



# Brent

## **Brent SACRE annual report 2012-13**

### **July 2013**

Queries about this report should be addressed to:

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## **Foreword** by Josh Kutchinsky, Chair of SACRE

Schools provide young people with a safe place from which to explore and better understand their world. Europe-wide there is a small but significant increase in intolerance, divisive populism and, with austerity and unemployment, a greater sense of insecurity. With a good education people are better equipped to flourish in an age of uncertainty. Knowledge is a bulwark against unreason. Teachers as educators, guides and mentors are essential for providing the tools with which a new generation can carve out a viable future.

Brent SACRE has always given advice based on an ethos of inclusion and harmony. For example it has always welcomed a wide representation of other faiths and denominations to sit alongside representatives from the Church of England. It has also always included a humanist among its members. Most SACREs have humanist representation but not all. Some have them as full members but many do not. Inclusiveness often reflects the attitude of SACREs to both collective worship and RE. Inclusiveness also demands that SACRE makes a greater effort to fill some of the vacancies that have arisen and also to consider whether we need to widen representation.

Last year the new [RE Subject Framework](#) was launched. You may recall that RE had not been included in the Government's national curriculum review and so the Religious Education Council decided to run a parallel process. The Framework is intended to be a successor to the 2004 non-statutory National Framework, upon which many agreed syllabuses are based. Michael Gove, Minister of Education, wrote in his forward to this latest Framework:

'All children need to acquire core knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the religions and worldviews which not only shape their history and culture but which guide their own development... This RE curriculum framework and the RE Review of which is part provides for such a model. It has the endorsement of a very wide range of professional organisations and bodies representing faiths and other worldviews. I hope the document will be useful to all those seeking to provide RE of the highest quality for young people in our schools.'

The words of Michael Gove (and of the review) echo the spirit of the current Brent Syllabus which was first agreed in 2002. Uncertainties in government policy and the rise in the number of schools which are not under local authority control have given SACRE pause for thought. We know that our current syllabus on its own cannot provide schools with all that is required in order to deliver good RE. Financial constraints also play a part in a certain reticence by the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to launch into a full revision of our syllabus when what is really needed are more subject resources and more support for the teachers in our schools. We must continue to press for adequate funding for the necessary support for the teachers of RE.

Can SACRE rise to the challenge of keeping itself informed of how RE and collective worship take place in Brent Schools? For some time now we have been heavily reliant on our RE Consultant, Lesley Prior, providing us with her insights. Lesley also conducts in-service training for RE teachers and has provided one-to-one support. SACRE is mindful that this is very much dependent on finance from the local authority. Brent SACRE and the LA is indeed most fortunate to have access to the expert knowledge and experience of two leading RE professionals.

The Brent Model Approach to Collective Worship provides the basis for an inclusive period of meaningful reflection for the whole school community. Our approach has been widely admired and continues to be a model for others. In the last year SACRE has maintained the advice that all local authority maintained and voluntary controlled schools should seek a determination to allow our inclusive approach to be followed. Renewal of these determinations is one of the tasks that we continue to diligently perform. I am sure that we could do more in working with schools to help them with their provision of collective worship

RE in the country suffers in some quarters from the belief that it can and should provide moral instruction. That independent of the general ethos of a school or of the behaviour of its adult community it can be responsible for inculcating desirable traits of character. It is surely the intention of all schools that their students should mature into people who will be net contributors to their society. The role of religious education is surely to provide an academically rigorous school subject, comparable to others, which will enable students to gain an understanding of the complex and fascinating range of beliefs and values and in particular those of Christianity which have played such a significant part in creating this country's cultural environment, both physical and conceptual. Through RE they can acquire the necessary skills to enable them to explore the beliefs and values of their families, those of their fellow students and of the wider world and in so doing be helped to establish their own identity and opinions.

Brent's population is diverse. There is much to learn from each other. SACRE should embody that fact. SACRE only meets formally three times a year. I know from personal experience that these times are enjoyed and that there is a great tradition of goodwill and harmony.

On behalf of all SACRE members I would formally like to acknowledge the help and support that has been provided by our RE consultants, Lesley Prior and Roger Butler, our Clerk Sherry-Ann Sorzano and the Local Authority Lead Officer, Stephen McMullan.

I look forward to SACRE continuing to play a supportive role to schools and teachers and to providing useful advice to the local authority.

Josh Kutchinsky

## LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

### ANNUAL REPORT OF BRENT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2012 - 2013

#### 1.0 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

##### 1.1 Agreed Syllabus

The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in the London Borough of Brent was produced in 2002. The document was issued to schools in a ring binder format and is also available via:

[http://www.brent.gov.uk/media/946060/agreed\\_syllabus\\_for\\_religious\\_education.pdf](http://www.brent.gov.uk/media/946060/agreed_syllabus_for_religious_education.pdf)

It remains the legally binding document for all local authority maintained and voluntary controlled schools in the Borough.

##### 1.2 Agreed Syllabus Revision

Brent's current Agreed Syllabus was originally produced in 2002. On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011, SACRE convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference. It was apparent that, in spite of being fundamentally sound, the Brent Agreed Syllabus had become somewhat dated and not wholly compatible with the types of curriculum developments some schools wanted to make. Therefore, Brent set up a new Agreed Syllabus Conference to amend or replace the current syllabus.

Following a meeting of Brent SACRE and Brent's Agreed Syllabus Conference on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012, The Agreed Syllabus Conference concluded that it would be premature to proceed in developing a new syllabus until certain national developments, which might influence aspects of Religious Education in schools, have become clearer. These developments include the publication of:

- new national curriculum guidance
- the Review of RE by the RE Council of England and Wales

A briefing paper for schools, outlining this position was issued in April 2012.

##### 1.3 Standards in RE

SACRE used to monitor standards in RE by carrying out an annual analysis of OFSTED reports. In 2012-2013, SACRE members continued to regret the fact that current OFSTED arrangements make it extremely difficult for them to carry out this statutory duty, as the necessary evidence is no longer available. SACRE members therefore sought other ways in which to monitor standards in RE, such as supporting RE teachers in LA schools.

## 2.0 IN-SERVICE TRAINING: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### 2.1 Short Courses

The Authority offers a basic programme of in-service training. SACRE members were pleased to note that there continue to be termly meetings for Subject Leaders for RE in primary and special schools. These have been delivered by Lesley Prior, Religious Education Consultant and LDBS Adviser for RE in Community Schools. Lesley also supports the Brent SACRE. During 2012– 2013, these meetings took place on:

- **2<sup>1st</sup> September 2012**
- **9<sup>th</sup> January 2013**
- **9<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

The meetings were held at the LA's Professional Development Centre

Participants were given opportunities to:

- evaluate practical teaching approaches on the use of story and text in RE, using examples from religious and secular traditions
- devise ways of formulating a question-led approach to RE
- analyse the key findings of **The APPG Report on RE: The Truth Unmasked** (links to the full document and a brief summary can be found at: <http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/appg/news/2013-03-18/appg-re-final-report-the-truth-unmasked>)
- consider their understanding of the role, nature and purpose of teaching and learning in RE, with particular reference to Christianity and Hinduism.

Feedback from these meetings continues to be very good.

### 2.2 Additional Training

The RE Consultant has provided INSET in several schools and one to one support for RE Coordinators in others.

### 2.3 Brent SACRE Youth Conference

This event was held at Wembley Stadium's Learning Zone on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012 and was open to all Year 5 and 8 pupils. Activities included:

- finding out about each other and each other's religions and beliefs
- opportunities to work collaboratively on creative expressions of the spiritual
- discussions about pupils own responses to RE in Brent

SACRE is grateful to the Culham St. Gabriel's Trust and the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) for their support of this event.

### **3.0 COMPLAINTS**

No complaints on either Religious Education or Collective Worship were referred to SACRE for investigation in the year 2012 – 2013.

### **4.0 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

#### **4.1 Determinations**

A list of schools which have been granted Determinations will be found in Annex B.

#### **Determination Renewals**

The following determination renewals were granted during the academic year 2012-2013.

- Wembley Primary School (17<sup>th</sup> October 2012)
- Wembley Primary School (27<sup>th</sup> June 2013)
- Byron Court Primary School (27<sup>th</sup> June 2013)
- MitchellBrook Primary School (27<sup>th</sup> June 2013)
- Oliver Goldsmith Primary School (27<sup>th</sup> June 2013)
- Copland Community School (27<sup>th</sup> June 2013)

### **5.0 MATTERS REFERRED TO SACRE**

No matters were referred to SACRE for consideration in the year 2012 – 2013.

### **6.0 LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES**

Brent SACRE is affiliated to The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Lesley Prior, LDBS Adviser for RE in Community Schools and SACRE Consultant represented the SACRE at the NASACRE AGM and Conference in Birmingham on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013. Full details and copies of the relevant presentations can be found at:

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/events/2013-05-23/annual-general-meeting-2013>

Lesley Prior, RE Consultant, became Chair of NASACRE at the AGM.

Roger Butler, SACRE Consultant is Chair of the Shap Working Party on Education in World Religions.

Lesley and Roger are also members of many other RE professional bodies.

## 7.0 OFSTED REPORT ON RE

At the SACRE Meeting on the 17th October, members discussed a presentation based on a recent lecture given by Alan Brine, Chief Adviser for RE at Ofsted.

Alan has been involved as a learner, teacher, lecturer and adviser in RE for many years, working mainly in the Hampshire region. Since 2002 he has been an HMI and is currently Ofsted's specialist adviser for RE. Most recently, he was the author of Ofsted's major reports on RE '**Transforming Religious Education**' (2010) and '**Making Sense of Religion**' (2007) and the presentation focused on the key findings which appeared in their successor which will be published in Autumn 2013.

Roger shared some of the latest research by Ofsted in relation to Religious Education. This was of enormous relevance to individual schools, but also very timely for Brent SACRE as it continues to reflect upon the need for a revision of the agreed syllabus.

Links to the reports can be found at:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/making-sense-of-religion-0>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/transforming-religious-education>

A copy of Alan Brine's presentation can be obtained by emailing Lesley Prior at: [lesley.prior@london.anglican.org](mailto:lesley.prior@london.anglican.org)

## 8.0 THE ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP (APPG) REPORT ON RE

At the SACRE Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> March, Lesley Prior introduced the forthcoming report and explained that the All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education was chaired by Stephen Lloyd, MP. The APPG had been listening to evidence on teaching supply and training for Religious Education. Lesley Prior had given evidence on behalf of NASACRE.

It was explained that any teacher teaching a minimum of one period of Religious Education per week is classified as an RE teacher by the Department for Education. Therefore a resource shortage was not immediately evident. It was also thought that Religious Education was targeted less rigorously than other subjects by Ofsted.

## 9.0 CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

In 2012 - 2013 SACRE bade farewell to several members, Reverend Margaret Engler (Group B) and Sian Davies (Group D). Their contributions to the work of SACRE are much appreciated. All have played vital roles in promoting the work of SACRE and enhancing the quality of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools across Brent.

## **10.0 SACRE CONTACT OFFICERS 2012 – 2013**

Chair – Josh Kutchinsky – [jkutchinsky@googlemail.com](mailto:jkutchinsky@googlemail.com)

Consultant – Lesley Prior – [lesley.prior@london.anglican.org](mailto:lesley.prior@london.anglican.org)

Consultant - Roger Butler – [reb@macace.net](mailto:reb@macace.net)

Local Authority Lead Officer – Stephen McMullan – [stephen.mcmullan@brent.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.mcmullan@brent.gov.uk)

Clerk – Sherry-Ann Sorzano – [sherry.sorzano@brent.gov.uk](mailto:sherry.sorzano@brent.gov.uk)

## **11.0 MEETINGS**

Meetings of SACRE were held on:

- Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012
- Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013

The Local Authority Adviser, the Clerk and the Consultants also met between meetings where and when necessary. See Annex C for agendas and minutes.

## **12.0 SACRE MANAGEMENT**

Josh Kutchinsky (Group A) was re-elected as Chair and Basma El-Shayyal (Group A) elected as Vice Chair at the SACRE Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June.



**LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION 2012-2013**

**Group Categorisations:**

Group A - Christian and other religious denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions in the area.

Group B - Church of England

Group C – Teachers

Group D – Local Authority (Municipal) representatives

Others – consultants, Clerk

<b>Brent SACRE Complete Members List 2012-13</b>				
<b>Groups</b>	<b>Denomination/belief/faith/group</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Forename</b>	<b>Surname</b>
Group A	Baha'i			
Group A	Buddhism	Mrs	Rupa	Monerawela
Group A	Free Churches (Methodist)			
Group A	Free Churches (United Reformed/Moravian)	Mr	Glen	Warner
Group A	Greek Orthodox	Mrs	Andri	Kyriakidis
Group A	Hinduism (Brent Hindu Samaj)	Mr	Deva	Samaroo
Group A	Hinduism (Saiva Siddanta)	Mr	S	Swaminathan
Group A	Hinduism (Swaminarayan Hindu Mission)	Dr	Navin	Swaminarayan
Group A	Hinduism (Vivekananda Centre)	Mr	Kamal	Persaud
Group A	Humanism - <b>Chair</b>	Mr	Josh	Kutchinsky
Group A	Humanism	Mr.	Alan	Hennes
Group A	Islam (Shi'a)	Ms	Arzina	Merali
Group A	Islam (Shi'a)	Mrs	Aliya	Azam
Group A	Islam (Sunni) – <b>Vice Chair</b>	Mrs	Basma	El Shayyal
Group A	Islam (Sunni)			
Group A	Jainism	Mr	Manhar	Mehta
Group A	Judaism (Orthodox)	Mrs	Marlene	Knepler
Group A	Judaism (Reform)	Mrs	Valerie	Boyd-Hellner
Group A	Pentecostal Churches			
Group A	Pentecostal Churches			
Group A	Rastafarianism	Mr	Leroy	Lindsay
Group A	Roman Catholicism			
Group A	Roman Catholicism			
Group A	Sikhism	Mr	Yoginder	Singh Maini
Group A	Zoroastrianism			
Group B	Church of England	Mr	Graham	Marriner
Group B	Church of England			
Group B	Church of England			
Group B	Church of England			
Group B	Church of England			

### Brent SACRE Complete Members List 2012-13

Groups	Denomination/belief/faith/group	Title	Forename	Surname
Group C	Associations Representing Teachers			
Group C	Associations Representing Teachers			
Group C	Associations Representing Teachers			
Group C	Associations Representing Teachers			
Group C	Associations Representing Teachers			
Group C	Associations Representing Teachers			
Group C	Nominated by Brent Primary Schools Headteachers' Group			
Group C	Nominated by Brent Primary Schools Headteachers' Group			
Group C	Nominated by Brent Primary Schools Headteachers' Group			
Group D	The Authority (Municipal Yr 12/13)	Cllr	Mary	Daly
Group D	The Authority (Municipal Yr 12/13)	Cllr	Shafique	Choudhary
Group D	The Authority (Municipal Yr 12/13)	Cllr	Bhagwanji	Chohan
Others	Consultant	Ms	Lesley	Prior
Others	Consultant	Mr	Roger	Butler
Others	Local Authority Lead Officer	Mr	Stephen	McMullan
Others	Clerk	Mrs	Sherry-Ann	Sorzano

**DETERMINATIONS FROM JUNE 2009**

<b><u>Name of school</u></b>	<b><u>Date applied</u></b>	<b><u>Granted on</u></b>	<b><u>Effect from</u></b>	<b><u>Expires</u></b>
Preston Manor High School	02.06.09	16.06.09	16.06.09	15.06.2014
Fryent Primary School	22.05.09	16.06.09	16.06.09	15.06.2014
Kingsbury Green Prim School	01.06.09	16.06.09	16.06.09	15.06.2014
Leopold Primary School	03.06.09	16.06.09	16.06.09	15.06.2014
Lyon Park Infants School	03.06.09	16.06.09	16.06.09	15.06.2014
Malorees Infants School	04.06.09	16.06.09	16.06.09	15.06.2014
Mount Stewart Junior S.	09.06.09	16.06.09	16.06.09	15.06.2014
Northview Primary School	01.06.09	16.06.09	16.06.09	15.06.2014
Oakington Manor Primary S	03.06.09	16.06.09	16.06.09	15.06.2014
Park Lane Primary S.	22.05.09	16.06.09	16.06.09	15.06.2014
Newfield Primary School	01.06.09	16.06.09	16.06.09	15.06.2014
Mora Primary School	27.04.06	16.06.09	16.06.09	15.06.2014

**DETERMINATIONS FROM MARCH 2010**

<b><u>Name of school</u></b>	<b><u>Date applied</u></b>	<b><u>Granted on</u></b>	<b><u>Effect from</u></b>	<b><u>Expires</u></b>
Elsley Primary School	17.11.09	23.03.10	24.03.10	23.03.2015
Mount Stewart Infants S.	17.11.09	23.03.10	24.03.10	23.03.2015
Roe Green Infant & Nursery	17.11.09	23.03.10	24.03.10	23.03.2015
Uxendon Manor Primary S.	17.11.09	23.03.10	24.03.10	23.03.2015
Harlesden Primary School	17.11.09	23.03.10	24.03.10	23.03.2015
Roe Green Junior School	17.11.09	23.03.10	24.03.10	23.03.2015
Wykeham Primary School	17.11.09	23.03.10	24.03.10	23.03.2015
Alperton Community College	17.11.09	23.03.10	24.03.10	23.03.2015

**DETERMINATIONS FROM JUNE 2010**

<b><u>Name of school</u></b>	<b><u>Date applied</u></b>	<b><u>Granted on</u></b>	<b><u>Effect from</u></b>	<b><u>Expires</u></b>
Kingsbury High School	17.11.09	23.03.10	24.03.10	23.03.2015
Anson Primary School	17.11.09	23.03.10	24.03.10	23.03.2015
Gladstone Park Primary S.	17.11.09	23.03.10	24.03.10	23.03.2015
Carlton Vale Infant School	17.11.09	23.03.10	24.03.10	23.03.2015
Barham Primary School	20.06.10	30.06.10	30.06.10	29.06.2015
Brentfield Primary School	29.06.10	30.06.10	30.06.10	29.06.2015

**DETERMINATIONS FROM MARCH 2011**

<b><u>Name of school</u></b>	<b><u>Date applied</u></b>	<b><u>Granted on</u></b>	<b><u>Effect from</u></b>	<b><u>Expires</u></b>
Sudbury Primary School	01.11.10	02.03.11	02.03.11	01.03.2016
Stonebridge Primary	05.01.10	02.03.11	02.03.11	01.03.2016
Braintcroft Primary	28.02.11	02.03.11	02.03.11	01.03.2016
Manor School	15.12.10	02.03.11	02.03.11	01.03.2016
Lyon Park Junior School	11.06.11	16.06.11	17.06.11	15.06.2016
Preston Park Primary School	22.05.11	16.06.11	17.06.11	15.06.2016

**DETERMINATIONS FROM OCTOBER 2012**

<b><u>Name of school</u></b>	<b><u>Date applied</u></b>	<b><u>Granted on</u></b>	<b><u>Effect from</u></b>	<b><u>Expires</u></b>
Wembley Primary School	11.06.07	12.06.07	17.10.12	16.10.2017

**DETERMINATIONS FROM JUNE 2013**

<b><u>Name of school</u></b>	<b><u>Date applied</u></b>	<b><u>Granted on</u></b>	<b><u>Effect from</u></b>	<b><u>Expires</u></b>
Byron Court Primary	05.11.2012	27.06.2013	27.06.2013	26.06.2018
MitchellBrook Primary School	10.03.2013	27.06.2013	27.06.2013	26.06.2018
Oliver Goldsmith Primary School	23.05.2013	27.06.2013	27.06.2013	26.06.2018
Copland Community School	12.03.2013	27.06.2013	27.06.2013	26.06.2018

**MEETING OF BRENT SACRE**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012

4:30pm – 6:00pm (refreshments from 4:00pm), Centre for Staff Development

**AGENDA**

- |    |             |   |           |
|----|-------------|---|-----------|
| 1. | 4:25-4:30   | Welcome/ apologies  | JK        |
| 2. | 4:30 - 4:40 | Minutes of last meeting (13 <sup>th</sup> June 2012) and matters arising  | all       |
| 3. | 4:40 – 4:50 | Brent SACRE Youth Conference – 22 <sup>nd</sup> November  | JK        |
| 4. | 4:50 – 5:00 | Determinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update</li> <li>• Discussion on further action needed</li> </ul>   | SS<br>all |
| 5. | 5:00 – 5:15 | Information items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback from conference on future of A levels held on October 16</li> <li>• Enquiry into the supply of and support for teachers of RE, including local arrangements through SACREs by the All Party Parliamentary Group for RE</li> <li>• Implication of withdrawal of bursaries for RE PGCE courses next year.</li> <li>• Information about relations between SACREs and academies – extract from the NASACRE website</li> <li>• NASACRE AGM – date for your diary</li> </ul> | RB        |
| 6. | 5:15 – 5:50 | The teaching of RE – problems and solutions - discussion.   | RB        |
| 7. | 5:50 – 6:00 | AOB   | all       |

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BRENT SACRE**  
**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

**Attendees**

GROUP A	Josh Kutchinsky, Alan Hennes, Marlene Knepler, Deva Samaroo, Kamal Persaud, Aliya Azam, Rupa Monerwala
GROUP B	Rev. Margaret Engler, Graham Marriner
GROUP C	Kishan Devani
GROUP D	Cllr. Bhagwanji Chohan (Alperton Ward)
Others	Stephen McMullan, Roger Butler, Sherry-Ann Sorzano

**Apologies**

Lesley Prior, Sian Davies, Manhar Mehta, S. Swaminathan, Basma El Shayyal, Angela Hopkins

1.	Welcome / Apologies	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Josh welcomed all present.</li> <li>• Apologies given as listed above.</li> </ul> <p><b>Membership:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jane Clist, Group B has resigned.</li> <li>• Kishan Devani, Group C would like to change his representation either to a faith or teaching rep since he is no longer a union rep.</li> <li>• Following discussion with the Chair, Josh has advised Kishan that he can remain as an observer in the meantime.</li> </ul>	
2.	<b>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No amendments. Minutes confirmed. Any matters arising were discussed under respective agenda items.</li> </ul>	
3.	<b>Brent SACRE Youth Conference</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organised by Brent SACRE with support from the Culham St Gabriel's Trust and the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education, the youth conference will take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November from 10:00 – 2:30 pm.</li> <li>• The conference is open to all Year 5 and 8 pupils and the theme is 'giving children and young people a say about religions and belief in Brent'. The event will be held at the Wembley Stadium Learning Zone.</li> <li>• Activities include 'finding out about each other and each other's religions and beliefs'; opportunities to work together on creative and artistic expression of the spiritual and a chance to think and suggest how RE in Brent can be made better by listening to children's views and responding.</li> </ul>	
4.	<b>Determinations</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application for renewal of determination from Wembley Primary school was reviewed.</li> <li>• There was 1 objection from Group B, who registered a vote of 'no' for the determination.</li> <li>• The determination was granted by majority.</li> <li>• Sherry reported that reminders were sent out to schools whose determinations have expired.</li> <li>• There were 3 responses: Mitchell Brook Primary, Kensal Rise Primary and Byron Court Primary schools have indicated that they will be re-applying and are in the</li> </ul>	Sherry to contact the remaining schools to find out why they have not responded.

	process of completing their application.	Sherry to send round list of places of interest to members for review.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Information items</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roger attended a conference on the future of A levels on October 16. There were speakers from Labour, the Conservatives, further education and higher education and some schools.</li> <li>• Tina Isaacs from the Institute of Education said in her talk that Great Britain is one of the few countries which still conducts examinations in the way that they currently do. She mentioned that RE is an element of the International Baccalaureate but not in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).</li> <li>• The Religions Education Council is still campaigning to have RE added to the Ebacc.</li> <li>• <b>APPG</b> - The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for RE has been set up and the group will soon be publishing a report on the supply and training for RE teachers.</li> <li>• <b>Withdrawal of bursaries</b> – changes in the bursary funding system mean that teachers wanting to pursue RE now have to fund this themselves.</li> <li>• <b>NASACRE conference</b> – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Up to 3 members are invited to attend. Interested persons to inform Sherry so that bookings can be made.</li> </ul>	Sherry to email members details of the NASACRE conference on Nov 6.
<b>6.</b>	<b>The Teaching of RE – presentation by Alan Brine HMI – raised by R.Butler</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roger reviewed the main points of the presentation. Areas of focus included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loss of the QCDA, EBacc announcements, National Curriculum review and the impact of these.</li> <li>○ Ofsted’s key findings</li> <li>○ The 4 C’s to success: Challenging Learning, Collaboration in Learning, Consistency of Practice and Clarity of purpose.</li> <li>○ 10 barriers to success</li> <li>○ Misconceptions about teaching.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marlene Knepler gave an update on a meeting she attended for Jewish SACRE representatives.</li> <li>• Suggestion came out about ‘youth SACRE’ as well as organising a box of religious items and artefacts from various faiths and beliefs. This box to be kept within the SACRE and can be used for visits to schools, etc.</li> <li>• There was also a discussion around how teachers can deal with sensitive RE issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>END of MEETING</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13 March 2013</b></p>	

## MEETING OF BRENT SACRE

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013

4:30pm – 6:00pm (refreshments from 4:00pm), Centre for Staff Development

### AGENDA

- |    |             |   |          |
|----|-------------|---|----------|
| 1. | 4:25-4:30   | Welcome/ apologies:   | JK       |
|    |             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update on SACRE membership:</li><li>• New member – Baha'i faith</li><li>• Resignations</li><li>• Co-opted membership</li></ul>  | JK/SS    |
| 2. | 4:30 - 4:35 | Minutes of last meeting (17 <sup>th</sup> Oct.2012) and matters arising   | all      |
| 3. | 4:35 – 4:45 | Updates:  | LP       |
|    |             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Brent Agreed syllabus</li><li>• All-party parliamentary group (APPG)</li><li>• RE subject review</li></ul>  |          |
| 4. | 4:45 – 5:20 | Determinations:   | SS       |
|    |             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update</li><li>• Applications for approval – WHTC, Byron Court Primary Kensal Rise Primary, Copland School, Mitchell Brook Primary</li><li>• Discussion – review of the process</li></ul> | all      |
| 5. | 5:20 – 5:30 | Information items:  |          |
|    |             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support for SACRE from April 1 2013</li><li>• NASACRE AGM – 23 May 2013</li></ul>   | SM<br>LP |
| 6. | 5:30 – 5:50 | Election of Chair and Vice-Chair  | all      |
| 7. | 5:50 – 6:00 | AOB   | all      |



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BRENT SACRE**  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**Attendees**

GROUP A	Josh Kutchinsky ( <i>chair</i> ), Alan Henness, Rupa Monerwala, Basma El Shayyal, Deva Samaroo, Alan Henness, Manhar Mehta, Marlene Knepler, Aliya Azam
GROUP B	Graham Marriner
GROUP C	Sian Davies
GROUP D	
Others	Stephen Mc Mullan, Lesley Prior, Sherry-Ann Sorzano,

**Apologies**

Cllr Bhagwanji Chohan, Cllr Shafique Choudhary, Kishan Devani

1.	Welcome / Apologies	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Josh welcomed all present.</li> <li>• Apologies given as listed above.</li> </ul> <p><b>Membership:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New member welcomed (<i>in her absence</i>)- Audrey Lutchmaya (Group A – Baha’i faith)</li> <li>• Kishan Devani – Kishan has previously been a member of Group C and is now seeking co-option. Josh presented this to SACRE; there were no objections therefore Kishan was duly accepted as a co-opted member.</li> <li>• Concern was expressed that the meeting was not quorate. There were no councillors present. Josh stated that in previous years, Councillors made an agreement among themselves that at least one would attend SACRE meetings. It was suggested that Councillors should be sent a letter/ email reiterating the importance of their attendance at SACRE meetings. They have been identified as SACRE representatives and should therefore attend meetings.</li> </ul>	<p>Sherry to send letter/email (pending approval by Chair/ consultant/ LA)</p>
2.	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No amendments. Minutes confirmed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephen McMullan reported on the SACRE youth conference held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012. This event was well attended and very successful. There were approximately 120 children in attendance and, children were engaged at all levels. Positive feedback from the children themselves.</li> </ul>	
3.	Updates:	
	<p><b>The Brent agreed syllabus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesley Prior- In her meetings with schools Lesley has been advising schools and they are aware of briefing paper prepared by SACRE about the review of the agreed syllabus. Schools finding this briefing paper useful. Revision of Brent’s agreed syllabus is on hold pending release of the new national curriculum.</li> </ul> <p><b>All party parliamentary group (APPG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesley (LP) recently attended the meeting of the APPG and one of the main points of</li> </ul>	

discussion was regarding teacher supply for RE in secondary groups. RE supply teaching is on the decline particular in secondary schools and the APPG is also looking at the dangers of this for primary schools.

- LP attended meetings in November and January and at those meetings, put forwards the concerns of this SACRE about the importance of RE in schools. Lesley has offered to send copies of presentation which was made at the APPG. The final report is due to be published on 18 March. It is hoped that the report will generate some press interest about RE.

### **RE subject review**

- LP reported that this is currently underway. The RE committee sought government funding for the subject review, but was refused. The committee has since sourced funding for an independent review.
- LP will be writing a paper on the purpose of the subject review and its aims. The paper will be similar to subject reviews carried out for History and Geography. The next meeting will be held on Monday 18 March. Lesley will share whatever information is disseminated at that meeting. Her paper will be in an advisory capacity only and not statutory.
- The decision to implement the recommendations in the paper will be up to local bodies to decide.
- Ofsted report on RE will be published in May; until approval has been obtained from Matt Wilshire. Members of Brent Sacre have already seen the headlines of the report as referred to in the Alan Brine presentation which was distributed in the autumn term.
- LP added that there is a purpose statement, aims for the subject, and the report will focus on knowledge, understanding and skills. There will be some discussions about content – regarding how much there should be- e.g similar reports for geography and history saw students having to absorb a lot of facts.
- LP commented that RE is a locally determined subject and not a nationally determined one. However, since the Geography report has a purpose statement and 3 clear objectives, this might be adopted for RE.
- Rupa commented that there is a need for various groups to join together to protect RE. LP stated that much teaching of RE in primary schools is done by teaching assistants and volunteers.
- Roger added that SACRE is indeed represented in the RE Council through Aliya Azam and Basma El-Shayyal is on the Curriculum for Cohesion committee.
- Aliya added that the number of people taking up PGCE in Religious Studies has declined by 50% and is increasing. Schools need to take RE seriously.
- Josh – SACREs take a different approach. SACREs might want to do a new agreed syllabus that will progress the ethos for which this SACRE stands.
- Roger - RE in EBacc – the EBacc now includes 8 subjects and RE can be included. Some schools are saying that RE is already on the decline. Schools are looking at timetabling for September 2013 and RE is already being cut.
- LP- there is still ambiguity as to the role of academies in RE.
- Statisticians found that any teacher who is asked to teach RE if they have spare periods, that person will be considered a RE teacher.
- Prestigious courses like Hull and Warwick, are closing because there isn't enough taking up the courses.
- Marlene added that in languages – Hebrew is used in RE and this is not considered a

Lesley to send report to Sherry once published and Sherry to circulate to SACRE

	modern language; but this is part and parcel of RE in a Jewish school.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Determinations</b>	
	<p>Applications reviewed: WHTC, Byron Court, Kensal Rise, Copland, Mitchell Brook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JK read extracts from the model approach.</li> <li>• Discussions of determinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Copland – problem – parents should be consulted via newsletter rather than direct. Misses out main points of the model approach. If school wants to follow a procedure of its own choosing, then SACRE must determine this is one that they would support. Rupa since former HT left, there have been a lot of changes.</li> <li>▪ Discussion continued around the determinations</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Review of the process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP and RB stated that in other SACRE's there are different processes involved. This SACRE discussed the possibility of requiring more pieces of evidence, conducting visits to schools to observe RE in practice, the setting up of a determinations committee to process applications in the future.</li> <li>• It was agreed that schools should be sent the model approach in advance of their application so that they can draw reference to the approach in their application for a determination.</li> <li>• S. Davies said it was good to see there is such good activity of SACRE with engaging with schools; she added that there needs to be a consistency of the process, whatever is agreed. It was agreed that the process requires further discussion.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graham Marriner (Group B) has voted <b>against</b> granting all 5 determinations.</li> <li>• Rupa Monerwela has voted <b>against</b> Copland's application.</li> <li>• It was decided that the letter which goes out to schools be revisited and amended to highlight any concerns.</li> <li>• Determinations were subsequently granted.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b>  <b>Post-meeting: There were further queries arising from Josh; and following discussions with Roger and Lesley, the Clerk was asked to hold on sending out letters of confirmation pending further discussion.</b></p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Information items</b>	
	<p><b>Support for SACRE from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephen McMullan confirmed that support for SACRE will continue as usual from Services to Schools – including the budget and support from the Clerk.</li> <li>• The Clerk was commended for her high level of support, professionalism and attention to detail in her duties. All members wanted their agreement recorded in the minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>NASCARE AGM – 23 May 2013</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking place in Birmingham this year.</li> <li>• Basma is interested in attending.</li> </ul>	SS to confirm whether SACRE will cover travel costs.

6.	Election of chair and vice chair	
	<p><b>Candidates:</b></p> <p><b>Chair - Josh Kutchinsky</b> – uncontested – no objections – <b>Confirmed as Chair</b></p> <p><b>Vice Chair – Alan Henness – 3 votes</b>  <b>Kishan Devani – 3 votes</b>  <b>Basma EI-Shayyal – 5 votes – NEW VICE- CHAIR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Votes for Vice-Chair were counted by the Clerk and verified by the Chair</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aliya informed SACRE about a fund-raising walk being hosted by the Al-Khoei Foundation. All invited to participate.</li> <li>• Marlene conducted RE talk at Barham Primary – very successful</li> <li>• Basma visited Our Lady of Lourdes RC to speak about Islam – went very well</li> <li>• Deva visited 2 schools (Salisbury Primary and St Joseph’s Junior) to speak on Diwali and Lord Ganesh - also very successful.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19 June 2013 (Centre for Staff Development)</b></p> <p><b>Dates for 2013-14:</b></p> <p>Venue: new civic centre meeting rooms- dates to be advised. Possibly move to <b>Tuesdays or Thursdays.</b></p>	

**MEETING OF BRENT SACRE**  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013  
4:30pm – 6:00pm (refreshments from 4:00pm)  
Venue: Centre for Staff Development

**AGENDA**

- |    |             |  |           |
|----|-------------|--|-----------|
| 1. | 4:25-4:30   | Welcome/ apologies   | JK        |
| 2. | 4:30 - 4:40 | Minutes of last meeting (13.03.13) and matters arising   | all       |
| 3. | 4:40 – 5:20 | Determinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Ratify determinations made by last (inquorate) meeting</li><li>ii. Discuss proposals for new determinations procedure</li></ul> | all       |
| 4. | 5:20 – 5:40 | RE review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Report on progress with the RE review</li><li>ii. Consultation document (draft) – purpose, aims and content</li></ul>                | RB and LP |
| 5. | 5:40 – 5:50 | Report from NASACRE AGM  | LP        |
| 6. | 5:50 – 5:55 | SACRE support and collective worship during the next school year   | SM        |
| 7. | 5:55 - 6:00 | Dates of meetings for 2013-14  | SS        |

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BRENT SACRE**  
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**Attendees**

GROUP A	Alan Henness, Basma El Shayyal (chair), Deva Samaroo, Alan Henness, Aliya Azam
GROUP B	Graham Marriner
GROUP C	
GROUP D	Cllr Shafique Choudhary
Others	Roger Butler, Lesley Prior, Sherry-Ann Sorzano(minutes),

**Apologies**

Cllr Bhagwanji Chohan, Josh Kutchinsky (**chair**), Rupa Monerwala Manhar Mehta, Marlene Knepler, Kamal Persaud, Sian Davies, Rev. Margaret Engler

1.	Welcome / Apologies	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basma welcomed all present.</li> <li>• Apologies given as listed above.</li> </ul>	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No amendments. Minutes confirmed.</li> <li>• Correction – Alan Brine has to rewrite sections of the report.</li> </ul>	
3.	Determinations	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting inquorate – decisions were not taken on determinations.</li> <li>• Copies of determination applications given to all present</li> <li>• It was decided that determinations will be emailed to all members</li> <li>• Members to raise any issues and agree any determinations by email.</li> <li>• Decisions to be determined by a majority vote.</li> <li>• Process to be discussed at next fully quorate meeting.</li> <li>• Graham Marriner registered a vote against all determinations on behalf of Group B.</li> <li>• LP stated that the diocese has informed her with regard to the Church of England the view is determinations can be voted in favour provided that the applications are in compliance with agreed procedures – schools should consult with governors and parents; if these groups are supportive, then determinations may be granted.</li> <li>• Proposal as part of the new process that SACRE members conduct visits to schools to observe at least one act of collective worship before granting a determination.</li> </ul>	<p>SS to email all members to request a vote for determinations via email.</p> <p>Members to advise as to whether any one is willing to conduct visits to schools on behalf of SACRE ; but at their own expense.</p>
4.	RE review	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP informed the meeting that the RE council received charitable funding to conduct a review of RE. LP has been elected as part of the group to conduct the review. The report has been written and submitted.</li> <li>• Report is available for consultation; comments to be emailed. LP distributed copies and asked SACRE to submit any comments.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RB added that schools will be looking for a strategy that they can adopt; however, this document only provides a 'skeleton' – it needs to be in a context of schools and how a school would use RE in a practical and meaningful way. The material should be engaging and interactive.</li> <li>• LP added that it may be for an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to determine how best the review could be applied to the local context.</li> <li>• Aliya stated that within the primary context teaching is more around the dissemination of information – actually teaching pupils about difference religions and beliefs. Within the secondary context, this moves towards a more critical and analytical viewpoint.</li> <li>• Graham added that in some primary schools, RE is taking on more reflective questioning.</li> </ul>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Report from NASCARE AGM</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basma apologised for her non-attendance at the meeting. This was the day after the Woolwich crime and was unsafe for her to travel. Her presence was also required at school. This was accepted by SACRE.</li> <li>• Presentations were made by HMI Alan Brine and Director of Culham St Gabriels Dr Mark Chater. They presented on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The very real problems facing RE today and</li> <li>○ The role of SACREs in the past and looking to the future.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The presentations can be found on NASCARE's website:  <a href="http://www.nasacre.org.uk/events/2013-05-23/annual-general-meeting-2013">http://www.nasacre.org.uk/events/2013-05-23/annual-general-meeting-2013</a> </li> </ul>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>SACRE support for 2013-14</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SS informed that meeting that Clerk support will continue as planned</li> <li>• Future meetings will be held in the Civic Centre; the Centre for Staff Development will close at the end of July.</li> <li>• RE subject leaders meetings will <b>not</b> be held in 2013-14. LP has been informed of this.</li> <li>• It is not yet known who the lead LA officer for RE will be, once Stephen McMullan leaves. SS to find out and inform SACRE.</li> </ul>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>AOB - none</b>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Notice of Next Meeting: Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley</b>  <b>23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013; 19 March 2014 and 11 June 2014.</b></p>	