SACRE

Meeting held on 19th June 2019
at Green Street Mosque, 88 Green Street, Forest Gate, London, E7 8JG

Present: Teachers Panel: Aisha Sheikh, Chetna Ghandi, Jo Mathias,
Marie Hardie, Taranum Afshan
Other Faiths Panel: Akher Raouf, Asma Hussain, Edward
Hoyle, Gillian Striesow, Funke Oham, Puja Roudh, Rafiq
Patel,
LA Panel: Councillor Aisha Siddiqah, Saquat Ali
Church of England Panel: Ellen Kemp, Rev Susan Lucas,
Student SACRE: Maryam Ahmed (new Chair)

Also Present: Claire Clinton (LBN Religious Education Advisor)
Frances Winter (LBN Senior Policy Officer)
Ross Paton (LBN Community Resilience Officer)
Shah Muhmud (LBN Community Engagement Co-Ordinator)
Sarah Heath (Deputy Head of Plashet School)
Pauline Egan (Committee Clerk)
Mr Abdul Karim Sheikh (Chair of the Mosque)

The meeting commenced at 7.18 p.m. and closed at 9.15 p.m.

1. Election of Chair

Mr Sheikh (Newham North Islamic Association) addressed the meeting
with housekeeping information and shared with attendees the current work
of the mosque. It was the first mosque in Newham and was set up in 1964,
from being a converted banana warehouse.

The Committee Clerk then called for nominations for the Election of Chair.
Akher Raouf nominated Marie Hardie and that nomination was seconded
by several attendees. There were no other nominations.

MARIE HARDIE was elected unopposed as Chair of SACRE.

2. Election of Vice-Chair

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

Two names were considered, Ed Hoyle (Humanist rep) and Rev Sue Lucas
(Church of England rep). The meeting voted by secret ballot paper.

Ed Hoyle was elected as Vice-Chair of SACRE

3. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair invited all present to introduce themselves.
4. **Management of Business**

The following apologies for absence were received:
Kishor Vasani (Other Faiths Panel)
Pat McFarlane, Stephen Madigan (Teachers Panel)
Rev Christina Asinugo, Rev Jeremy Fraser, Ruth Everett (Church of England Panel)
Imaan Sheikh (Student SACRE Member)
Cathryn Adams (LBN)

The Chair welcomed to the meeting the following new member appointed to the other faiths panel:
Funke Oham (Free Church rep)

5. **Declarations of Interest**

An interest was declared by Saquat Ali (LA Panel) in respect of item 8 – Determination for Plashet School by virtue of being a Governor at Plashet School.

There were no other declarations of interest.

6. **Minutes and Matters Arising**

The meeting noted a typo under item 2 of the previous minutes. (Hosing replaced by hosting)

**SACRE RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 June 2019 be approved as a correct record.

Matters arising

(1) Minute No 7 Hate Crime. Ross Paton (LBN Community Resilience Officer) had been invited to this meeting to get to know Members of SACRE and to share the nature of his work which links in to this topic.

(2) Minute No 8 Code of Conduct. This action point was on the agenda

(3) Minute No 9 Out of School Setting. Claire Clinton had circulated the answers from Cathryn Adam prior to the meeting. The project had been time extended. Cathryn had difficulties getting input from the faith groups out of hours learning on this issue.

(4) Minute No 10. Core update. A response to the Secretary of State had been sent as requested.

(5) Minute 12. GCSE results letter. The Clerk had written to the schools as requested to congratulate schools who performed well.

(6) Minute No 14. NASACRE Grant Application. An application had been made as requested.
7. **Student RE Matters Report for SACRE May 2019**

This report had been compiled by the previous Student SACRE Chair Fatima Khatun who was not present but the new Chair Maryam Ahmed had taken part in all the meetings and was able to answer questions on the report.

Maryam also advised that her group had met with the priest of St John’s Church Stratford last week and learnt about his church. Frances Winter had attended from the Youth Safety Board along with a police-woman. The group had shared which places in Newham they liked and why they liked it and where they had felt safe and unsafe. They had also thought about how to make the borough safer for young people.

Overall the group had met with 18 different faith leaders and worldview representatives over the course of the last 12 months. Maryam advised that for most meetings it was the first time she had met people of a different faith.

The clearest feedback from students in respect of their learning was that to know more about different faiths it was better to ask an adult than rely on social media which had a lot of misinformation.

8. **Determination for Plashet School**

Sarah Heath, Deputy Head Teacher of Plashet School gave a presentation to support her request that SACRE allow the school to continue their current programme of Collective Worship under a determination. The demographics of the school meant that a predominantly Christian form of worship had not been appropriate. Sarah explained that pupils had a choice of worship options on some days of the week, including Mindfulness, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Sikh and Multi-Faith to students within the school which had allowed students to pick their preferred assembly.

SACRE member broke into working groups of their respective panels to vote on the determination.

The results were as follows:  
OTHER FAITH PANELS – Agreed  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PANEL – Agreed  
LA PANEL – Agreed  
TEACHERS PANEL – Agreed

**SACRE RESOLVED** to agree the determination for Plashet School for the next five years.
Mayor of Newham’s Youth Safety Board

Frances Winter, Senior Policy Officer at Newham Council, explained to SACRE the membership of the Youth Safety Board which is co-chaired by the Mayor of Newham Rokhsana Fiaz OBE and Duncan Bew Trauma Surgeon at Kings College Hospital.

The board had been working with the Newham Civil Society Youth Commission to receive their findings on youth safety.

The board will have had a series of meetings and youth engagement until November identifying who is vulnerable and why, after which their report would be launched.

Frances had seen the board as a chance for the public sector to extend its reach into the voluntary sector, community and faith organisations within the borough to bring about a collective effort on youth safety.

Frances asked SACRE members for their ideas to improve co-working. SACRE convened into their panels and reported back.

The TEACHERS PANEL reported that they had planned a Maths drop down day (Maths all day) with a theme of London Underground. Students would attend in relevant fancy dress and there would be a discussion on the different underground lines and how they connect and how to use the underground safely. This would build up students’ resilience to get around London safely.

There had also been a visit to different places of worship to help students become familiar with different areas. It was discussed that maybe school could involve students in planning their routes to visit places within the curriculum which would help them understand public transport along with map reading skills.

One school had encouraged a “bring your bike/scooter” to school day. This helped identify students who used this form of transport and allowed them to share safe cycle routes in the borough.

The OTHER FAITHS PANEL commented that their community groups had worked independently for some time with young people including former gang members but their work was not well known and they did not get much support. It was mentioned there had been a gap for some years between the council and local groups and that a rebuilding of trust with the council would be required. The panel suggested that they wrote up their findings of the community work done in order to showcase it and share it with a wider audience and with the Local Authority (LA). The LA should map what different places of worship are doing within their communities.

The CHURCH OF ENGLAND PANEL reiterated there was a lot of work done in their community but the activities were not always co-ordinated and
SACRE members also commented on the need for young people to be hopeful for the future and cited an example of a school outside the borough that had a programme of community engagement inviting speakers including the governor of the Bank of England to address their students. This was instrumental in building hope within their students’ lives.

**ACTION:** SACRE AGREED to invite Frances Winter back at a later date to update them on the work of the Youth Safety Board.

10. **Newham SACRE Code of Conduct**

The revised code of conduct had been streamlined since the last meeting. There was a typo in line 5, “tale” should be “take”. Subject to this amendment **SACRE RESOLVED** to agree the new code of conduct.

**ACTION:** Claire Clinton would share this document with NASACRE.

11. **Out of School Setting - Safeguarding Project**

Claire Clinton reported in Cathryn Adams absence that Cathryn was having difficulty getting faith groups fully engaged with this programme. The programme covered five boroughs, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest and Barking and Dagenham. SACRE members were asked to use their influence to encourage community contacts to engage with the programme.

The pilot had been extended to March 2020.

Ross Paton (LBN) clarified his role in the Council was to help stop young people being drawn to extremism. His role included visiting schools and speaking to teachers and parents about what they can do to help fulfil those safeguarding roles. He said there was also a schools visit programme called BRAVE where ex-gang members spoke to students about gangs and how to avoid being drawn into them. The Council had recently lost its Education Officer and he was trying to cover this role in the short term.
Ellen Kemp invited Ross to address governors in the borough about his role.

A SACRE member commented that the programme being closely linked to PREVENT and the latter’s PR had been a barrier to engagement.

Shah Muhmud (LBN Community Engagement Co-ordinator) had identified three to four mosques who now understood the programme was not an enforcement issue but about finding ways for mosques to do their safeguarding better and who had agreed to engage in a focus group to improve the programme. It was suggested that a report of the mosques engagement be summarised at the end of the programme to be shared with other mosques so community concerns would be demystified.

**ACTION:** Revisit this agenda item at a later meeting of SACRE, and invite Cathryn Adams to attend.

12. **CoRE update**

Claire Clinton reported that CoRE were still putting pressure on the government. RE had been mentioned for the first time in twelve years in the Ofsted handbook as something that must be taught in every school.

CoRE asked government that if a school was not statutorily meeting its requirements, was that a limiting factor? But no answer had been received.

CoRE sought to persuade the government that if a school had not met its RE obligations then it could not be rated as outstanding or good.

Claire referred to the letter from the Department for Education (DfE) to the chair of NASACRE (page 41) which advised that if schools were not RE syllabus compliant despite interventions then the DfE should be informed. Claire advised that to do this SACRE needed schools to complete their monitoring forms and that Newham had this in place.

13. **Westhill Grant plans with Waltham Forest SACRE**

Jo Mathias (Teachers Panel) reported that the London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF) SACRE gave glowing feedback following their visit to St Stephen’s School and read out their email with their comments.

Claire Clinton ran three Junior RE conferences in Waltham Forest which went really well. Jo had two of these teachers come and visit St Stephen’s School and they gave excellent feedback. Claire was waiting to see if LBWF wish to buy in our Newham Infant and Junior RE Conferences for future co-working. LBWF was the Borough of Culture for 2019 and there was some funding to support this potentially. Claire was waiting for LBWF to come back to her to advise if this was possible.
14. **Place of Worship Competition and Prize Giving**

Claire Clinton reported that Ed Hoyle (Humanist), Gillian Striesow (Methodist) and Chetna Gandhi (Teacher and Hindu) had reviewed the entries and decided on who will win in the competition.

Ed reported that the entries that were easiest to judge were those that had clarified their learning objectives behind the artwork submitted so the learning journey was clear.

Prizes would be awarded at an event on Wednesday July 10th from 4.30pm to 6pm. The venue would be either Vicarage or Ranelagh School. Claire would advise and send SACRE members invitations. SACRE members would be required to award the prizes on the night, Claire asked for members to let her know if they would be available.

Claire also thanked SACRE members for their donated prizes.

15. **DRAFT SACRE Priorities for 2019**

These were noted for information.

16. **SACRE Member - Visits into School Report & School Update**

Since having the Holocaust training as SACRE, one school had invited in the Holocaust Education Trust. Jo talked about this visit. There had been two workshops for year 6 pupils and a holocaust survivor spoke to year 6 children.

A SACRE member asked if these testimonies could be recorded so they could be heard by others. Claire Clinton advised that there was a project that created a 3-D interactive record of survivors. Details here: [https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/national-holocaust-centre-and-museum-launches-interactive-holocaust-survivor-testimony](https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/national-holocaust-centre-and-museum-launches-interactive-holocaust-survivor-testimony)

**ACTION:** Claire would advertise St Stephen’s experience with other schools in Newham.

17. **NASACRE AGM and Conference**

This item was noted but there was no time left to discuss it.

18. **Items for Information**

This item was noted but there was no time left to discuss it.
19. Any Other Business

There was no time for Any Other Business.

20. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was 9 October 2019. Claire asked the clerk to check if the venue was the old Town Hall Stratford as the venue had been East Ham town hall the year before.

**ACTION**: The Clerk would check which venue was booked.