

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017 (7.15 – 9.35pm)  
At Wimbledon Synagogue, Queensmere Road, SW19**

**Present Group A – Christian, Other Faiths & Beliefs**

Peter Kendrick (PK) – Chair

Saleem Sheikh (SS) – Vice Chair

Waleed Ahmad (WA) - Ahmadiyya Muslim Association

Audrey King (AK) – Humansim

Mike Freedman (MF) – Judaism

Gita Maheshwaran (GM)- Hinduism

**Group B – Church of England**

No representative present

**Group C – Teacher Associations**

No representative present

**Group D – Local Authority**

Cllr Laxmi Attawar (LA)

Cllr Abdul Latif (AL)

**LA Adviser**

Keith Shipman (KS) – Merton Education Inclusion Manager

**Others**

Elizabeth Nassé (EN) Clerk

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**The group was given a tour of the Synagogue by Mike Freedman.  
PK thanked him for organising the venue at short notice, for the tour and his hospitality.**

**The meeting began at 8.10pm.**

ITEM	ACTION
<p><b>1 Apologies for absence</b>                      Apologies for absence were received from:                      Maria Keenan.                      Colin Powell.                      Mark Yelland.</p>	
<p><b>2 Introductions</b>                      All attendees introduced themselves.                      AK advised members that her organisation was now called Humanists UK.</p> <p><b>The meeting was not quorate as no representatives from groups B and C were present.</b></p>	
<p><b>3 SACRE membership admin</b>                      PK announced that as he was retiring at the end of July, he had decided to step down as Chair and member of Merton SACRE.                      KS thanked PK for his commitment throughout his lengthy service as Chair and for all his work on SACRE; in particular his recent work on developing the agreed syllabus.                      SS added his thanks, as Vice Chair.                      An election for a new Chair will take place at the next SACRE meeting and nominations should be sent to the Clerk three weeks before the next meeting.                      The Chair will be elected by a majority vote if there is more than one nomination.</p>	
<p><b>Action: EN to send a reminder about nominations.</b></p> <p>Additional resignations have been received from the following members since the last meeting:</p> <p>Rev. Kate Tuckett (Co E)                      Kerry Conner (NASUWT)                      Councillor Imran Uddin                      Phrakru Samu Lom (Buddhism) (post meeting note)</p> <p>The following existing vacancies have not yet been filled:                      Roman Catholic Church (1 rep.)                      Church of England (1 rep.)</p> <p>PK/KS/EN explained that they had approached organisations to find members to fill the C of E and Roman Catholic vacancies, but had not yet been successful. A nomination for a new Councillor needs to be sought (after elections on the 20<sup>th</sup> July).</p>	<p><b>EN</b></p>
<p><b>Action KS/EN to follow up filling vacancies.</b></p> <p>SS offered to try again to contact the Baiha'i faith community.</p>	<p><b>KS/EN</b></p>
<p><b>4 Minutes of the last SACRE meeting 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017</b>                      The minutes were agreed as a true record and PK signed them and handed a copy to EN for filing.</p>	

ITEM		ACTION
5	<p><b>Matters arising from the last meeting, not addressed elsewhere.</b></p> <p><u>Page 2, Item 3 Action: KS/EN to forward Dawn Haughton's documents to members. It was agreed that forwarding of the documents was not required.</u>                      KS advised members that DH was no longer Merton's Designated Officer and that her replacement, John Shelley (JS) will be in post from September. KS added that JS would be keen to work with faith communities and would welcome any contact from SACRE members and the groups they represent. As a starting point KS will forward the Merton SACRE Directory of Places of Worship to JS.</p> <p><b>New action: KS to forward Directory to JS.</b></p> <p><u>Page 3, Item 4 Action: EN will remove VOICE from the members list. Done.</u></p> <p><u>Page 3, Item 4 Action: KT agreed to ask Joanne Powell if she'd like to remain a member of SACRE and confirm with PK. Done.</u></p> <p><b>New action: EN to remove Joanne Powell from the membership list.</b></p> <p><u>Page 4, Item 6 Action: KS will arrange a similar presentation by the Imam to Secondary Heads.</u>  <b>Done.</b> KS reported that it had been an interesting and useful presentation.</p> <p><u>Page 6, Item 8 Action: KS to draft an outline (of themes from Accord National Inclusivity Award) for Primary and Secondary Heads.</u>  <b>Ongoing and discussed in Item 9.</b></p>	<p></p> <p><b>KS</b></p> <p><b>EN</b></p>
6	<p><b>Reflection on recent tragic events and SACRE's role</b></p> <p>KS explained that school communities had been affected by the recent terror attacks in London and Manchester and the fire at Grenfell Tower and wanted to explore what SACRE's role is in any response or within its planning of RE.</p> <p>KS explained that Merton schools had been reminded of their 'Prevent' duties and had been given advice about how to talk to pupils about difficult issues and about site security. Merton has also circulated information written by Ed. Psych.s from Kensington and Chelsea concerning Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>KS reported that schools had been concerned about trips into central London. Merton has advised schools to continue as usual, but ensure that risks are assessed and minimised. KS added that a lot of schools had held assemblies about the incidents and reported that an Imam had visited St Mark's Academy (C of E) to support Muslim pupils at the school. SS reported that it had been a positive visit and all agreed that promoting links amongst faith groups in schools is helpful.</p> <p>KS explained that Merton's Youth Parliament had written to the Youth Parliament in Manchester to express their support and that Merton has the opportunity to apply for some funding to develop an intercommunity dialogue project. KS suggested that this may be a project that SACRE could support.</p> <p>Members discussed the problems associated with media reporting of such incidents and how protocols should be followed so that any statements made by faith groups and faith forums should be neutral and agreed by all parties.</p> <p>KS commented that other SACREs used their syllabus to promote better understanding between different faiths and that Merton SACRE should consider how that could be done locally.</p> <p>GM reported that she had used True-Tube (established in reaction to You-Tube) which provides free, unbiased and sensitive resources on faith.</p>	<p></p>

ITEM		ACTION
	<p>MF commented that schools should be encouraged to visit places of worship; barriers may include:- schools' lack of understanding of the value of visits, difficulty in finding places to visit or the places of worship themselves may not know how to facilitate visits.</p> <p>KS suggested that it may be useful to hold RE coordinators meetings in places of worship to address some of these issues and encouraged SACRE members to report back from their faith communities of any other actions that may be useful.</p>	
7	<p><b>Report from NASACRE Conference</b></p> <p>PK explained that links to the various presentations and a pod-cast of the keynote speech have been forwarded to members.</p> <p>PK commented that he'd found the presentations by Joyce Miller – 'Where is RE today?' and Professor Aaquil Ahmed particularly interesting; Prof. Ahmed considers that people are changed by religious literacy. The group discussed the importance of informing people about faiths, but also building relationships between groups so that people are affected emotionally too.</p> <p>SS commented that he had found the conference and the materials useful.</p> <p>MF added that he had attended an interfaith event in Wandsworth that allowed pupils from different schools to talk to several different faith representatives in a short space of time. KS commented that if Merton SACRE considers it would be useful to do something similar in Merton, it could be suggested to schools.</p>	
8	<p><b>Report on the RE coordinators meetings.</b></p> <p>PK reported that David Ruddick, Vicar of Emmanuel Church, talked to RE coordinators and challenged them to think about whether they really knew Christianity and not just Christianity that is known in Britain.</p> <p>PK explained that RE coordinators visited the Resource Centre at the end of the meeting, but that it would have been useful to have had more time.</p> <p>KS explained that ideally RE coordinators meetings would focus half on hearing from different faith leaders and half on teaching. The next meeting will focus on assessment of RE; KS reiterated the need for teachers to focus on relating teaching to the agreed syllabus and using resources from it.</p> <p><b>Action: KS to arrange for RE coordinators to share examples of good practice at the next RE coordinators meeting.</b></p> <p>KS suggested that as the meetings had had presentations from Muslim and Christian faith leaders it would be useful to follow on with talks on Hinduism and Judaism.</p> <p>MF and GM offered to talk about the section of the syllabus that related to their faith if they are available to attend the next meetings.</p> <p><b>Action KS to advise MF/GM of the dates of the next RE coordinators meetings.</b></p> <p>AK requested that SACRE members should be made aware of changes to dates of RE coordinators meetings.</p>	<p>KS</p> <p>KS</p>
9	<p><b>SACRE Action Plan 2017-2019</b></p> <p><b>The following proposed actions have been summarised from discussion throughout the meeting and from the previous meeting:</b></p> <p>a) To explore with RE coordinators and Primary and Secondary Heads the areas from the 'Accord National Inclusivity Award' themes including:</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring diversity (North Yorks)</li> <li>• Expressing 'my faith' - young people to young people (Bedford).</li> <li>• Linking schools with different faith communities (Luton).</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: KS to address with RE coordinators and Primary and Secondary Heads.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) SACRE support of the development of an intercommunity dialogue project (Youth Parliament).</li> <li>c) Reflect on the use of media (e.g. True Tube).</li> <li>d) Support facilitation of RE coordinators meetings in places of worship and presentations by faith leaders.</li> <li>e) Capture feedback from respective faith communities and discuss at SACRE meetings.</li> <li>f) Build relationship with Merton's new Designated Officer, John Shelley.</li> <li>g) Use the Directory of Places of Worship to promote school visits.</li> <li>h) Consider initiating a Merton school interfaith event.</li> </ul>	<p><b>KS</b></p>
<p><b>10 Agreed syllabus update</b>            PK/KS reported that a supplement to the agreed syllabus had been sent out to schools to replace the section that was omitted in the initial printing.</p>	
<p><b>11 Any Other Business</b>            None.</p>	
<p><b>12 Date of next meeting</b>            The proposed date of the next SACRE meeting is <b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b> 2017, but will be confirmed when checked with Councillor meeting dates.</p>	
<p><b>Action: SS to enquire whether the Buddhist Temple would be available for the next meeting.</b></p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.35pm</p>	<p><b>SS</b></p>

Chair of Merton SACRE.....date.....