

# Southwark SACRE Meeting

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 6pm

## Present

### Authority Representatives

Mr Lee Souter (LA)

### Christian or Other Religious Representatives

Mr John Bonnici

Trevor Moore

Kyoichiro Hosoya

### Church of England Representatives

Fiona Foreman

Emily Harris

Megan Whitton

### Teacher Association Representatives

James Lewis (Chair)

Betty Joseph

## In Attendance

Donna Muir – Stand in clerk.

Claire Clinton - RE Matters – Presentation 6.30pm

Emma Taylor – Humanist rep to be appointed.

1	<b>Welcome and apologies for absence.</b> Members were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Yazad Unwalla and Abhijeet Roy and were accepted by the board.
2	<b>Declarations of interest in the agenda</b> There were no declarations of interest in the agenda.
3	<b>Membership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New appointments and vacancies  There remained two teacher association representative vacancies.</li> </ul> <p>Members welcomed Emma Taylor who would be replacing Trevor Moore as the humanist representative.</p> <p>Members noted that there had been some change in membership, and it would be helpful for an updated membership list to be circulated.</p> <p>SACRE recognised the outstanding contribution of Trevor and gave thanks for his invaluable input.</p> <p>Mariano's input was also recognised, and it was expected that he would be in attendance at the next meeting.</p> <p>Emma Taylor was appointed as the humanist representative for SACRE Southwark.</p> <p><b>ACTION – Clerk to add Emma Taylor to GH and send welcome information.</b>  <b>ACTION – Clerk to circulate membership list.</b></p>

4	<p><b>Minutes of the meetings held on 30 January and 4 March 2025 and Matters arising (attached)</b></p> <p>Minutes of the meetings of the 30<sup>th</sup> of January and 4<sup>th</sup> March were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p><i>First approver – FF</i>  <i>Second Approver - TM</i></p>
5	<p><b>Budget</b></p> <p>A budget paper was tabled with a verbal update as follows:</p> <p>£10k had been agreed by the council for the new locally agreed statutory syllabus. Some had also been allocated to the non-statutory teaching and learning resources and materials. The total budget also included the launch of the new curriculum.</p> <p>The majority had been invested in 12.75 days for the RE advisor and the logistics of two ASC meetings, including clerking and refreshments.</p> <p>Members noted a disputed invoice that amounted to two advisor days. This was currently in dispute with Southwark Legal.</p> <p>Members discussed if the remaining funds would be able to support the launch.</p> <p>It had been anticipated that the event launch would have a higher budget, however, a successful launch could still be produced with the current budget as well as an opportunity for a networking.</p> <p><b>Question</b> – Is the financial expenditure for this financial year and the options being presented tonight, will they come from next year's budget?  <b>Answer</b> – Yes, these will come from next year's budget.</p> <p><b>Question</b> – Were the RE resources provided from the RE advisor in line with the last meetings action?  <b>Answer</b> – At the last meeting there was an action to forward all finalised and draft resources, and this has not been completed as well as non-delivery of summer resources. There is a dispute around the resources that have been delivered.</p> <p>Members discussed what had been received. It was noted that schools had been receiving resources directly in a number of instances, but these had not been received by Southwark.</p> <p>Teachers had been receiving resources that had been co-designed and co-produced between them and the RE advisor, but these had not been reviewed by ASC or SACRE.</p>
6	<p><b>Action Plan &amp; Deliverables</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The updated action plan had been circulated with the amendments requested at the last meeting.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Southwark Collaboration and Pilot – Curriculum and Teaching and Learning Resources for Autumn, Spring and Summer</b></p> <p><b>Claire Clinton from RE Matters joined the meeting 6.30pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over the past 18 months/two years SACRE have worked collaboratively with schools to support the implementation of a new agreed syllabus as well as teaching and learning resources and materials. Members had received a brief overview of some of the work that RE Matters had implemented, particularly Newham and it would be helpful to have an update on RE Matters</li> <li>In 2022, Newham invested £43k to create a new, research based, RE syllabus and learning materials. It was created with 35 teachers, Claire and an advisory team that had an 18-month period to work on it.</li> <li>RE Matters involvement in research areas has supported what has been developed</li> </ul>

	<p>in Newham and making sure that there was academic rigour to it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The syllabus looks at key skills of debate, empathy, listening and the best of what is out there at the moment in religious education.</li> <li>• The recalling of key information makes up a key part of the work RE matters has done.</li> <li>• A priority is also learners understanding belief, differences and diversity.</li> <li>• The updated syllabus is clearer on intent.</li> <li>• Camden launched their syllabus in summer 2024. At the time, there were very few primary schools delivering RE. In two terms they have every primary and secondary delivering resources.</li> <li>• Hackney and Barking and Dagenham have recently purchased resources.</li> </ul> <p>Thanks were given and members were invited to ask questions.</p> <p><b>Question</b> – Regarding the current RE curriculum review, what is happening?  <b>Answer (CC)</b> – It is not known but the expectation is that there will be an increase in resource nationally.</p> <p><b>Question</b> – the other councils that have adopted Newham, have they asked you to do a customised version?  <b>Answer (CC)</b> – Yes, other boroughs have asked for it to be customised. There are different levels of customisation too so there is an opportunity to have an agreed text. This can be supported by RE Matters. Newham are not looking to recoup their £43k and they are keen that boroughs adapt this to suit themselves.</p> <p><b>Following further discussion, it was agreed that the current working relationship with the Stacey Burman would conclude at the end of the financial year. It was hoped that materials could be recovered.</b></p> <p><i>First approver – TM</i>  <i>Second Approver – MW</i></p> <p>Members discussed the difficult position that SACRE had been in by not receiving the working documents that had been shared with schools. Documentation could be gained from schools, and this was encouraged.</p>
8	<p><b>ASC Recommendations</b></p> <p>The RE Matters &amp; Agreed Syllabus Options Paper had been shared with members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Following recommendation from the previous ASC, members discussed the options available. It was agreed that options two and four should be considered in more details.</p> <p>Members discussed which elements would need to be adapted in each of the proposed options to make them Southwark specific including rebranding and adding Southwark specific content. Option four would require a more significant time investment but it was recognised that the adaptations would be more contextually supportive for Southwark.</p> <p>Option two did not allow for more detailed adaptations so it considered not a viable option.</p> <p><b>Question</b> – Why is option 5 so low in cost?  <b>Answer (LS)</b> – Because the licence is only for two years and not five.</p> <p>Members discussed whether a two-year proposal may be sufficient given the uncertainty of investment at government level. The benefit of the two year is there is an opportunity for cross borough review work.</p>

	<p><b>Question</b> – Do you think option 4 would be best for teachers?</p> <p><b>Answer LS</b> – Given the uplift in funding, there is the opportunity to work with more than one RE advisor and the ability to be flexible which could be beneficial. The consultancy days could also support any gaps.</p> <p>Members discussed the budget for 25/26 and how they might look to structure RE advisor support moving forward. Some advice could be taken to understand the statutory requirements for SACRE having an RE advisor.</p> <p><b>ACTION – The Clerk to clarify statutory requirements for an RE advisor.</b></p> <p>Members recognised that there were two strands that were equally important, one that was producing the curriculum but noted that an advisor might be someone who has more understanding of the national stage.</p> <p>It could be that SACRE offer some spaces on the NASACRE conference to support learning and development of teachers.</p> <p>It was recognised that an agreement about the syllabus would need to be made but that an advisor would be considered at a later date.</p> <p>Regarding a timeframe for the syllabus, a timetable would need to be discussed with RE matters to ensure they could meet the deadline required and account for a summer launch.</p> <p>It was expected that RE matters could meet the tight timeframe necessary.</p> <p><b>SACRE made a decision to commission RE Matters for the Newham agreed syllabus, including EYFS, KS1-5, all curriculum and T&amp;L resources, including all materials for teachers and schools. This was at a cost of £8k.</b></p> <p><i>First approver – FF</i>  <i>Second Approver – BJ</i></p> <p><b>ACTION – LS to liaise with RE matters to initiate discussion. With a possible working party to work on commissioning SLA.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION – Clerk to request member support for a commissioning working party.</b></p> <p>A decision on an RE advisor would be considered at the next SACRE meeting.</p> <p><b>ACTION – JC to add appointment of RE advisor on next agenda.</b></p>
9	<p><b>Self-Evaluation</b></p> <p>Members had agreed to review submissions of the self-evaluation form and consider a productive way forward to address gaps in skills.</p> <p>Prior to the meeting, submissions had been added to GovernorHub and Emily had reviewed submissions.</p> <p>It was noted that SACRES were encouraged to undertake self-evaluation with a review period built in which should help inform the action planning.</p> <p>Each group had been asked to focus on one area of the self-evaluation toolkit. Having looked at the documents uploaded to GovernorHub, there was a need to collate and organise responses so that a meaningful discussion could take place.</p> <p>There were also some missing self-evaluation forms.</p>

	<p><b>ACTION - All members, between now and the next meeting to read and discuss their individual areas of self-evaluation.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION – Self -Evaluation to be on the next agenda.</b></p> <p>Members discussed the most beneficial way to approach self -evaluation at the next meeting. It was agreed that TFF would create a shared document to allow for all members to contribute to the same document. Commonalities could then be considered prior to agreeing an action plan.</p> <p><b>ACTION - FF to create a shared document on self-evaluation.</b></p>
10	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>RE Matters had reached out about hosting the next RE subject network meetings and members agreed they would be happy to go ahead with this.</p> <p><b>Next meeting date</b> Wednesday 21st May, 6pm, Tooley Street. This would be an ASC.</p>
11	<b>Meeting Close</b>

Clerk to add Emma Taylor to GH and send welcome information.	JC
Clerk to circulate membership list.	JC
Clerk to clarify statutory requirements for an RE advisor	JC
LS to liaise with RE matters to initiate discussion. With a possible working party to work on commissioning SLA.	LS
Clerk to request member support for a commissioning working party	JC
JC to add appointment of RE advisor on next agenda	JC
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Signed .....

Date.....