

Hackney SACRE Draft Minutes of meeting: 11/10/23

MEMBERSHIP

Committee	Name	Notes	Attendance
1. Religious Faith Groups	Hasan Bolucek	Alevi	Absent
	Priya Reid	Jain/Hindu	Absent
	Nirmal Hirani	Hindu	Absent
	Sheikh Yasar Zaman	Islam	X Joined at 16:43 pm
	Rumana Rafique		
	Naftali Loewanthal	Judaism	x
	Raj Dharma	Sikhism	Absent
	Justin Madubuko	Catholic	Absent
	Pastor Joycelyn Dankwa	Methodist	Absent
	Paul Kaufman	Humanist	x
	Ivor Millman	Judaism	Apologies
2. Church of England	Sally Moore		Apologies
3. Teachers	Sandra Hall	NEU, Chair	x
	Sheena Merchant	NEU	X Joined at 17:00
	Michelle Byrne	NEU	Apologies
	Nasima Ephraim	NEU	x
	Brenda Humphreys	NASUWT	x
	Linn Thorsen	NASUWT	x
4. Local Authority	Lynne Troughton (Cllr)	Councillor	Absent
	Ifraax Samatar	Councillor	Absent
	Kam Adams (Cllr)	Councillor	x - left at 17:00 pm
	Lee Laudat-Scott (Cllr)	Councillor	Absent
	Sade Etti (Cllr)	Councillor	Apologies
	Claire Ramalli	Adviser	x
Observer	Anton Francic	Observer	x
Potential Member	Hiral Patel	Buddhist	x
	Louise Ritchie	Church of England	x

Chair: Sandra Hall **Advisor:** Claire Ramalli, Hackney Education **Clerk:** Madalina Brockmann, Hackney Education

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No.	Item
1.	Welcome, introductions and apologies
1.1	<p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Introductions were performed. The group welcomed new member Paul Kaufmann (PK). Later in the meeting, PK gave an introduction to himself and his background, in terms of being born in Hackney, coming from a non-religious household, and being a humanist. Madalina Brockmann was introduced as the new SACRE clerk, replacing Justin Feltham.</p> <p>New member Pastor Joycelyn Dankwa was not in attendance.</p>
1.2	<p>The meeting was not quorate until 16:46, so items that needed a quorate approval were postponed until the meeting was quorate.</p> <p>Mogfura Rafique (also known as Romana), representative for Islam, joined at 16:43. Kam Adams left at 17:06 due to another commitment. Sheena Merchant joined at 17:00.</p>
2.	Minutes of the previous meeting (14 June 2023)
2.1	<p>[This item was considered out of turn, to ensure quoracy.] The minutes were AGREED as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>
2.2	<i>Action Items</i> - see action item list (updated).
2.3	Matters Outstanding.
3.	Agreed Syllabus Conference
3.1	<p>It was noted that this was the first meeting to discuss the Syllabus, and that a presentation would follow from the Group's Advisor, CR. regarding going forward with the syllabus.</p> <p>PK: Has the group discussing the syllabus been formalised? Advisor: The group terms it a conference, one of the aims of the meeting is to set up a working party.</p> <p>CR, the group's advisor, shared a presentation regarding the work done so far around the agreed syllabus. An overview was provided around what the year may look like regarding the SACRE group. 3 different models would be shared with advantages and disadvantages.</p> <p>ACTION An additional discussion / date in December would be sought to discuss the research carried out. Then decisions on the model could be fed back in the spring term, then launched in March / April 2024. It may appear to be a fast timeline but the new syllabus was due for renewal in 22/23 so it would be good to</p>

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get through as soon as possible. The group's ideas were welcome. The idea would be to support schools in implementation from summer, within 1 year.

Option A

KS3 - there is a link to the syllabus on the Hackney Education website.

The current framework is not on the website. This is an overview for Year 1 -Year 6. There is a key question for each topic. Key terminology would be covered in each unit. The previous advisor updated the units. A spiral curriculum can be seen. This was shared as medium term planning to support primary school teachers.

Three teachers responded to an evaluation of the local agreed syllabus.

The responses were as follows: one said they liked the freedom, one would prefer something more restrictive, one asked what it would look like.

Advantages and disadvantages were presented by the advisor.

KA: How many schools are using the agreed syllabus at the moment?

Advisor: I do not know at the moment, as we only got 3 responses, I have a meeting with primary schools next week.

ACTION: For the advisor to monitor in the future how many schools are using the agreed syllabus, once the new one is agreed.

AF: Can we build in the consultation an expectation of the monitoring of how many schools use it and how well it is used?

Advisor: Yes, it is very important to do so. I have done two primary visits already. One was using the syllabus.

SQ: My understanding was that over the years a large number of Hackney schools were using the scheme and the only reason some were not was access. Access to the resources was connected to the requirement for them to attend the meetings, in order to understand how the scheme was created.

Advisor: Yes, the schemes should be re-written and we would not want our schemes of work to be accessed for free due to the work put into this. Some previous work was copyrighted under Hackney, some under previous advisor.

PK: This is my first SACRE meeting as a member and I am not aware of what has been discussed previously. Any syllabus should be fully inclusive. A good starting point is the 2021 census. The non-religious comprise the largest belief group in Hackney at 36%. This is not reflected at all in the current syllabus

Advisor: Thank you, this is an important point.

ACTION It was AGREED to have a working party to advise and make recommendations to SACRE, all four groups to be represented. All members would be emailed by the Advisor to invite them to join the party. PK volunteered to be part of the working party. He suggested in person meetings

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<p>for the working party. The members would be asked for their preferences.</p> <p>Option B - Newham reported 100% uptake of their syllabus</p> <p>PK: Newham has diversity in common with Hackney though they have different compositions; it is a good inclusive syllabus. It would save us a lot of time to adopt it as they have worked so hard for it. It is a good avenue to explore, though more time to study it would be necessary.</p> <p>LT: If someone delivered to me something like the Newham syllabus, I'd take it up, from a primary school perspective it is very good.</p> <p>MR: I agree. As a primary school teacher I would take it up. Unfortunately, the RE syllabus is not as comprehensive. There is a lot every school is working towards. This is well put together. It seems to flow really well, like the big questions.</p> <p>BH: I feel drawn to all this. Option A worked well for everyone in school, and could provide resources. Especially from teachers who do not have a lot of knowledge.</p> <p>The cost for this option was reported as £2000 to £3000, as a package for all the schools, valid for 5 years. but there are 3 units not covered.</p> <p>It was noted Option C is a bigger cost.</p> <p>Option A - can take longer due to the advisor's working days; it would be difficult to estimate the costs but it may cost £11 -11.5k in order to bring it to publication.</p> <p>Option C - RE Today Syllabus charge £65 per school plus VAT.</p> <p>We purchased syllabus B for our schools. If schools attend the launch event, it makes it more cost effective for schools. It is an off the shelf model so local community is more prevalent. It is also more costly than option B. We would not need support from the advisors.</p> <p>PK: I am a member of the Redbridge SACRE and they are using the syllabus. I am also a speaker in schools, in Newham especially which is always a positive experience as diverse. I have done some speaking in Redbridge which is more prescriptive. There is no module explaining what humanism is.</p> <p>Chair: Option C is not reflecting the Hackney community and so less desirable.</p> <p>LT: I would prefer syllabus B.</p> <p>Advisor: It has increased the quality of RE. It is also knowing what students have studied.</p> <p>MR: I agree the representation of communities is important. Newham is aware of this need and practising this. The Newham syllabus would be more representative. The extra costs in option C for the off the shelf package would be undesirable for primary schools.</p> <p>Advisor: Yes, we need to keep in consideration what costs would be passed on to schools.</p>
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	<p>Chair: Does option B reflect Ofsted? When was it produced? Advisor: Yes, it was produced last year.</p> <p>PK: Would we have more opportunities to consider more options? Advisor: Yes, but I did not want to overload the group but in the working group could look at other options.</p> <p>NL: Are any of the options taking religion out of its social context and speaking only of the moral and a pathway / route for spiritual thinking? Advisor: There is a unit in option B - "what does it mean to be good?" Some units have to be rewritten and a thematic unit could be rewritten to look at spirituality rather than religion based.</p> <p>It was clarified that out of the 5 main religions, Buddhism was left out as it does not believe in one creative God.</p> <p>The group queried the KS5 uptake; the advisor clarified this can be 10-20 students, it starts off with high numbers and then while it's a popular course, the general exam entry is around 11. Students sometimes find the philosophy, and critical evaluation, to be difficult.</p>
4.	Local Updates
4.1	<p>The group discussed whether any members attended the NASACRE Virtual Training. PK found out too late, but would attend next time on 26 June.</p> <p>The Chair enquired about the date for SACRE chairs. The adviser clarified the date /time was 8 November at 18:30 for NASACRE for Chairs.</p> <p>ACTION: Advisor to ensure link to NASACRE is passed on to Chair. Advisor to forward virtual training programme to LR.</p> <p>The group was made aware that the Hub training is different and an accreditation is possible.</p>
5.	SACRE Self-Assessment Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Section 1D: correct to established, not blank. ● Developing areas: 3A, should move to established by end of year ● 3C needs reviewing ● 4B is developing <p>This will form the foundation of the annual report to submitted in Dec The group agreed that these minutes would thank and show appreciation for Justin Feltham's support throughout the years as the previous SACRE clerk.</p> <p>The Chair was thanked for sending the calendars. All still interested were asked to share their details with the Clerk to send to Sandra.</p>
6.	Curriculum presentation by Linn Thorsen
6.1	Linn Thorsen delivered a presentation on the curriculum.

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7.	Dates for future meetings
7.1	<p><i>[This item was considered under item 1 initially].</i></p> <p>The Chair disclosed that she would be in Egypt during the next SACRE proposed meeting date of 7 January, and proposed to have the meeting moved to 31 January 2024. All in attendance confirmed availability. The group waited until quoracy was reached and then AGREED that the next date would be 31 January 2024.</p> <p>Next meeting date: Wednesday, 31 January 2024 at 17:00 pm.</p>
8.	Any other business.
8.1	A Freedom of Information request was received on agreed syllabus and 5 yearly reports, and it was sent off.
8.2	<p>Interfaith week is happening.</p> <p>ACTION Group members to email any ideas on interfaith week to the advisor.</p>
8.3	<p>NATRE Data was presented.</p> <p>It was noted that some schools deliver religious teachings but not calling it RE. It was discussed that some students, when probed, were agnostic or humanist rather than atheist.</p>
8.4	Incidents in Gaza were mentioned and the humanist point of compassion and reason in any situation was also raised.
8.5	The meeting formally ended at 19:00 pm.