

**Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (7.15 – 9.20pm)  
At Pelham Primary School, Southey Road, SW19 1NU**

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

Peter Kendrick (PK) – Chair

Ajaib Singh Bahra (ASB)

William Doris (WD)

Saleem Sheikh (SS)

**Group B – Church of England**

Colin Powell (CP)

Rev Kate Tuckett (KT) (left meeting at 8.45pm)

**Group C – Teacher Associations**

Maria Keenan (MK)

John Gourlay (JG)

**Group D – Local Authority**

Cllr Laxmi Attawar (LA)

Cllr Imran Uddin (IU)

**Co-opted**

Waleed Ahmad (WA)

**LA Adviser**

Keith Shipman (KS) – Merton Education Inclusion Manager

**Others**

Matt Tarrant - Met. Police Prevent Officer, Merton and Sutton (left meeting at 8.00pm)

Elizabeth Fitzpatrick – Head of School Improvement, Merton LA (left meeting at 8.50pm)

Naseer Dean (observer Ahmadiyya Muslim Association)

Elizabeth Nassé (Clerk)

ITEM	ACTION
<p><b>1 Apologies for absence</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mike Freedman (MF)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mark Yelland (MY)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Cllr Abdul Latief (AL)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Audrey King (AK)</p> <p>Absent from the meeting were: Mr P Lom, Ms G. Maheshwaran, Ms J Powell and Ms K Conner.</p>	
<p><b>2 Introductions</b></p> <p>All attendees introduced themselves and Elizabeth Nassé (Wandsworth Governor Services Clerk) introduced herself as the new clerk for the group.</p> <p>John Gourlay explained that he was representing the NUT for this meeting, but in future Deborah Beale would attend instead.</p> <p>Mr Naseer Dean attended as an observer and as President of the Wandsworth and Merton Ahmadiyya Muslim Association.</p>	
<p><b>3 Minutes of the last SACRE meeting 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016.</b></p> <p>The minutes were reviewed and agreed, with the following minor amendment:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Page 2</b> Neil McManus resigned from the group, rather than sent his apologies.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4 Matters Arising from the last meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Page 2</b> - A query was raised as to whether Joanne Powell is still working and or living in Merton and whether she wished to remain a member. <b>CP agreed to check and clarify.</b></li> <li>• <b>Page 2</b> - KS confirmed that all actions had been completed for the launch of the new syllabus.</li> <li>• <b>Page 2</b> - SS thanked the group for formally selecting him as Vice Chair in his absence.</li> <li>• <b>Page 3</b> - The SACRE annual report has been amended and is on the website.</li> <li>• <b>Page 3</b> - <b>PK to send a copy of the final Merton SACRE Constitution document to EF, for putting on the website.</b></li> <li>• <b>Page 3</b> Interfaith Week. PK confirmed the dates were Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November-Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November. <b>SS explained that the programme has been decided by the Interfaith Committee and that he would liaise with AK to ensure that the programme is forwarded to PK.</b></li> <li>• <b>Page 4</b> the meeting dates were discussed and agreed as Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CP</b></p> <p><b>PK/EF</b></p> <p><b>SS/AK</b></p>

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<p><b>5 Video of Pelham pupils views on RE</b></p> <p>The committee watched a short video of children’s views, put together by staff at Pelham Primary School.</p> <p>KS commented that the children had been randomly selected to take part and that it was a good example of what is being covered by teachers under the SACRE agreed syllabus. Further comments were made about how the children appeared to talk naturally about different faiths and how open and accepting they were. All agreed that it was a very positive way of celebrating RE.</p> <p>ASB queried the apparent lack of discussion about Sikhism in the video and suggested schools should be encouraged to engage with the Sikh community, by visiting local Gurdwaras. PK confirmed that all schools will have received the new SACRE Directory of places of worship. KS suggested that it might be useful to have another session with teachers to follow up the launch of the syllabus and involve faith leaders, so that questions can be asked about particular faiths.</p>	
<p><b>6 Review of Membership</b></p> <p>A current list of membership was circulated and tabled and the following points were agreed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr P Lom’s deputy, Colin Perry will be added.</li> <li>• Mark Yelland replaces Neil McManus as the ATL rep.</li> <li>• The vacancy for a rep for VOICE is unlikely to be filled as the organisation is so small. <b>JG will forward an email contact to PK, so that an offer of joining Merton SACRE can be made. If there’s no response, then VOICE will be removed from the membership.</b></li> <li>• Future NUT rep will be Deborah Beale.</li> <li>• Co-Opted members Baiha’i Faith – <b>SS will find out a contact and forward to PK.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>6a – Request for Amadiyya Muslim Association (AMA) to join Committee A.</b></p> <p>PK referred to the SACRE Constitution and hi-lighted that the power to appoint a member lies with the Local Authority, in consultation with the appropriate representative body.</p> <p>KS confirmed that he, as Local Authority representative of SACRE would support the AMA’s request to join Committee A.</p> <p><b>There was general assent of all present at the meeting, so the request was agreed.</b> AMA (WA) was welcomed to Committee A.</p>	<p>JG/PK</p> <p>SS</p>
<p><b>7 Feedback on the new syllabus launch and next steps.</b></p> <p>KS explained that following the syllabus launch, photos have been added to the website and there has been a meeting with teachers at which they have been guided through the syllabus and its new units. Two copies of the new syllabus and a copy of the directory of places of worship have been given to all Merton schools (copies were</p>	

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also handed out to SACRE committee members).  
IU asked what the initial feedback had been from teachers.

PK explained that teachers felt it was similar to the previous version, but that it was better designed and the guidelines and links at the back were very useful.

AW asked if there was anything that teachers were unhappy about.

PK replied that some teachers had queried the absence of learning about some faiths in Key Stages 1 and 2. PK explained that there should be an expectation that if there are children in a class whose faith is not in the syllabus, then lessons should be adapted to be inclusive.

KS commented that it's too early to tell if teachers consider that there are omissions from the syllabus, but that it should be reviewed after a year of use.

CP commented that it would be helpful to have insight from other schools across the borough, so that SACRE can understand what the group's work has achieved and as a way of celebrating RE in Merton's schools. Suggestions for ways of sharing school's RE activities included videos, photos of projects, attendance at assemblies.

**KS/EF will contact schools to find out if any are interested in taking part.**

KS/EF

**8 Matt Tarrant Police Officer – 'Prevent'**

MT introduced himself and explained that 'Prevent' had been established by the Metropolitan Police in response to the 7/7 terrorist attack in London.

His role within 'Prevent' is to identify pre-crime radicalism and take action to help redirect those at risk of becoming involved. He works with children, young people and vulnerable adults who are easy targets of radicalisation. It is well known that extremists target those with mental health problems.

He explained that extremism is found across faiths, races and cultures and that the focus of 'Prevent' has moved to the education sector, as that is where the next wave of extremism may start. The Brexit vote has prompted a rise in hate crime and it's important that community cohesion is maintained.

His role includes training school governors, speaking to pupils (mainly secondary) and working with vulnerable adults and the voluntary sector.

MT confirmed that he would visit particular community and faith groups to promote understanding.

WD asked what would happen if a teacher had concerns about a pupil. MT replied that the school should refer the matter to MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) and if considered a 'Prevent' matter then a SO15 would be raised.

MT advised against telling parents that a referral had been made until Social Services/Prevent have decided a course of action.

EF added that all schools' staff and governors will have received training around 'Prevent' strategies and will understand the referral process.

Further discussion was had around the historic and root causes of extremism and all

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	<p>agreed that the RE curriculum provided a way to promote tolerance and the message of the need for peaceful resolution.</p> <p>PK thanked MT for attending and confirmed that KS has MT's contact details if anyone wanted to contact him.</p>	
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>SACRE National recognition award.</b></p> <p>KS talked about the '2017 Accord National Inclusivity Award' which is now open to SACREs as well as schools. The closing date for nominations is 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016.</p> <p>KS explained that the criteria for making an award are on the Accord website (<a href="http://accordcoalition.org.uk/inclusivity-award-2017">http://accordcoalition.org.uk/inclusivity-award-2017</a>) and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing a Youth SACRE.</li> <li>• Use of additional resources, particularly digital.</li> <li>• Governor and teacher training.</li> <li>• Support to RE teachers.</li> <li>• Celebrating RE.</li> <li>• Identifying weaknesses.</li> <li>• Equality.</li> </ul> <p>KS further explained that Merton SACRE could demonstrate that they had implemented work in some of the areas, but not all. Also that the requirements for the award could provide a useful framework for the committee's plans for the future.</p> <p><b>All agreed to put an item on the agenda ( for 1 hour discussion) for the next meeting to discuss two or three areas on which to focus.</b></p>	<p>PK/EN</p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Guidance to schools re Islam.</b></p> <p>The 'Guidance for Merton Primary Schools with Muslim Pupils' document was circulated prior to the meeting. KS explained that it had originally been developed by Ealing, then Wandsworth and Merton had revised it for use locally. It has been reviewed by an Imam. IU stated he had some comments and had emailed feedback to KS.</p> <p><b>KS commented that it is equally applicable to secondary schools, so it will be issued to all schools.</b></p> <p>MK asked how it was going to be published. KS suggested that it would initially be issued to Primary Heads at their meeting in November.</p> <p>WD commented that it was a straightforward and sensible document.</p> <p>The group further discussed whether it would be helpful for an Imam to attend the Primary Head's meeting, to promote community liaison and understanding between home and school. <b>SS offered to invite an Imam if required.</b> KS advised that when the document has been finalised it will be shared within the community.</p>	<p>KS</p> <p>SS</p>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Interfaith Week</b></p> <p><b>As in item 4.</b></p>	

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<p><i>Dates are Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November-Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November. SS explained that the programme has been decided by the Interfaith Committee and that he would liaise with AK to ensure that the programme is forwarded to PK.</i></p>	
<p><b>12 Future minuting/recording of SACRE meetings.</b></p>	
<p>EN explained that Wandsworth clerks have been issued with 'Livescribe' pens, that record audio while in use. This can help record more complex discussions, so may be useful for use in future meetings. The audio record is not kept and is deleted after agreement of the 'final draft' minutes. All agreed that future use of 'Livescribe' was acceptable.</p>	
<p><b>13 Agree Dates, times and venues for the 2016-17 meetings</b></p>	
<p>The Committee was asked to agree the following dates:                      Tuesday 21 February – 2017                      Tuesday 6 June – 2017</p>	
<p>LA is unable to attend on 6<sup>th</sup> June, so requested that the meeting be rescheduled for Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017. All agreed.</p>	
<p>Venues to be confirmed, but suggestions were made for Holy Trinity Church, Wimbledon for 21<sup>st</sup> February and a synagogue for 13<sup>th</sup> June. <b>CP will check with KT whether it's possible to meet at Holy Trinity on 21<sup>st</sup> February.</b></p>	CP
<p><b>Next meetings:-</b></p>	
<p><b>7.15pm Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 (venue tbc)</b>  <b>7.15pm Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017 (venue tbc)</b></p>	All note
<p>The meeting closed at 9.20pm</p>	

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