



THE LONDON BOROUGH
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DATE: 12 July 2024

To: Members of the
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Reverend Roger Bristow (Chairman)

Councillors Dr Sunil Gupta FRCP FRCPATH, David Jefferys, Jonathan Laidlaw,
Kate Lymer, Keith Onslow, Chris Price and Rebecca Wiffen

Church of England: Lee Kings and Christopher Town

Teachers: Denise Angell, Hannah Arnold, Alex Hamill, Cilla Larbi and
Caroline Ringham

Other Faiths: Katie Burtonshaw, Daniel Coleman, Patricia Colling, Deborah Corcoran,
Sanjay Gupta, Iqbal Klimo, Saiyed Mahmood, Arvinder Nandra, Omar Taha and
Katie Turner

A meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education will be held at
Bromley Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH on **MONDAY 22 JULY**
2024 AT 6.00 PM

TASNIM SHAWKAT
Director of Corporate Services & Governance

Copies of the documents referred to below can be obtained from
<http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/>

A G E N D A

- 1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN
- 2 WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS
- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
- 4 COMPLIANCE OF THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)
- 5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH FEBRUARY 2024 (Pages 3 - 10)

6 REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

7 NATIONAL UPDATES (Pages 11 - 12)

- Ofsted - Deep and meaningful? The religious education subject report (April 2024):
[New Ofsted report finds schools need to add depth to their RE curriculum - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- NASACRE Conference, Workshops and AGM

8 LOCAL UPDATES

- Calendar Competition
- School Website Survey
- Governors Training
- SACRE Video
- Teacher Sessions Update
- Inter-faith Dialogue Workshop (Westhill Funding)

9 SACRE ACTION PLAN (INCLUDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS) (Pages 13 - 14)

10 SACRE SELF-EVALUATION

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6.00pm, Wednesday 4th December 2024

6.00pm, Wednesday 26th February 2025

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.00 pm on 28 February 2024

Present:

Reverend Roger Bristow (Chairman)

Councillors Jonathan Andrews,
Dr Sunil Gupta FRCP FRCPath, David Jefferys,
Chris Price and Rebecca Wiffen
Denise Angell, Hannah Arnold, Caroline Ringham,
Lee Kings, Christopher Town, Katie Burtonshaw,
Patricia Colling, Iqbal Klimo and Arvinder Nandra

Also Present:

Councillor Graeme Casey (*via conference call*)
Julia Andrew, LBB Head of School Standards
Stacey Burman, SACRE RE Adviser
Sara Groenli, LBB Head of Educational Effectiveness
Alex Hamill (*via conference call*)
Katie Turner (*via conference call*)

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Robert Evans, Deborah Corcoran and Omar Taha.

Caroline Ringham gave prior notification that she would need to leave the meeting at 7.00pm.

Apologies were also received from Jared Nehra, LBB Director of Education.

The Chairman welcomed Sara Groenli, LBB Head of Educational Effectiveness to the meeting.

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

29 COMPLIANCE OF THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

No breaches of the GDPR were reported.

30 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1ST NOVEMBER 2023

With regards to item 15, it was requested that the beginning of the second paragraph be amended to read:

'Councillor Dr Sunil Gupta said that he ran a Yoga school in the Borough'.

RESOLVED that, subject to the amendment noted above, the minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

B) MATTERS ARISING

In relation to Minute 19: 'Local and National Updates', the SACRE RE Adviser encouraged SACRE Members to register/enrol on the RE Hubs website. The importance of schools being able to make contact with local representatives of different religions and worldviews was emphasised.

With regards to Minute 23: 'SACRE Annual Report', Councillor Jefferys advised that the SACRE Annual Report had been presented to the meeting of Full Council on 11th December 2023. The document had been well received, and thanks were extended for the work undertaken.

The Chairman noted that updates in relation to any matters still outstanding would be provided during the meeting.

31 REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

No determinations had been received.

32 RE LEARNING IN THE BOROUGH

The SACRE RE Adviser informed SACRE Members that a session for Bromley secondary schools had been delivered that morning, which focussed on how teachers could help their pupils navigate a dialogue regarding the situation in the Middle East. Nine teachers, from five different schools, had attended – resources and activities had been shared, and were positively received. All attendees had been very engaged, and a further session had been requested.

A Teacher Representative advised that two Early Career Teachers (ECT) from her school attended the session, and had commented that they had found the information relating to managing difficult/controversial conversations particularly beneficial.

The SACRE RE Adviser noted that a Bromley primary RE session had also been held that afternoon. In addition to selecting the winning entries for the inter faith calendar competition, they had discussed what was considered to

be 'good RE' and what was expected in lessons. They had also shared ideas to develop the 'thinking time' for pupils.

A Teacher Representative that attended the primary RE session said she had shared some examples of work from her school. They used floor books which pupils were allowed to look at during the day and add to them. The group had discussed how pupils' individual books could also be used – such as using blank pages for 'thinking space' to note things down that they wanted to explore further. Another Teacher Representative said they were also focussing on preparing primary pupils for transition to secondary school. The SACRE RE Adviser said the group had discussed the importance of questions and the emphasis on responses, rather than answers, and the importance of listening to the responses of others.

The SACRE RE Adviser informed SACRE Members that approximately 25 schools in the borough were in regular contact and the work undertaken in relation to the syllabus, networks and resources was having a positive impact.

33 LOCAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES

The Chairman informed SACRE Members that the government had announced it would not be renewing its funding to the national Inter Faith Network (IFN) – without this funding the IFN could not continue to function, and would be closing down. It was highlighted that the effectiveness of local networks was now even more important.

The SACRE RE Adviser said that the IFN network in Bromley had an overlap with the membership of the SACRE, and she had previously suggested bringing the two together. One idea discussed had been the development of the 'REal Resources' – these were being used in schools, had been well received, and would continue to be developed. At the last meeting, the possibility of holding an inter faith workshop had been discussed – for example faith representatives could be asked to talk about a concept from the primary RE curriculum, and materials from this could then be developed into resources for schools. In order to progress this further, the SACRE Adviser said she would be applying for Westhill Funding. The deadline for submitting the bid was the 31st March 2024 – if successful, a working group would be established, and any SACRE Members interested in helping to develop the inter faith workshop could participate.

The SACRE RE Adviser noted that, in May 2021, Ofsted published a series of subject reports, and the report on RE had been discussed in depth – a follow up report was due to be published by December 2023, however this had been delayed. An extract from the Ofsted Annual Report regarding the general national picture of RE had been provided in the agenda pack. Ofsted appeared to have been generally disappointed with the RE delivered and the lack of quality – this was not the case in Bromley. The SACRE RE Adviser reassured SACRE Members that the Locally Agreed Syllabus contrasted greatly to some of the negative statements in the report.

The SACRE RE Adviser highlighted that she had added some questions underneath the extract which schools could contemplate. A Member considered that these questions were very thought provoking.

The SACRE RE Adviser noted that the NASACRE Conference and AGM would be taking place on 20th May 2024 – the Ofsted Annual Report may be discussed at the event and, if so, further feedback could be provided at the next SACRE meeting.

A SACRE Member highlighted that the Church of England schools in the borough had their own network of primary schools which received training, including that provided by the Diocese. The SACRE RE Adviser said she would like to contact the Advisers at the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education regarding the potential to link the Church of England network sessions with those that she delivered for the Local Authority. It was considered that community schools could benefit from their collective worship resources/guidance, and vice versa as the REal resources covered a range of other religions and worldviews. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged between the SACRE RE Adviser and a representative of the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education.

ACTION: SACRE RE Adviser / Lee Kings

The SACRE RE Adviser said the school Governor survey, which would be discussed under the next item, had been useful in helping to identify schools following a different RE syllabus. These schools could now be contacted, and provided an opportunity to open up conversations about the syllabus and good RE in general.

A Member said that he agreed with the proposals suggested – there was a good tradition in the borough of “doing things the Bromley way” and this seemed a good way of driving things forward. The Chairman encouraged SACRE Members to respond to any requests received from the SACRE RE Adviser.

34 RE AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP SUPPORT

The SACRE RE Adviser noted that the results of the school Governor survey had been included in the agenda pack. Key highlights included: 34 completed surveys had been received; most schools did not have a named Governor for RE, but some would now consider doing so; and most Governors said they wanted to continue to be informed or receive training about RE.

In relation to question 8, the SACRE RE Adviser noted that all school websites should state which RE curriculum was taught, and it was also suggested that the subject lead be listed. The SACRE RE Adviser proposed that a further exercise be undertaken to look at the Bromley school websites to see what information was available, and asked if SACRE Members could assist. It was noted that a Google Form had already been devised to capture this information. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that SACRE

Members would be provided with a list of Bromley school websites for them to review. **ACTION: SACRE RE Adviser / Clerk / SACRE Members**

The SACRE RE Adviser noted that the Bromley RE Agreed Syllabus document was available on the Bromley Education Matters website. It was suggested that, in future, videos/pictures of pupils' work could also be uploaded alongside this to celebrate the good work being done in schools and promote the Bromley Agreed Syllabus. A Member noted that this linked with question 5 of the Governor survey where 18 schools had claimed to be following the Bromley Agreed Syllabus, however it had been established that five of these schools were not actually doing so. The SACRE RE Adviser informed SACRE Members that academies were legally obliged to follow a locally agreed syllabus unless their funding agreement with the Department for Education (DfE) stated otherwise. With regards to Church of England schools, in February 2019 a statement was released outlining the directive that they should follow their locally agreed syllabus in the first instance, with other Diocesan curriculum and syllabus materials being provided, such as London Diocesan Board for Schools syllabus, which could be adopted if it was felt this was not of a sufficient standard. With regards to question 9, a number of Governors had said they did not know if there were RE displays in their school – the SACRE RE Adviser said she had asked about displays in schools as this was something they could ask questions about during their next visit.

The SACRE RE Advisor highlighted that a significant number of Governors said they wanted to receive training in relation to RE – it was suggested that consideration may need to be given to holding a session on RE for Governors/non teachers. This could potentially be combined with a SACRE event, providing sessions/workshops demonstrating 'good RE'. The Chairman agreed that this was a good idea, and noted that he had previously provided input for Governor training. Following the most recent session he had been contacted by Governors who had highlighted that they did not know what questions to ask, and it may be helpful to provide them with some guidance. The LBB Head of School Standards advised that the Local Authority held Governor Forums and Governor Briefings, and suggested that training could be provided at a future session. In response to a question, the LBB Head of School Standards confirmed that these sessions received lots of engagement from academies.

In response to a question from a Member, who suggested holding a wider community event to showcase religions and worldviews, the SACRE RE Adviser said that the school Special Objects Project had culminated in a school community event, attended by parents and faith leaders. In response to questions from another SACRE Member, the SACRE RE Adviser highlighted the need to engage more with Headteachers. It was known that schools struggled with curriculum time and the subjects that were moderated would be prioritised. It was considered that a Headteacher survey may need to be undertaken in the future.

The LBB Head of Educational Effectiveness said that there may be an opportunity to link with school leaders via other networks. There was a mental health forum, which was very well attended, and thought could be given to including an RE item on a future agenda. Consideration could also be given to providing some form of training at the Governor Forum held in the summer term. The SACRE RE Adviser noted that, if they were successful in their bid for Westhill Funding, thought could be given to developing inter faith workshops for various audiences.

A Member highlighted that very few people knew about the good work being undertaken by the SACRE – it was suggested that an article could be included in the Local Authority's magazine. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the SACRE RE Adviser would record a video, which included input from SACRE Members, providing an introduction to the SACRE – it was noted that this could also be used by Councillors during their group meetings.

ACTION: SACRE RE Adviser

The Chairman requested that a meeting be arranged between himself, the LBB Head of Educational Effectiveness, LBB Head of School Standards and SACRE RE Adviser to discuss taking forward the proposals suggested.

ACTION: Clerk

35 INTERFAITH DIALOGUE RESOURCES

The SACRE RE Adviser informed SACRE Members that the school Special Objects Project, in which several Bromley schools took part, had received extremely positive feedback and featured as the Research of the Month by the Culham St Gabriel's Trust in January 2024:

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/research/research-of-the-month/the-faith-belief-forum-special-objects-project/>. The SACRE RE Adviser noted that they had also been approached to speak about the project at two national conferences.

The SACRE RE Adviser informed SACRE Members that, as already mentioned in the meeting, the winners of the inter faith calendar competition had been selected earlier that day. It was noted that the winning submissions were received from a range of schools and year groups, and captured different religions and worldviews. The SACRE RE Adviser noted that a list of dates for religious and non-religious events and festivals would be drafted and sent to faith representatives to be double-checked before the calendar was finalised. It was requested that Members' responses be received by a certain date, otherwise comments and amendments may not be able to be included.

ACTION: SACRE RE Adviser / SACRE faith representatives

36 SACRE ACTION PLAN (INCLUDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS)

The SACRE RE Adviser had provided Members with an updated SACRE Action Plan for the period September 2023-September 2024. The SACRE RE

Adviser highlighted that the actions were coloured coded and those marked in green were complete.

The SACRE RE Adviser noted that following the proposals made during the meeting the action plan would be updated to include the review of the school websites, production of a video regarding the role of SACRE, and the proposed inter faith workshop event.

37 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

38 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6.00pm, Wednesday 3rd July 2024

6.00pm, Wednesday 4th December 2024

6.00pm, Wednesday 26th February 2025

The Meeting ended at 7.45 pm

Chairman

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Curriculum Time



“RE is a **statutory** subject for **ALL** pupils”



In Most Schools: **36 hours** for KS1 and **45 hours** curriculum time for KS2.



“In schools where teaching was less than this, the quality of RE was weaker”



“In schools where RE was solely taught through special **RE days**, the quality of RE was weaker”



“In 30% of schools RE was taught... with **PSHE**... **blurring of subject boundaries**. RE was weaker in these schools”



“Schools should ensure there is a distinct curriculum in place for at **all key stages**”

Supporting Curriculum Deliverers

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In many cases professional development... training was often only for the subject leader”



“Over 60% of teachers... had not received any professional development in RE. ”



“Most [subject leaders] did not receive any dedicated leadership time to improve the quality of RE in their school”



Schools should... ensure access to professional development’



<https://www.bromleyeducationmatters.uk/Page/15522>

Curriculum Content



“to...ensure pupils are well prepared to **engage** in a multi-religious and multi-secular society”



“pupils were presented with over **simplistic assertions** about religious traditions... which were often based on **visible entities**, such as places of worship”



“There were few instances... included **challenging questions** that **religions seek to answer**”



“little evidence of how... content might **build up** over time to help pupils **learn bigger ideas**”

The curriculum should...



“reflect long standing and **changing** or **diverse** nature of religions”



“avoid over-simplifying or stereotyping religion”



“In schools that did include **ways of knowing** content, curriculums were well **organised around different questions** that groups... and”







“Schools should make sure curriculums clearly identify how pupils will develop disciplinary (ways of knowing) and personal knowledge through the chosen substantive content”

Agenda Item 7

Curriculum Time







“RE is a **statutory** subject for **ALL** pupils”

-  “Fewer than **1/5** schools ... included any discernible RE content at KS4 and in sixth form for those who had **not chosen** to study the subject at GCSE or A Level”
-  1/2 of **Academies** had no KS4 RE at all. 1/3 did not even teach RE in KS3!
-  “In 1/3 schools RE was ... in the same part of the curriculum as other subjects such as **PSHE**.... There was little content that was discernable as RE”
-  “Schools should ensure there is a distinct RE curriculum in place for at **all key stages**”

Supporting Curriculum Deliverers

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-  “More **than 1/2** secondary teachers do not have a qualification or appropriate expertise in the subject”
-  “In the majority of these schools, teachers had not received any subject-specific professional development.”
-  “In schools where the quality of RE was stronger, teachers had access to regular professional development”
-  Schools should... ensure access to professional development’







<https://www.bromleyeducationmatters.uk/Page/15522>





Curriculum Content



“Pupils should build knowledge of the religious and non-religious traditions that have shaped the world... on which to **build ideas, concepts** and **theories** about religion”

-  “If the KS4 curriculum ... concentrated only on the **Abrahamic** faiths, this would prevent it giving **balanced view** of variety of world religions”
-  “1/2 schools did not include **non-religious** Worldviews at all”
-  “The great majority of schools did not equip pupils for **controversial or sensitive** content in RE
-  “In the majority of schools...it is unlikely...pupils would build up an overall diverse and rich conception of religion and non-religion”

The curriculum should...

-  “reflect long standing and **changing** or **diverse** nature of religions”
-  “avoid over-simplifying or stereotyping religion”
-  “remain broad and balanced... include a wide range of religions and non-religious traditions, including the spiritual”
-  “Schools should make sure curriculums clearly identify how pupils will develop disciplinary (ways of knowing) and personal knowledge through the chosen substantive content”

Bromley SACRE Action Plan for September 2023-September 2024

	Need		Actions	Dates	Notes
Teacher training and support: network meetings	1 st Primary Network	Invitations/promotion	SB to confirm venue and date, send materials for publicity	1/11/23	To include: defining what is good RE, survey of RE provision; launch calendar competition; develop Syllabus support materials Contributing to: ASC; building links with other faiths and SACRE and how Syllabus could best support teaching and learning; clearer picture of school provision; building network support; improving pedagogy in T+L in schools;
			JA information released on school circulars and email		
		Plan and run Network	SB plan and run network		
	1 st Secondary Network	Invitations/promotion	SB to confirm date, send materials for publicity	16/11/23	
			JA information released on school circulars and email		
		Plan and run Network	SB plan and run network		
	2 nd Primary Network	Invitations/promotion	SB to confirm venue and date, send materials for publicity	28/2/24	
			JA information released on school circulars and email		
		Plan and run Network	SB plan and run network		
	2 nd Secondary Network	Invitations/promotion	SB to confirm venue and date, send materials for publicity	28/2/24	
			JA information released on school circulars and email		
		Plan and run Interfaith Dialogue event	SB plan and run session Feedback gleaned by SB. Will contribute to any further SACRE Guidance produced.	Summer 2024	
3 rd Primary Network	Invitations/promotion	SB to confirm venue and date, send materials for publicity/newsletter	6/6/24		
		JA information released on school circulars and email			
	Plan and run Network	SB plan and run network			
3 rd Secondary Network	Invitations/promotion	SB to confirm venue and date, send materials for publicity/ newsletter	13/6/24		
		JA information released on school circulars and email			
	Plan and run Network	SB plan and run network			
Interfaith Competition: RE Calendar 2024- 2025	School Entries		SB confirm themes with SACRE and email materials for school circular + newsletter	September 2023	
			JA information released on school circulars/send newsletters		
			Winners' selection made at Network meeting(s)	28/2/24	
	Design		JA confirm design, details sent to create draft	End of June 2024	
			SB send to Clerk to email SACRE Chair, CA and members draft for approval (of dates)		
	Production		Design finalised (JA)	August 2024	
Sharing		SB create accompanying wording for schools circular, Council and LA website, JA share	September 2024		
		JA ensure sent to schools, brought to SACRE, JA sharing with relevant LA team(s)			
Annual Report 2022-23	Draft		Members complete self-evaluation materials and send to JP to forward SB	September 2023	
			SB write draft 1 for proofreading/check on new NASACRE template	1/11/23	
			SB amend draft, send revised draft to JP		
	Review		SACRE review at Meet 1	Dec 2023	
	Share		SB amend accordingly, JP to send to NASACRE	Dec 2023	
		JA to add to public SACRE page	Dec 2023		

Bromley SACRE Action Plan for September 2023-September 2024

Actions			Dates	Notes
1. Supporting Communication	Bi-Annual Newsletter	SB create a school newsletter 1 with further guidance/support	September 2023	Supporting: SMSC in schools; develop interfaith understanding and communication through teaching resources; promoting awareness of and within SACRE, boosting awareness and inclusion of diversity in RE Contributing to: building links with other faiths; clearer picture of school provision; improving pedagogy in T+L in schools
		JA ensure message sent to schools via Newsletter/schools Circular		
	NASACRE	SB create a school newsletter 2 with further guidance/support	January 2024	
		JA ensure message sent to schools via Newsletter/schools Circular		
	School Governors' Survey	Attendance to conference, CA ensuring continued subscription	May 2024	
		RB/SB disseminate information to SACRE	Summer 2024	
		Promote Governors Survey (including CW) to schools	December 2023	
	Website/Subject Leaders' Survey	JA collate responses. Send to SB to prepare brief/summary (see below)	9/2/24	
		Briefing of above shared with SACRE. Further actions agreed.	28/2/24	
		SB propose website survey/audit.	28/2/24	
SACRE members complete above		July 2024		
	SB collate responses and prepare brief/summary (see below)	Summer 2024		
	Briefing of above shared with SACRE. Further actions agreed.	4/12/24		
2. Supporting Resources	'REal' Resources	SB share 'REal' Resources and best practice with teachers in networks	November 2023	
		JA sort access via LA system.		
	FBF project	Schools' experiences shared via networks	January 2024	
		School experiences shared via newsletter/other communication		
	Teaching materials	Collation of pupil samples	June 2024	
		SB run moderation session with schools	June 2024	
	SACRE Speakers	SB remind SACRE of opportunities by RE Hubs	November 2023	
		SACRE members attend training and register with kitemark on RE Hubs website	Preferably: January 2024	
	Interfaith Dialogue Workshop and Resources	Propose development of Faith Speakers' Workshop SACRE	28/2/24	
		SB complete Funding Bid	September 2024	
		Bromley SACRE Volunteers form working party		
		SB plan and prep for session on developing conference/workshop	Autumn Term 2024	
		Training/development of workshop and resources with volunteers and SB	Spring 2024	
Running of interfaith event.		July 2024		
Produce resources from the above.	August 2024			