

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th February 2019 (7.15pm – 9.05pm)
At the Merton Civic Centre – Committee Room B**

Present Group A – Christian, Other Faiths & Beliefs

Saleem Sheikh (SS) Vice Chair – Islam (for parts of the meeting)
Mike Freedman (MF) – Judaism
Audrey King (AK) – Humanists UK
Geetha Maheshwaran (GM) – Hinduism

Group B – Church of England

Jane Savill (JS)
Andrew Williams (AW)

Group C – Teacher Associations

Debra Beale - NUT
Maria Keenan – NAHT

Group D – Local Authority

Cllr Mike Brunt (MB)
Cllr Hayley Ormrod (HO)

LA Adviser

Keith Shipman (KS) – Merton Education Inclusion Manager

Others

Elizabeth Nassé (EN) Clerk

ITEM		ACTION
1	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u> Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p>Ajaib Singh Bahra (ASB) Cllr Laxmi Attawar (LA) Marcus Cooper (MC) David Hurst (DH) prospective Catholic rep. Waleed Ahmad (post meeting note)</p>	
2	<p><u>Introductions</u> MB introduced himself as Chair. Attendees introduced themselves and Hayley Ormrod was welcomed as a recently appointed member.</p> <p>The meeting was quorate.</p>	
3	<p><u>SACRE membership admin</u> SS reported that he had contacted P. Lom at the Buddhist temple, who had agreed to suggest a possible representative. SS to forward contact details to EN when available. DB advised that Mark Yelland was no longer working in the borough, nor as a union rep, so should be removed from the SACRE membership.</p> <p>Actions: EN to update membership records, MB/KS/EN to review replacement union representative and SS to forward Buddhist faith contact details.</p>	EN/MB/ KS/SS
4	<p><u>Minutes of the last SACRE meetings - 10th July 2018 and 9th October 2018</u> The 10.7.18 minutes were approved with a correction to the spelling of GM's name. The 9.10.18 minutes were approved. MB signed both sets of minutes which were retained by EN for filing.</p>	
5	<p><u>Matters arising from the last meeting not addressed elsewhere: -</u> Reference in previous minutes in brackets; new and carried forward actions in bold.</p> <p>(Item 5) MB will agree new dates for Peter Kendrick's thank you event - afternoon tea with the Mayor. SACRE members will be invited to join.</p> <p>(Item 9) Action DH to forward details of an upcoming Citizen Merton event to support groups engaging with the resettling scheme. Done.</p> <p>MF reported that several other Merton faith groups and schools were engaging in the resettling scheme. The family who are being supported by the Synagogue have been housed in the borough, the children are settling into school and one of the parents has a part time job; the scheme has been very successful. SS added that the mosque is hoping to support a family in the same way.</p> <p>MF reported the 'Refugees at Home' charity was also working well and had ties with volunteers from the Synagogue.</p> <p>MF reflected that the schemes promoted positive interfaith working, with interaction between several faith groups and strong mutual support.</p>	MB

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6 Discussion of SDBE/SIAMS materials shared by Marcus Cooper

The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:

- SIAMS Evaluation Schedule 2018
- Church of England Vision for Education
- Fruits of the Spirit Report
- Leadership of Character Education
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Guidance

SIAMS Evaluation

JS gave an overview of how the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) framework for C of E Church schools had been established and explained that there is a similar 'Section 48' inspection framework for Catholic schools. JS explained that SIAMS inspections tend to take place between Ofsted inspections and are carried out over a day or two half days. All noted that the SIAMS inspection framework had recently changed to include the following areas for inspection:

- Strand 1: Vision and Leadership
- Strand 2: Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
- Strand 3: Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy
- Strand 4: Community and Living Well Together
- Strand 5: Dignity and Respect
- Strand 6: The impact of collective worship
- Strand 7: The effectiveness of religious education

JS noted that C of E schools include pupils from all faiths and beliefs and the SIAMS framework aims to reflect how schools support all students and staff, irrespective of background. All secondary schools receive C of E chaplaincy support and an increasing number of primary schools do so as well.

KS commented that the new Ofsted inspection framework (currently being consulted on) will include some of the aspects of the SIAMS framework, looking at broader personal development and wellbeing issues within all schools.

KS observed that the SIAMS document indicated that a school could be judged ineffective as a Christian school if its SEND provision is not good enough.

All noted that SACRE's role is to monitor the quality of RE within schools. This can be difficult as Ofsted do not report on curriculum areas; the SIAMS inspection process can offer some comment on the quality of RE in Church schools. AK reminded members that SACRE had in the past acknowledged successful SIAMS reports and should continue to do so.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Guidance

All discussed the current national focus on mental health and wellbeing in education and MB questioned whether SACRE's work could have any impact on mental health issues, especially those related to the use of social media.

KS explained that Merton, Wandsworth, Richmond, Kingston, Sutton and Croydon are part of a pilot exploring a whole school approach to mental health; there is also

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<p>additional funding for teams (including CAMHS practitioners) to support specific schools in Merton, Wandsworth and Sutton. The schemes may be rolled out across the country, but healthcare resources would need to be doubled. The whole school approach means that parents, students and staff will be supported by trained staff; this support will include guidance on how to use social media positively. The implementation of the pilot will start fully from September 2019 and the team will be based in Ursuline.</p> <p>MB reported that several young people in the borough had expressed concern about not being able to easily access mental health services near their homes.</p> <p>GM commented that religion promotes wellbeing. KS added that it had been observed that people of faith had improved resilience in surviving a crisis; whether this is because of their faith itself or because of the community around them is in question.</p> <p>All noted that there were useful websites and links within the C of E documents and suggested sharing them with all schools.</p>	
<p>Action: KS to circulate the C of E Mental Health and Wellbeing guidance to all schools in the borough.</p>	KS
<p>Action: MB/KS to discuss whether mental health issues are within SACRE's remit and whether members would like to receive a CCG presentation on the approach to whole school mental health.</p>	MB/KS
<p>Vision for education Members noted that this document summarised why and how the C of E was involved in education and reflected on the purpose of Church schools.</p> <p>AW commented that the documents were thoughtful and added that the Church is developing similar materials for further education and higher education settings.</p> <p>KS highlighted that the appendix reflected the range of schools that the C of E now oversees; academies, free schools, foundation etc. Governance structures vary across the types of schools but are underpinned by the same C of E values.</p> <p>AW reported that Roehampton University is hoping to reintroduce certification for PGC and 3-year teacher training students, in preparation for teaching in Church schools.</p>	
<p>Leadership of Character Education KS explained that character education had been established over the last ten years and aims to develop virtues in pupils; this is achievable if the leadership of a school also embodies these virtues. The document includes some useful case studies, showing how schools promote character education by giving pupils opportunities to practice leadership. All agreed that character education would support the wellbeing of pupils and MK commented that it was likely that the new Ofsted inspection framework would make judgements in this area.</p>	
<p>Action: KS to circulate Leadership of Character Education document to schools.</p>	KS
<p>MB suggested that radicalisation could be considered a form of character education and that there needs to be clarity about what is positive character education.</p>	

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<p>KS agreed that there were some illegal faith schools who were not promoting British values through their interpretation of character education; this is a political problem and will take time to resolve.</p> <p>KS explained that secondary heads had expressed an interest in discussing character education and offered to gauge whether primary heads had a similar interest.</p> <p>GM asked whether Merton schools shared case studies of positive character education, as many schools may practise it, but may describe it differently.</p> <p>KS replied that there were various ways of sharing good practice across the borough, for example through secondary heads meetings, mental health forums and primary school cluster groups.</p> <p>GM suggested that it would be positive to celebrate the good work that local schools and young people were already doing around character education and wellbeing and members agreed that SACRE should explore ways of congratulating schools on their achievements.</p> <p>Actions: KS to discuss possible ways of celebrating successes with Elizabeth Fitzpatrick and ask primary heads about their interest in character education.</p>	<p>KS</p>
<p>7 <u>SACRE support for RE Teachers</u></p> <p>RE teachers sessions update Members noted the report that was circulated before the meeting and KS advised that the next RE Coordinators meeting would focus on the impact of the syllabus. Feedback from the recent sessions had been positive. The dates of the next RE coordinators meetings have not yet been agreed, but the meetings will continue to focus on different areas of the agreed syllabus in local places of worship.</p> <p>Action: KS to advise GM of the date of the next RE coordinators meeting – to be held at the Shree Ghanapathy Temple.</p> <p>RE in Merton secondary schools Members noted the report that was circulated before the meeting; KS explained that he had received feedback from those using the agreed syllabus.</p> <p>KS highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The three Harris academies don't use the Merton syllabus and the RE syllabus varies across the schools. • St Mark's RE syllabus is aligned to the Merton syllabus. • All Merton secondary schools are planning to offer A' Level Philosophy in the future (no schools in Merton currently offer this). <p>KS explained that the new RE GCSE requires pupils to be able to explain the different denominations within each religion; RE teachers have found it difficult to find speakers who can explain the differences and have requested that SACRE support in this area. All discussed that it may be difficult for SACRE members to know how objective a speaker is and that some speakers may not recognise other groups within the same faith. DB commented that she had often received no response to her request for</p>	<p>KS/GM</p>

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speakers; this may reflect staffing levels at some places of worship. All noted that SACRE’s Directory recommends places of worship but not speakers. Members discussed different approaches and made some suggestions, including; using fact sheets instead of speakers to cover different strands within faiths; a day of workshops followed by a plenary session with panel Q&A; teachers giving an overview of a faith and using speakers to talk about the details of their own denomination. Members offered the following:

- Humanism - AK shared leaflets which include contact details of speakers.
- C of E - JS recommended a speaker from the Salvation Army and suggested schools could contact their local church.
- Judaism - MF explained that the Board of Deputies was setting up an accreditation scheme, which would offer some vetting of speakers.
- Hinduism - GM explained that she asks for details of which parts of the syllabus need to be covered before addressing pupils.
- Islam - SS suggested that a teacher should identify the best type of speaker needed to cover specific topics. SS offered to act as a point of contact.

KS tabled a report on the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) project on the impact of Islamophobia. All noted that the project had been very positive and the joint working of The Muslim Women of Merton and Equaliteach had been very effective.

8 Future SACRE projects – a faith dialogue project

KS reported that secondary heads had expressed an interest in taking part in a faith dialogue project; Ursuline, Wimbledon College and St Marks had suggested that a 6th Form project would be suitable.

AW commented that it may be difficult to run a tandem dialogue project across several schools, so it may be better to set up pairings within each school and report back at a follow up session; there should be enough diversity in local schools for this approach. AW added that outside of SACRE he is exploring setting up a similar project for primary schools, with support from the charitable organisation, Culham St Gabriels and Julia Ingrave (Roehampton University).

Action: SACRE sub-group of KS, AW and DB to meet with RE leads to progress a faith dialogue project.

**KS/AW
/DB**

9 Any other business

None.

10 Dates of next meetings

The dates for the next SACRE meetings are;
7.15pm, Tuesday 9th July 2019.
Week commencing 7.10.19, date to be agreed.

MB suggested using the newly renovated Chapter House, Merantum Way.

Chair of Merton SACRE.....

date.....