

MERTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**Minutes of the SACRE meeting held at 5.00pm on Tuesday July 5th 2022****At Rutlish Secondary School, Merton Park****Present:**

Group A	Christian, Other Faiths and Beliefs	
Ms Clare Bennett	Roman Catholic	CB
Ms Kamontip Evans	Buddhism	KE
Mr John Carter	Humanism	JC
Mr Waleed Ahmad	Ahmadiyya Muslim Association	WA
Group B	Church of England SDBE	
Mrs Jane Savill		JS
The Revd. Andrew Williams		AW
Rachael Norman		RN
Group C	Teacher Associations	
Ro Maybury	National Association of Head Teachers	RM
Group D	Local Authority	
Cllr Mike Brunt	Councillor	MB
Cllr Klaar Dresselaers	Councillor	KD
Cllr Laxmi Attawar	Councillor	LA
In attendance		
Keith Shipman	LA Adviser; Education Inclusion Head of Service, Merton	KS
Laura Howarth	Head Teacher, Rutlish School	LH
Seana Mates	Head of RE, Rutlish School	SM
Rachel Bowerman	Head of School Improvement	RB

The Minutes were recorded and taken by Keith Revell. Unfortunately the recording was faulty, so the Minutes are fragmentary.

The following papers were circulated prior to the meeting:

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Item 5 – Minutes of SACRE meetings on 07.10.21 and 08.02.2022

Item 9 – Annual Merton SACRE Report

- (1). Annual Merton SACRE Report
- (2). SACRE Annual Reports Framework

Item 12 – NASACRE conference

- (1). NASACRE conference summary – J Carter
- (2). Conference Agenda
- (3). Conference Programme
- (4a). Keynote 1 – RE and Worldviews
- (4b). Keynote 1 – RE and Worldviews Draft Handbook
- (5). Analysis of SACRE Annual Reports
- (6). Post-Conference workshop – Reviewing the RE Curriculum

Item 13 – Moving forward with the syllabus – statement from J Carter

1. Election of Chair

Cllr Mike Brunt was formally elected as Chair. There was no recording of the discussion.

2. Rutlish RE presentation and discussion

Seana Mates, the Head of RE at Rutlish, gave the presentation.

There are eight department members. The KS3 curriculum follows SACRE advice as far as possible. Teaching in Year 7 starts with an introduction to RE, as the school does not know the level of the pupils coming in to the school. IN KS4 the RE curriculum is compulsory. All pupils do it for GCSE. SM explained in detail the offer made to Rutlish boys.

The Headteacher summed up by saying that Rutlish wanted to create well-rounded children who love the subject and want to learn. The school had created a challenging and ambitious curriculum, and was in the top five per cent of GCSE results nationally. There was a high uptake at A level, and at university, for the subjects the department offers.

Q – You have reorganised the syllabus and Harris wants to do the same.

A discussion followed on different approaches to teaching RE.

Q – What is the feedback from students like?

A – The vast majority enjoy it and feel well supported.

3. Welcome and introductions; appreciation for Mrs Audrey King

The SACRE members introduced themselves. There were apologies from Mike Freedman, Waleed Ahmed and Debra Beale. An appreciation for Mrs Audrey King was led by the Chair.

4. SACRE membership admin and updates

SACRE membership was postponed to the next meeting. Everyone welcomed Clare Bennett from Sacred Heart School, representing the Roman Catholic faith, and Cllr Klaar Dresselaers, Liberal Democrat member.

5. Approval of Minutes of previous SACRE meetings, 07.10.21 and 08.02.22

Both sets of Minutes were approved.

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6. Actions from the meeting 08.02.22

Actions 1-6 had been completed.

Action 7 – Syllabus review: the question of how to include more humanist content in the review was ongoing. **ACTION**

Actions 8 and 9 were complete.

Actions 10 and 11 had been superseded.

Actions 12 and 13 were complete.

7. Matters Arising from meeting 08.02.22

There were no matters arising.

8. Questions for Merton SACRE

a) Morden Primary – request to study Buddhism

The request was agreed. The next RE support session will focus on teaching Buddhism. SACRE agreed that it was sensible for a school to teach an extra unit on a religion that is within the syllabus, but not taught within that Key Stage, where there a significant population of that religion in the school.

b) Harris Morden – request to reschedule units

SACRE agreed that that the flow of units was a decision for schools. Rutlish had reorganised and added a pre-unit on Understanding Religion.

9. Annual Merton SACRE Report 2021-22

The report was agreed. Members noted that its content was limited due to the pandemic.

10. Local Authority updates

1. Assessing quality on RE: a proposal

2. Update on schools/education, RE coordinators' meetings

3. White Paper

RB led a discussion. Her suggested model of feedback on the quality of RE to SACRE from school improvement was agreed and thought to be very helpful.

11. Interfaith dialogue project – progress, Year 6 and Year 12

Abbotsbury will pilot with Priory class and feed back.

KS and AW will re-set up the 6th form program and contact faith leaders to set up access to venues. **ACTION**

12. NASACRE conference feedback

A discussion about a world views model of a syllabus was held with all those who attended online. It was noted that there was some support for such a model, but that no authority had yet produced a syllabus, though some are being worked with to do so. It would mean a significant change in syllabus and training for RE teachers. The members agreed to return to the issue next year. **ACTION**

13. Date and venue for next SACRE meeting

Date TBC, The Buddhapadipa Temple, 14 Calonne Rd, London SW19 5HJ

Approved.....

Date.....

XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX – Chair

MERTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**Summary of Actions from the Merton SACRE meeting on 5th July 2022**

Action	ref	description	by	date
1	3	Syllabus review: look at how to include more humanist content.	AW	0.00.22
2	3.2	Interfaith dialogue Project: re-set up the 6 th form program; contact faith leaders to set up access to venues.	KS/AW	0.00.22
3	3.3	Return to the issue of a world views syllabus model next year.	All members	2022-23

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Appendix A - Merton SACRE members as at 5th July 2022

Gro up	Name	Initi als	Title/organisation	Start date
A	Ms Kamontip Evans	KE	Buddhism	6.7.21
	VACANCY		Free Churches	-
	Ms Geetha Maheshwaran	GM	Hinduism	Pre-2016
	Mr John Carter	JC	Humanism	6.7.21
	Mr Saleem Sheikh	SS	Sunni Islam	-
	Mr Mike Freedman	MF	Judaism	Pre-2016
	Ms Clare Bennett	CB	Roman Catholic Church	00.05.22
	Mr Ajaib Singh Bahra	ASB	Sikhism	Pre-2016
	Mr Waleed Ahmad	WA	Ahmadiyya Muslim Association	4.10.16
B	Mrs. Jane Savill	JS	Church of England	10.10.17
	The Revd. Andrew Williams.	AW	Church of England	10.10.17
	Ms Rachael Norman	MC	Church of England	11.2.20
C	Ms Debra Beale	DB	NUT	21.2.17
	Ms Ro Maybury	RM	NAHT	6.7.21
D	Cllr Laxmi Attawar	LA	Councillor	Pre-2016
	Cllr Klaar Dresselaers	KD	Councillor	30.5.22
	Cllr Mike Brunt	MB	Councillor	6.7.21

Groups

A - Christian, Other Faiths & Beliefs

B - Church of England

C - Teacher Associations

D – Local Authority