i>A Mercedes Afnan</i>	Baha'i
<i>A Ven Sumana Sramaner</i>	Buddhist
* Bob Dawson	Christian (Free Church Federal Council)
A Diana Ohene	Christian (Catholic)
<i>A Ciara O'Flaherty</i>	Christian (Catholic)
~ <i>Vijay Hirani</i>	Hindu (Swaminarayan)
* David Cryer	Humanist (Harrow Humanists)
* Varsha Dodhia	Jain
* Gill Ross	Jewish
* Doreen Samuels	Jewish
~ <i>Zafar Khalid</i>	Muslim (representing Harrow Central Mosque)
~ <i>Asad Omar</i>	Muslim
~ <i>Tahir Hashmi</i>	Muslim (representing Harrow Central Mosque)
* Mohammed Amar	Muslim (representing Harrow Central Mosque)
~ <i>Paramjit Singh-Kohli</i>	Sikh
* Phiroza Gan-Kotwal	Zoroastrian

Group B - Church of England

- * Mary Abbott
- * Revd Kate Blake
- * Revd James Power

Group C - Teachers' Associations

- * Alison Stowe (Chair)
- ~ *Teri-Louise O'Brien*
- * Fatema Rahemani

Group D - Local Authority

- * Cllr Camilla Bath Conservative (Vice Chair)
- * Cllr Ghazanfar Ali Labour
- A Cllr Angella Murphy-Strachan (Labour)

Cllr Dr Lesline Lewinson Conservative (reserve)
Cllr Simon Brown Labour (reserve)
Vacancy Labour (reserve)

Advisor to the SACRE

- * Lesley Prior (Advisor to Harrow SACRE)

Clerk

- * Vivian Wright (Clerk to SACRE)

* *denotes presence*

A denotes absence with apologies

~ *denotes absence without apologies*

1. Welcome

Alison welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

RESOLVED: To note apologies for absence from Mercedes Afnan, Ven Sumana Sramaner, Ciara O'Flaherty, Diana Ohene and Cllr Angella Murphy-Strachan.

3. The following members were also absent:

Group A: Vijay Hirani, Zafar Khalid, Asad Omar, Tahir Hashmi, Paramjit Singh-Kohli.

Group C: Teri-Louise O'Brien

No apologies had been received.

4. Minutes of the last meeting held on 10 December 2019 (previously circulated)

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

p.3. Item 6. Determinations: *see 7 below.*

p.5. Item 8. News from NASACRE: *see 6 below*

p.5. Item 9. Annual Report: the Annual report has been completed and circulated.

p.6. Item 15. Prayer Space at Belmont: the planned talk has been deferred.

All other actions arising from the minutes have been completed.

6. News from NASACRE

National projects

AGM and Conference

Lesley reported that the NASACRE AGM and day conference for 2020 has been rescheduled for 24 May 2021. It will be held in London as planned for this year.

NASACRE Executive

Lesley is still a member of the executive.

New projects

What is meant by "World Views?"

The phrase "world views" was used in the Commission on RE report. NASACRE plans to explore the meaning and context of this phrase.

Sample schemes of learning

The second new project has been commissioned by the RE Council. It plans to develop lesson plans and resources. When they are available SACRE members will be able to review them with a view to producing a briefing paper.

Local projects

Local RE coordinators have also been working on schemes of work. This has continued during the Pandemic – indeed one benefit of the lock down has been to give teachers the opportunity to do this in a sustained way. Once lock down is over, the quality of RE teaching will benefit from this work.

Lesley paid tribute to Harrow teachers' commitment to RE – their boundless dedication and enthusiasm for the subject. The WhatsApp group has been buzzing with ideas. There has been an informal Zoom chat between RE coordinators. Lesley has held many telephone consultations to discuss curriculum plans. Her termly newsletter to schools expanded to three issues this term. Many schools have produced excellent resources including both RE and Collective Worship. This work will continue when schools return to “normal”. There will be many special acts of worship and assemblies to commemorate those lost during the crisis. Alison is leading a training session on Collective Worship next Tuesday (30 June); **SACRE members should contact Alison if they would like to drop in on this.**

Ofsted

Lock down has meant that inspections are not taking place. NASACRE has been considering extracts from Ofsted reports that cover RE. It will resume this work when inspections restart. It is worth remembering that schools have not been completely closed during the crisis but they will be gradually moving towards complete reopening in September.

Ofsted has appointed a RE specialist; it is hoped that this will lead to better training in the subject for Ofsted inspectors.

The possibility of Harrow SACRE being among those who are producing a briefing paper on the locally agreed syllabus for Ofsted was briefly mentioned at the last meeting. This would help Ofsted inspectors who are faced with wide variations in the RE curriculum across the country; it would also help schools to audit their RE provision.

Questions

- Is there a template for such a briefing document? Lesley has one template from Newham.
- Is there a timetable for inspections? Lesley informed the committee that there are no inspections planned as far as she knows. Doreen confirmed this; she is a governor at a secondary school which is awaiting an inspection. She has been informed that Ofsted are doing no inspections this term and, in all likelihood, will hold off for the first few weeks of the autumn term.

7. Determinations:

Marlborough school

Alison informed the committee that the Chairs' group met to discuss Marlborough's application for a determination. (Members will recall that the paperwork was submitted just before the last meeting on 10 December, so members did not have time to review it; however, at that meeting, members were able to hear from the RE lead at Marlborough, Zahra Mamdani, and to ask her questions).

The feeling of the Chairs' group was that the school has done everything asked of it and that SACRE should grant the determination. Gill and James, members of the Chairs' Group confirmed this; she added that the group also felt that the school might appreciate and benefit from some ongoing support from SACRE, but this does not constitute a reason to withhold the determination. Alison will suggest that Lesley spends half a day with the Acting Head and RE lead and this would enable her to clarify some aspects of the RE curriculum and requirements of Collective Worship. Marlborough now has a very receptive team covering RE.

Q. Is there now more continuity for RE teaching at Marlborough? Alison said that she is unsure of the position for September but certainly there has been continuity in

her dealings with the school once she managed to establish contact earlier in this academic year.

Members agreed to grant a determination to Marlborough school.

Alison will write to inform them; in her letter she will include the suggestion about ongoing support as well as commending them for what has been achieved so far.

Action: Alison Stowe

Vaughan School

Alison informed members that Vaughan Primary School is also seeking a determination. She has visited the school and originally suggested that they submit their application for this meeting. This has not been possible due to the crisis but it will be coming up for consideration at a future meeting.

Guidance for Determinations

Q. Does SACRE publish guidance on determinations? Lesley confirmed that it does. Alison has signposted this in the Harrow Bulletin and asked any schools seeking guidance to contact her.

- 8. Collective Worship Working Group:** the activities and achievements of this group have been covered in Lesley's report on local initiatives under item 6 above.

9. Days of religious Observance

So far, the text of the guidance has been circulated and members invited to comment. It has not been revised for some time but if members have nothing to add or amend, it will stay as it is. When the new SHAP calendar is published, Vivian will send dates to Faith representatives to check. David will include some humanist input.

Action: Vivian Wright and SACRE members

10. News from Faith Groups

• **Christian**

Bob informed members that ReGen has appointed a new schools coordinator; she is continuing and developing their lively schools programme. More details can be found on their website. www.regenharrow.org.uk

• **Jewish Community**

Doreen reported that the Moriah School has now closed. Pupils have been found places at other Jewish schools and the beautiful buildings have been retained for educational use. An occupant has been found from September 2021 and it is possible that a school has been found for a temporary let from this September.

• **Harrow Interfaith**

Varsha reported that Harrow Interfaith is working on helping those who have been bereaved during the Covid crisis. There will be many mourning ceremonies when the crisis is over. Varsha will forward Harrow Interfaith's resources to Alison as she is involved with Harrow Bereavement Care.

Action: Varsha Dodhia

Gill added that the impact of the crisis has been felt throughout the different faith communities in Harrow. It is especially hard on those communities who do not have private prayer as part of their faith tradition.

- **Zoroastrian**

Phiroza reported that the Zoroastrian priest is streaming prayers on high days and holidays in the Zoroastrian calendar. The next two are on 28 and 30 June. She will send the link to Vivian.

Action: Phiroza Gan-Kotwal

Note: Phiroza followed this up and was informed that the prayers are specially geared for Zoroastrian worshippers for the duration of Covid 19 and not for interfaith.

11. Any Other Business

- **Public meetings under lockdown:** Alison raised the point that SACRE meetings should be open to members of the public to attend as observers. In Harrow, there have been few instances of members of the public doing so and none in recent years. However, it is a requirement. There was some discussion as to how this requirement can be met when meetings are held via video conferencing. Lesley mentioned that some SACREs publish their agendas with the name of a contact. Any member of the public who wishes to attend can get in touch and they will be sent the link. Video conferencing also offers the possibility of recording the meeting, so members of the public could receive this retrospectively. It is possible that Harrow council already has protocols in place for this.

Alison undertook to include an announcement of the next meeting, with details of a contact, in the Harrow Bulletin. .

Action: Alison

12. Future Dates:

- **Tuesday 29 September** (this meeting is most likely to be held via video conferencing; Alison will put details in the Harrow Bulletin: *see 15 above*)
- **Thursday 10 December**
- **Tuesday 9 March**

The meeting closed at 8.09pm

Signed:

(Chair)

(Date)